

Resources for Solar Powering Your Community

Comprehensive Guides

How-to Guide: Solar Powering Your Community: A Guide for Local Governments *This guide serves as a comprehensive resource to assist local governments and stakeholders in building solar markets in their community.*

www4.eere.energy.gov/solar/sunshot/resource_center/sites/default/files/solar-powering-your-community-guide-for-local-governments.pdf

How-to Guide: Profiles in Regional Solar Planning: A Handbook and Resource Guide *This handbook provides guidance specifically to regional planning organizations on the unique roles they can play to move solar energy deployment forward in their regions.*

<http://narc.org/wp-content/uploads/DOE-Solar-Handbook.pdf>

Website: SunShot Resource Center *The SunShot Resource Center provides a plethora of state-specific resources on solar technology and its implementation, including case studies, fact sheets, how-to guides, model ordinances, technical reports, and sample government documents.*

www4.eere.energy.gov/solar/sunshot/resource_center/

Solar Readiness

How-to Guide: Solar-Ready Buildings Planning Guide *This National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) planning guide presents detailed guidelines on designing solar-ready buildings with minimized costs and maximized energy potential.*

www.nrel.gov/docs/fy10osti/46078.pdf

Sample Government Document: Oro Valley (AZ) Solar Residential Permitting Ordinance *This Oro Valley ordinance requiring installation of solar-ready measures in new residential homes demonstrates how to enable solar-ready designs through effective policy and legislation.*

www.ovalleyaz.gov/Assets/assets/DIS/Permitting/Residential+Solar+Ordinance+09-11.PDF

Campaign Organizing

How-to Guide: Solarize Guidebook *The NREL's "Solarize Guidebook" acts as roadmap for project planners and solar advocates trying to jump-start their own successful Solarize campaigns.*

www.nrel.gov/docs/fy12osti/54738.pdf

Zoning Codes

Technical Report: The Pennsylvania Model Ordinance *The Pennsylvania Model Ordinance (found on page 12 of the pdf linked below) provides a model for local governments establishing reasonable standards in their development of small-scale solar. These standards center on permitting, height restrictions, and design and installation requirements.*

files.dep.state.pa.us/Energy/Office%20of%20Energy%20and%20Technology/OETDPortalFiles/PA%20Energy/Solar%20Working%20Group/SolarMunicipalGuideFinal.pdf

Technical Report: The Massachusetts Model Zoning Bylaw *The Massachusetts Model Zoning Bylaw sets forth a framework for standards facilitating the development of large-scale solar, which typically include requirements concerning primary use, height limits, lot coverage, setback, and fencing and enclosure.*

PAS Essential Info Packet 30: Planning and Zoning for Solar Energy *This essential info packet provides an extensive collection of sample ordinances on solar access, solar siting, and solar energy systems.*

www.planning.org/pas/infopackets/open/eip30.htm

Have a Specific Question about Planning for Solar Energy? Submit your questions to pas@planning.org with a subject line of

“Solar Energy Inquiry.”

Solar Access

Technical Report: A Comprehensive Review of Solar Access Law in the United States This guide from Solar America Board of Codes and Standards (Solar ABCs) provides a comprehensive review of solar access laws in the US, as well as a model statute and ordinance (page 12), both of which serve to help local governments in drafting their own solar access laws.

www.solarabcs.org/about/publications/reports/solar-access/pdfs/Solaraccess-full.pdf

Expedited Permitting

Technical Report: Sharing Success: Emerging Approaches to Efficient Rooftop Solar Permitting This IREC report examines ways for both local governments and solar energy system installers to mitigate costs associated with the solar permitting process, focusing on three main areas: the pre-application period, application submittal and review, and inspections. The report also contains specific examples of legislation designed to streamline solar permitting.

www.irecusa.org/wp-content/uploads/FINAL-Sharing-Success-w-cover-revised-final052012.pdf

Technical Report: Expedited Permit Process for PV Systems In this report, Solar ABCs presents its recommendations to local governments concerning the expedited permit process for small-scale photovoltaic (PV) systems and provides step-by-step guidelines explaining how to effectuate the necessary adjustments.

www.solarabcs.org/about/publications/reports/expedited-permit/pdfs/Expermitprocess.pdf

Sample Government Document: Solar PV Installation Standard, Philadelphia Dept. of Licenses and Inspections Permit Services Division Philadelphia’s prescriptive path solution to solar permitting allows for certain solar electric projects to be approved with only an electrical permit (without requiring a building permit).

www.phila.gov/green/PDFs/Streamlined%20Solar%20Standards.pdf

Website: Solar Panel Permits Webpage Breckenridge (CO) has taken advantage of electronic materials, standardized permit requirements, and utilization of standard certifications to offer a short turn-around for solar permits, all of which is clearly communicated on their website.

www.townofbreckenridge.com/index.aspx?page=694

Net Metering and Interconnection

Website: Freeing the Grid Freeing the Grid is an organization that highlights “best practices” for net-metering and interconnection, while grading each state in detail on their respective policies.

freeingthegrid.org

Technical Report: Net Metering Model Rules This IREC report presents the most effective net-metering policies with a focus on the size of systems eligible for net metering, program capacity caps, and treatment of annual excess generation.

irecusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/IREC_NM_Model_October_2009-1-22.pdf

Technical Report: Model Interconnection Procedures IREC’s “Model Interconnection Procedures” synthesizes best practices in interconnection from across the country into model interconnection procedures.

irecusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/IREC-Interconnection-Procedures-2010final.pdf

State-Specific Solar Policies

Website: DSIRE Solar DSIRE Solar offers a wealth of information, data, and analysis concerning each state’s solar energy policies.

www.dsireusa.org/solar