



SHAKOPEE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Scott Annis
International City/County Management Association
777 North Capitol St. NE, Ste. 500
Washington, DC 20002

Theresa Perry
Interstate Renewable Energy Council
125 Wolf Road, Suite 207
Albany, NY 12205

Dear Scott Annis and Theresa Perry:

On behalf of The City of Shakopee, I am proud to announce our commitment to become SolSmart designated and work to improve solar market conditions, making it faster, easier, and more affordable for our residents and businesses to install solar energy systems. These efforts will also increase the efficiency of local processes related to solar development, which may save our local government time and money.

SolSmart builds upon Shakopee's prior investments into solar infrastructure such as developing a streamlined online permit processing system, eliminating barriers to solar installations by establishing solar rights and ensuring solar equipment is an accessory use in all zoning districts, and utilizing public facilities such as Eagle Creek Elementary, Shakopee High School's ELC, and the Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant to install demonstratable solar through partnerships with CERTs, the Metropolitan Council, and the Shakopee Public School District. In addition to these organizations, Shakopee will use GreenStep Cities/Schools and Minnesota Solar Schools to continue encouraging the development of local solar and other renewable markets to further expansion of the 140+ residential solar permits, multiple EV charger and vehicle investments, and strengthening local facilities to be resilient and address a changing landscape.

Shakopee will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following goals:

- Review zoning requirements to identify barriers to solar PV development and compile findings in a memo presented to the Planning Commission to determine if code language needs to be changed.
- Develop a solar PV assessment that identifies all feasible sites for large-scale solar PV development and timelines for the inclusion of specific solar PV goals, metrics, and strategies into existing or future plans.
- Establish a Solar Landing page containing information including solar goals, educational materials, and resources for solar development (e.g. resources for home/businessowners, online dashboard or summary of the solar PV community metrics, solar map of the community, and

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Department of Planning and Development | 485 Gorman St., Shakopee MN 55379 | Phone: 952-233-9300 | Fax: 952-233-3801 | www.ShakopeeMN.gov



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training/career opportunities in coordination with local colleges/workforce development organizations.

These efforts demonstrate that our community is committed to driving continual improvement in our solar market, and in the process of doing so, all the related areas identified as community priorities in our 2040 Envision Shakopee Comprehensive Plan. In order to measure progress along the way, the City of Shakopee will track key metrics related to solar energy deployment, such as installed solar capacity, number of private and public installations, and percentage of total power consumption by source. Inquiries related to Shakopee's SolSmart participation can be directed to Andrew Boucher at aboucher@shakopeemn.gov or 952-233-9347.

Sincerely,

Andrew Boucher
Planner, Department of Planning and Development

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