

Solar Ready KC

April 18, 2013



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SunShot

U.S. Department of Energy

Department of Energy - SunShot Initiative

The U.S. Department of Energy ***SunShot Initiative - Rooftop Solar Challenge*** incentivizes 22 regional teams to make it easier for Americans to go solar by *streamlining permit processes, updating planning and zoning codes, improving standards for connecting solar power to the electric grid, and increasing access to financing.*

Rooftop Solar Challenge

The Problem:

- 18,000+ local jurisdictions with authority over PV permitting requirements, land use codes and zoning ordinances
- 5,000+ utilities implementing interconnection standards and net metering programs
- 50 states developing interconnection standards and net metering rules

The Solution:

The Challenge will seed the development of consistent processes throughout the country in four action areas:

- Permitting and Interconnection Process
- Net Metering and Interconnection Standards
- Financing Options
- Planning and Zoning

CA = NJ

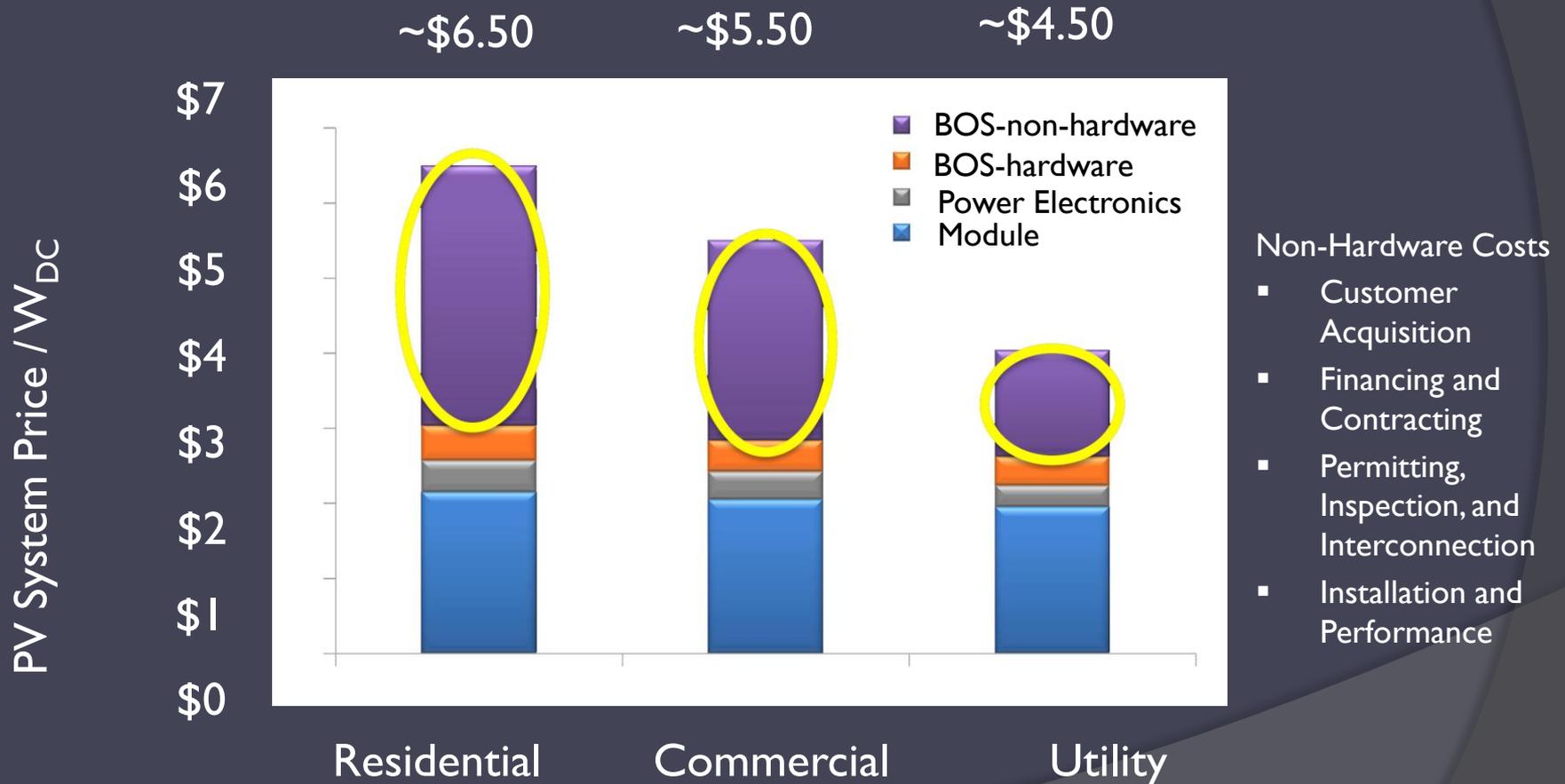
CA WI

Uniform processes

La Mirada, CA ≠ Oceanside, CA

Rooftop Solar Challenge

2010 PV System Prices



Rooftop Solar Challenge

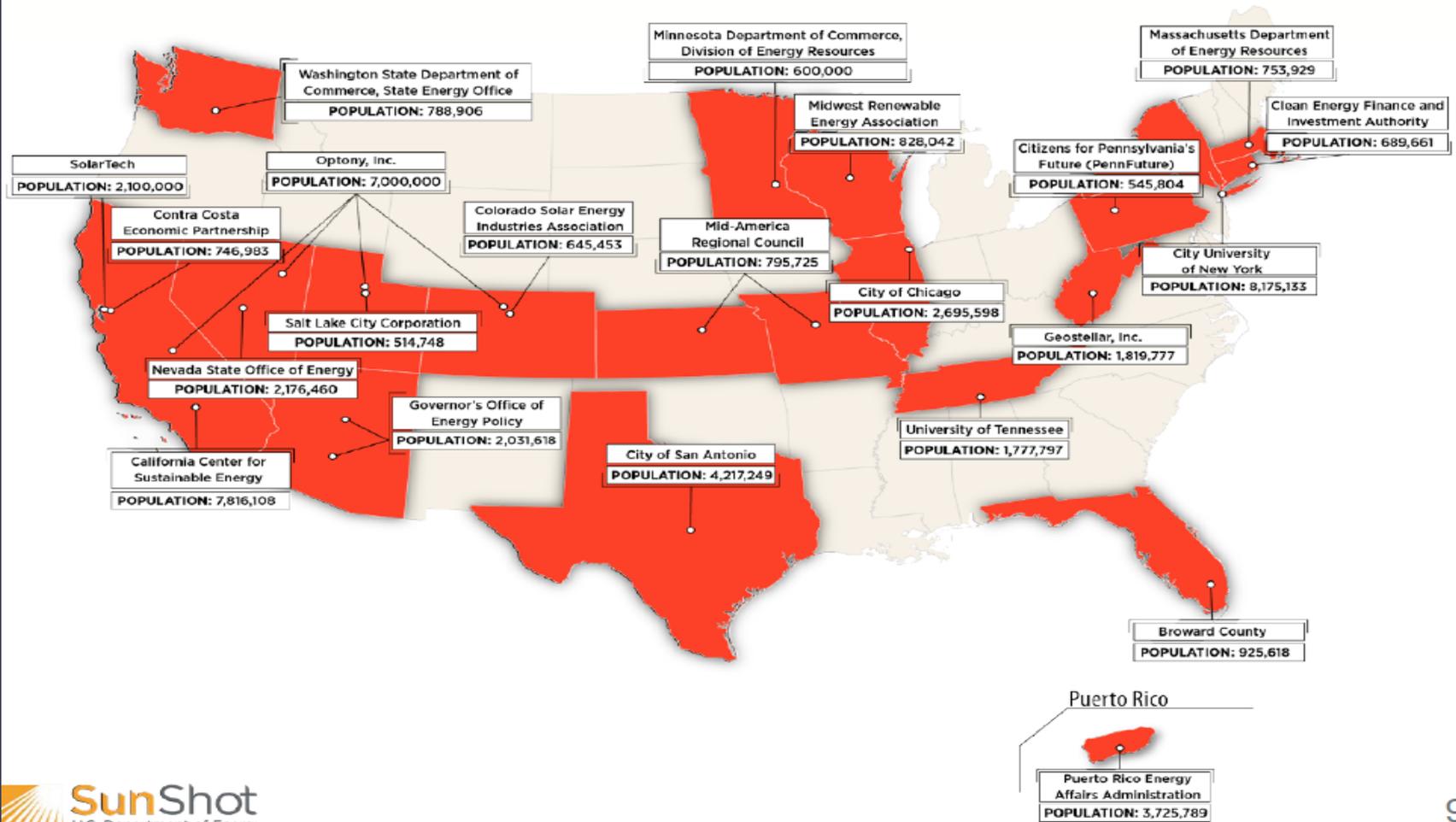
- Mid America Regional Council (MARC) created consortium and secured \$450K in grant funding
- Participating entities
 - MARC
 - Lee's Summit, MO
 - Clay County, MO
 - Kansas City, MO
 - Johnson County, KS
 - Olathe, KS
 - Kansas City Power & Light

