



AGENDA ITEM #5

**AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Committee of the Whole Meeting
July 8, 2019**

Item Title: SolSmart Community Designation Process

Staff Contact: Caron Bricks, Planner

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ACTION

Consider a staff recommendation for the Village of Roselle to become a SolSmart Community.

Executive Summary:

Community Development staff has seen a noticeable increase in solar permits in the past 2 years. In 2017, 1 solar permit was submitted. In 2018, 19 permits were submitted. Six months into 2019 and 14 permits have already been submitted. Staff has sought out opportunities to educate ourselves and insure that our regulatory framework for solar panels is in line with this rapidly developing technology. Staff also desires to be business- and resident-friendly in this area.

Through the SolSmart program, the Village would receive **no-cost** technical assistance from experts in the field in updating our building and zoning regulations that the Village's current and future consultants would not be able to provide. As Community Development staff is currently in the process of updating the zoning ordinance and the building codes, the timing coincides perfectly to partake in this program.

The SolSmart program is funded through the U.S. Department of Energy, with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and The Solar Foundation as partners. SolSmart's goal is to assist municipalities in creating transparent and friendly solar regulations. There are three levels of SolSmart designations; Bronze, Silver, and Gold. More than 250 communities nation-wide are SolSmart designees, including neighbors Bartlett (Gold), Hanover Park (Gold), Schaumburg (Silver), and DuPage County (Bronze).

There are three (3) sections under which you must qualify to receive Bronze status: permitting, planning, zoning and development regulations, and six (6) special focus areas, including inspections, construction codes, and community engagement. The Village already fulfills the minimum qualifications under "permitting." Below is a summary of the qualifications we would need to meet to receive Bronze status:

- Review & posted transparency of all fees, inspection requirements, and timelines for permits.
- Training zoning, planning, building, electrical, fire, and public safety staff on solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.
- Codify in the Village's zoning and building regulations making solar PV permitted uses.

The first step in the process is for a Solar Statement to be signed by a Village official. This statement commits the Village to becoming a solar-friendly community. Staff is seeking direction from the Committee of the Whole regarding this opportunity.

Implications:

Is this item budgeted? The SolSmart program is free of charge to partner communities through 2020.

Any other implications to be considered? SolSmart designation would help to achieve Operational Readiness goals in the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan.

Attachments:

Proposed Solar Statement

SOLAR STATEMENT



Friday, July 5, 2019

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

The Solar Foundation
1717 Pennsylvania AVE NW, Ste. 750
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Scott Annis and Zach Greene:

On behalf of **the Village of Roselle**, I am proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated community. In partnership with the SolSmart team, **Roselle's** dedicated staff members will 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.

Roselle will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following goals:

- **Develop and execute a community solar program.**
- **Develop a streamlined process for solar permitting or inspections.**
- **Achieve Operational Readiness goals in the Village Board's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan.**

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 **2018-2021 Strategic Plan and Zoning Ordinance Update**.

In order to measure progress along the way, **Roselle** will track key metrics related to solar energy deployment, such as installed solar capacity and the number of installations across sectors.

Inquiries related to **Roselle's** SolSmart participation can be directed to **Caron Bricks, Planner** at cbricks@roselle.il.us or **(630)671-2806**.

Sincerely,

Andy Maglio
Mayor