



28 September 2018

037-18

SolSmart.Org

RE: Statement of Solar Goals and Key Metrics

**Commitment.** The City of Park Ridge, Illinois, is committed to participating in the SolSmart designation process. The City has established as an official body a Community Health Commission. This commission has six focus areas, including “environmental health and sustainability.” On 24 September 2018 members of the Environmental Health Commission appeared before the City Council’s Procedures and Regulations Committee to request commitment to the SolSmart designation. That commitment was approved unanimously by the City’s aldermen.

**Solar Goals.** The City processes approximately 2,500 building permits a year. In recent years inquiries regarding solar energy regulations and actual permit applications for solar panels have increased. While the City has sometimes approved such permit applications, we suspect our approval process is far from streamlined and regulatory barriers to solar energy remain. Thus our first and primary goal would be to ensure our approval process is streamlined to the fullest extent possible, and that any barriers to the installation of solar panels are reduced.

Secondly, in 2019 the City will be embarking on an update of its 1996 Comprehensive Plan. Sustainability issues will be addressed in the update, and assistance from a SolSmart team on promoting solar energy or other audits the team may provide can easily be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan and attendant City policy.

**Achievements or Programs.** As noted above, the City has tasked its Community Health Commission with investigating and promoting sustainability. To date, however, the City cannot boast of any achievements or programs specifically related to solar and/or renewable energy.

**Tracking Metrics.** The City is committed to tracking metrics related to solar energy. I note that the Department of Community Preservation and Development has, this week, implemented new software that will make tracking of such metrics simple. We intend to track solar installations on residential and commercial properties, spatial distribution of solar installations. Kilowatt hours can also be tracked. Any municipal efforts at expanding solar or renewable energy capacity in the community can also be tracked.

**Staff Time.** The Department of Community Preservation and Development will be the contact for the SolSmart designation. This department has the capacity to devote staff time to SolSmart. It consists of 15 full-time personnel: a director, four administrative staff, two planners, a building official, two environmental health officers, and five building plan reviewers/inspectors. Additionally, the Community Health Commission has committed itself to assisting with the SolSmart designation and the implementation of any recommendations from the SolSmart team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James A. Brown", written over a light gray rectangular background.

JAMES A. BROWN  
Director of Community Preservation and Development  
City of Park Ridge