“Solar Ready KC” Team

- MARC
- City/County Consortium & KCP&L
- AECOM
- Shockey Consulting Services, LLC
- Polsinelli Shugart, PC (financing aspects)

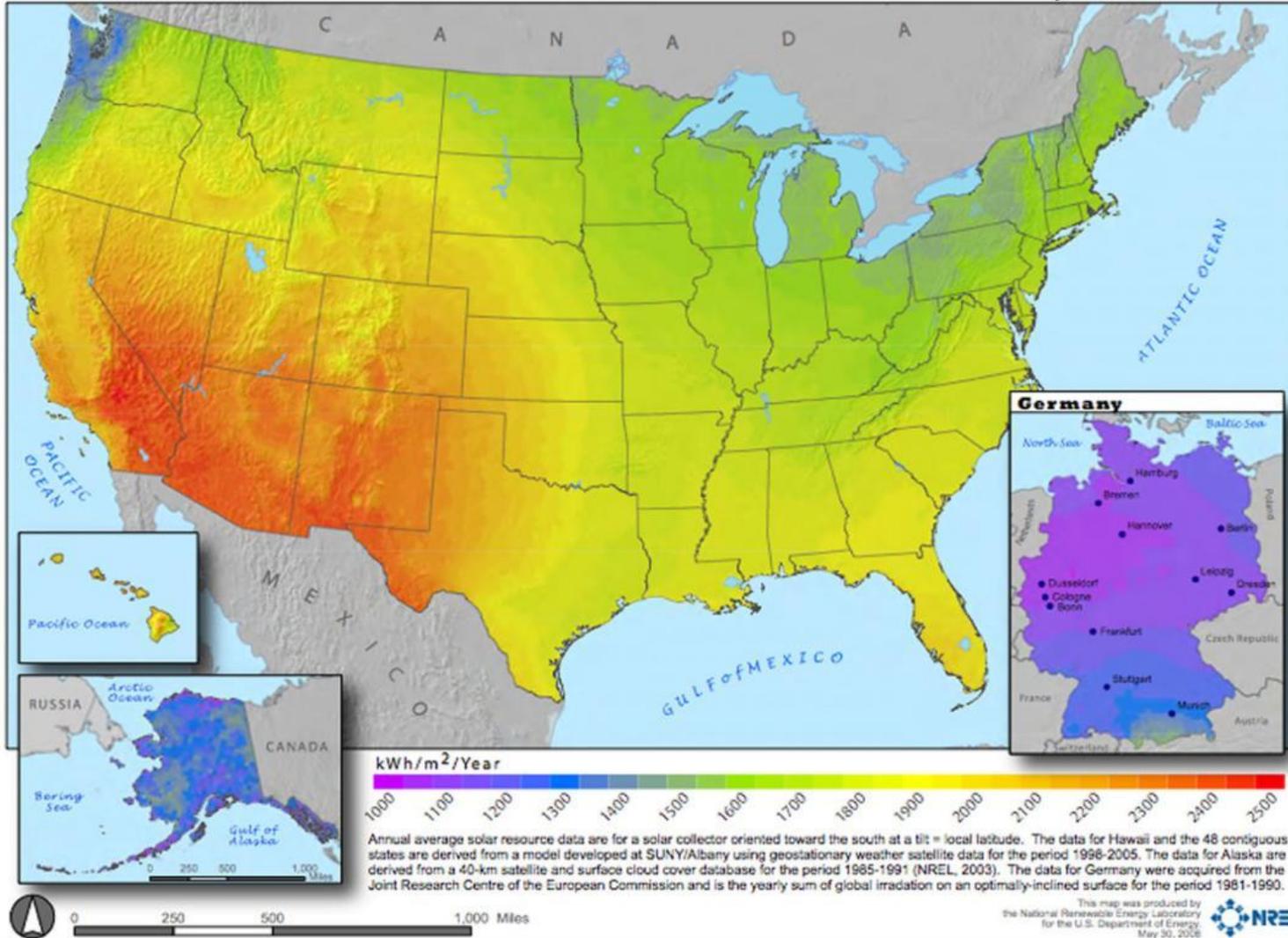
Rooftop Solar Challenge

Who's leading the way:



Solar Resources

Solar Resources : United States and Germany



Solar Ready KC

