

ners can highlight how local development regulations either support or inhibit the installation of both accessory and primary solar energy systems in different areas of their communities. After evaluating the effects of existing regulations, planners can then work to remove barriers, create incentives, and draft standards for solar energy use in existing and new development.

Fortunately, there are already a number of examples and models planners can look to for guidance as they seek to tailor a regulatory strategy for their communities. When consulting these existing resources, planners should adhere to three basic rules:

Use comparable examples: Identify peer communities with similar characteristics in terms of size, geography, climate, regulatory framework, development character, and natural and political environment, and review their codes as perhaps the most relevant.

Talk with the source: When possible, talk with the planners who wrote or who currently administer the ordinance. Ask them questions, such as how frequently the ordinance is being used, what's working and not working, and what they would do differently.

Do your homework: Be prepared to explain to your community members why specific aspects of your proposed regulations are necessary, and how they have been tailored to your community.

■ This briefing paper was written by Ann Gilensueth, w/o APW Research Associates, with assistance from Brian Ross, w/o OF Planning and Gordon White, w/o Clarion Associates.

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Planning for Solar Energy Briefing Papers

This is one in a series of briefing papers providing planners with guidance on promoting solar energy use in their communities to help meet local energy and sustainability goals. APWA produced this paper through its participation in the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership (SolarOPS), a U.S. Department of Energy-funded initiative designed to help accelerate solar energy adoption on the local level by providing timely and actionable information to local governments.

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