

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
SolSmart Virtual Designation Ceremony for 10 Communities
March 17, 2022, 10-11 a.m., online meeting

Join the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and the SolSmart program to celebrate 10 Chicago-area communities for their solar energy achievements! The municipalities will be receiving national recognition from [SolSmart](#) for encouraging the growth of solar energy and showing they are "open for solar business." The SolSmart national designation and technical assistance program is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and helps local governments reduce the barriers to solar for residents and businesses.

In addition to awarding 10 Illinois communities (soon to be announced) with SolSmart designation, this virtual event will show how local governments can make it faster, easier and more affordable for residents and businesses to go solar. The event host, [Argonne National Laboratory](#), will offer participants a virtual tour of its facility.

Event Details

Date: Thursday, March 17th

Time: 10-11 a.m.

Register: Please register in advance for the virtual event.

Event host: The virtual event is generously hosted by Argonne National Laboratory.

SolSmart is led by the [Interstate Renewable Energy Council \(IREC\)](#) and the [International City/County Management Association \(ICMA\)](#). The Caucus worked in partnership with SolSmart to recruit these Chicago region communities and help them meet the requirements for designation.

To earn designation, all of the municipalities established clear permitting processes and communicated these to applicants through a solar permitting checklist. The checklist provides simple and transparent information on permit requirements, which saves time spent on revisions and accelerates permit approval. Communities also set reasonable permit fees and posted solar resources on their municipal websites, including information on their solar goals and helpful educational materials.

The Caucus previously served as a SolSmart Advisor and helped 35 communities (many shown in the above picture) achieve SolSmart designation. Because of the Caucus' work, [Illinois leads the nation in the number of SolSmart-designated communities \(49\)](#), a number that will soon increase to 59 when the 10 new communities are added. Since the program launched in 2016, SolSmart has designated over 400 communities in 41 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

All municipalities, counties, and regional organizations are eligible to join the national SolSmart program and receive no-cost technical assistance toward meeting their solar energy goals. Communities can learn more by visiting [SolSmart.org](#).

We hope to see you there!

Related GRC Goal and Strategy:

Goal: Enact policies that support clean energy. Strategy E25: Facilitate the adoption of renewable energy technologies (i.e. solar, geothermal) by adapting building and zoning codes.

Climate Action Plan Objective and Strategy:

Goal: Implement clean energy policies. Strategy: Adapt zoning codes and streamline development processes to accelerate investment in solar and other renewable energy systems.