- Process Improvements*
 - Planning & Zoning Improvements*
- * *Based on Best Management Practices (BMP's)*
- Financial access – still developing

Process Improvements

Process Improvements

Step 1

- Streamline Permits

Step 2

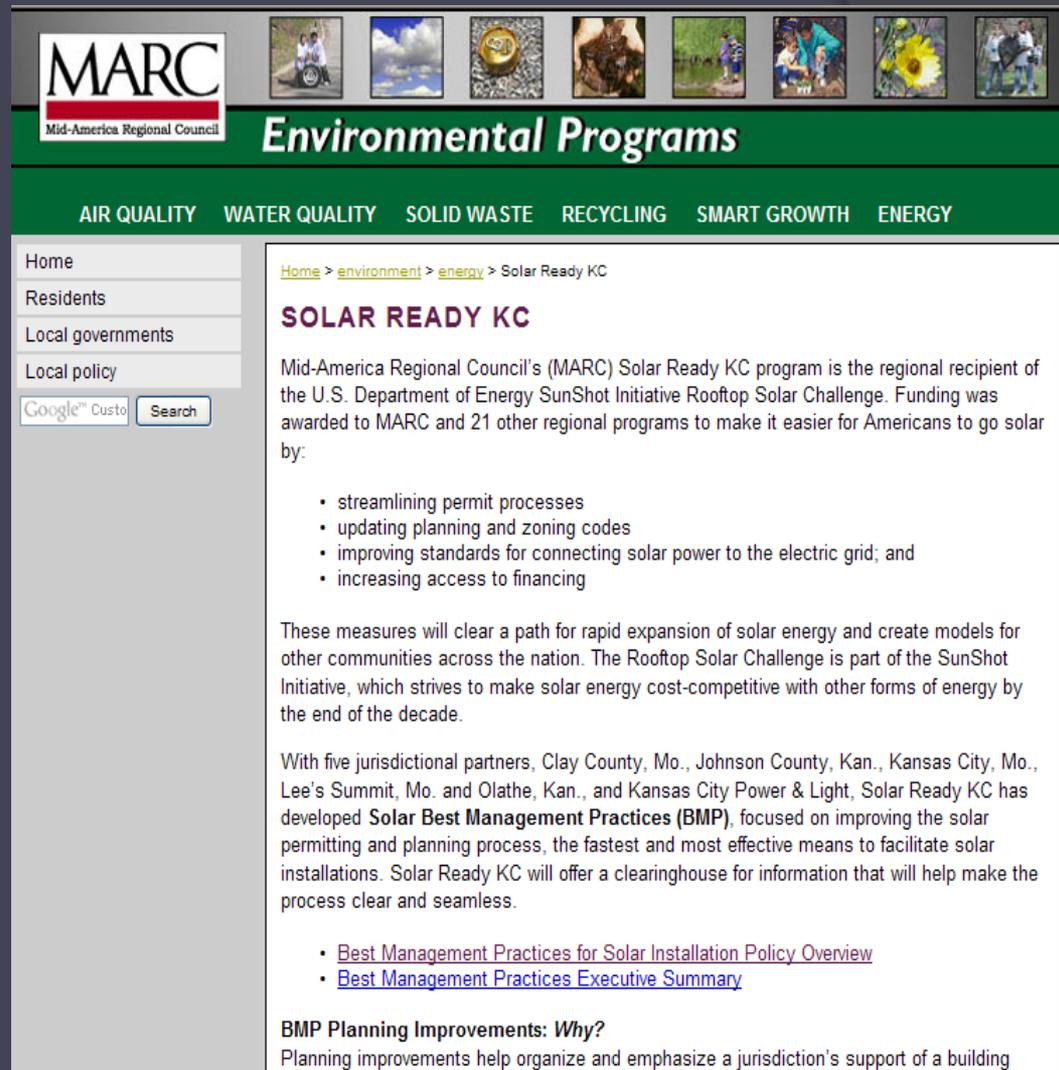
- Standardize Permit Fees
- Notify Utility

Step 3

- Pre-Qualify Plans and Installers

Streamline Permits

- Provide central information source for potential solar customers



The screenshot displays the MARC (Mid-America Regional Council) website's 'Environmental Programs' section. The navigation menu includes 'AIR QUALITY', 'WATER QUALITY', 'SOLID WASTE', 'RECYCLING', 'SMART GROWTH', and 'ENERGY'. The 'ENERGY' section is active, leading to the 'Solar Ready KC' page. The page content includes a breadcrumb trail 'Home > environment > energy > Solar Ready KC', a title 'SOLAR READY KC', and a description of the program as a regional recipient of the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative Rooftop Solar Challenge. A bulleted list highlights the program's goals: streamlining permit processes, updating planning and zoning codes, improving standards for connecting solar power to the electric grid, and increasing access to financing. The text further explains that these measures will clear a path for rapid expansion of solar energy and create models for other communities. It also mentions that Solar Ready KC has developed 'Solar Best Management Practices (BMP)' to improve the solar permitting and planning process. Two links are provided: 'Best Management Practices for Solar Installation Policy Overview' and 'Best Management Practices Executive Summary'. The page concludes with the heading 'BMP Planning Improvements: Why?' and a sentence stating that planning improvements help organize and emphasize a jurisdiction's support of a building.

MARC
Mid-America Regional Council

Environmental Programs

AIR QUALITY WATER QUALITY SOLID WASTE RECYCLING SMART GROWTH ENERGY

Home
Residents
Local governments
Local policy
Google™ Custom Search

Home > environment > energy > Solar Ready KC

SOLAR READY KC

Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) Solar Ready KC program is the regional recipient of the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative Rooftop Solar Challenge. Funding was awarded to MARC and 21 other regional programs to make it easier for Americans to go solar by:

- streamlining permit processes
- updating planning and zoning codes
- improving standards for connecting solar power to the electric grid; and
- increasing access to financing

These measures will clear a path for rapid expansion of solar energy and create models for other communities across the nation. The Rooftop Solar Challenge is part of the SunShot Initiative, which strives to make solar energy cost-competitive with other forms of energy by the end of the decade.

With five jurisdictional partners, Clay County, Mo., Johnson County, Kan., Kansas City, Mo., Lee's Summit, Mo. and Olathe, Kan., and Kansas City Power & Light, Solar Ready KC has developed **Solar Best Management Practices (BMP)**, focused on improving the solar permitting and planning process, the fastest and most effective means to facilitate solar installations. Solar Ready KC will offer a clearinghouse for information that will help make the process clear and seamless.

- [Best Management Practices for Solar Installation Policy Overview](#)
- [Best Management Practices Executive Summary](#)

BMP Planning Improvements: Why?
Planning improvements help organize and emphasize a jurisdiction's support of a building

Streamline Permits

- Create permit application & checklist
- Develop permit criteria outlining thresholds for “standard” installations and streamline permitting

Photovoltaic System Application and Checklist

Jurisdiction: _____
 Project Name: _____ Contact Name: _____
 Contractor Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Phone/Cell: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____
 Project Location: _____

I, _____ have read the information below and acknowledge that all required documents have been provided. I understand that omissions in the required information will result in delays in the review process.

Signature _____ Date _____

- Step 1| Submit Net Metering/Interconnection Application to Electric Utility and secure Utility approval.
- Step 2| Complete Photovoltaic System Application and Checklist including Review of Photovoltaic System
- Step 3| Attach approved Net Metering/Interconnection application from Electric Utility to Photovoltaic System Application and Checklist
- Step 4| Submit complete packet to Jurisdiction (See Jurisdiction details below)
- Step 5| Obtain Permit(s) from Jurisdiction once approved
- Step 6| Notify Jurisdiction when ready for inspection
- Step 7| Jurisdiction will notify electric utility when inspection is passed
- Step 8| Electric utility will schedule their inspection and meter exchange.
- Step 9| Electric utility will provide Permission to Operate (PTO)



Clay County, MO
3 copies



Kansas City, MO
2 copies



Lee's Summit, MO
3 copies

Valuation of work:



Johnson County, KS
3 copies



Olathe, KS
1 hard copy
If plans are larger than 11x17, submit electronic copy in .PDF or .TIF format.

Standardize Permit Fees

- Establish a fixed fee based on cost recovery
- Adopt PV permit calculator for commercial rooftop systems or establish fixed fees based on system size(s).

Utility Notification

- Notify utility when permit applications are received and when project is completed and approved.



Pre-Qualify Plans and Installers

- Develop process for pre-qualification of standard plans
- Develop a process for pre-qualification of installers/contractors
 - National America Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP)

Planning Improvements

Planning Improvements

Step 1

- Improve Solar Access

Step 2

- Improve Solar Readiness

Step 3

- Engage Homeowners Associations

Improving Solar Access

- Incorporate solar access priorities in comprehensive plans
- Adopt solar access ordinance(s)
- Educate Developers
- Educate Homeowners

Improve Solar Readiness

- Develop solar ready buildings checklist for new construction
- Adopt new ordinances or building codes to promote solar ready construction

Engage Developers & HOA's

- Create incentives for new development projects to include solar access regulations in their CC&R's and HOA bylaws.

Staff Recommendations....

- Immediately:
 - ✓ Create/provide central information source for solar
 - ✓ Implement permit checklist/application process
 - ✓ Implement utility notification (permit application/project approval)
 - ✓ Accept “pre-approved” plans for future installations (“same as” plans)
 - ✓ Create awareness and education materials
 - ❑ Develop fee structure for PV systems based on cost recovery modeling
 - ❑ Develop a process for pre-qualification of installers/contractors

Staff Recommendations

- Near future initiatives:
 - ❑ Incorporate solar access priorities in comprehensive plans
 - ❑ Develop solar access ordinance(s) for consideration and adoption
 - ❑ Develop solar ready buildings checklist for new construction
 - ❑ Develop ordinance to promote solar ready construction
 - ❑ Develop incentives for adoption of best practices within subdivisions/developments

Questions?