

SOLAR STATEMENT



Thursday, March 26, 2020

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 North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), I am proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated region. In partnership with the SolSmart team, NCTCOG's dedicated staff members will work to improve the North Texas solar market conditions, making it faster, easier, and more affordable for the residents and businesses in the region to install solar energy systems. These efforts will also increase the efficiency of regional processes related to solar development, which may save local governments time and money.

The regional SolSmart designation builds upon our organization's participation in previous U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) funded programs including the Solar Ready and SolSmart programs. NCTCOG's participation in these programs enabled North Texas local governments to reduce "soft costs" associated with solar energy system installation to residents by providing educational tools and resources. NCTCOG served as a designated SolSmart Advisor for the region and assisted five North Texas municipalities in achieving SolSmart designation.

Provided sufficient resources are available, NCTCOG will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following goals for the region:

- *Compile and track data related to renewable energy and solar photovoltaic (PV) specifically; such as percent growth, percent of overall energy consumption, etc.*
- *Draft a plan for the increased deployment of solar PV in North Texas*
- *Promoting and leveraging the connections between solar PV and other regional goals, such as emergency preparedness and grid stability*
- *Develop and promote guidelines related to solar-ready construction*
- *Secure SolSmart Designation for at least 10 additional North Texas cities*
- *Increase the deployment of solar PV in residential, commercial, and utility-scale sectors*

These efforts demonstrate that our organization is committed to driving continual improvement in our regional solar market and, in the process of doing so, all the related areas identified as organizational priorities are highlighted in the attached resolution endorsing NCTCOG's submittal of a grant application to the Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) for the Solar Technologies Program. NCTCOG plans to increase solar energy system deployment, reduce energy burdens, increase grid reliability, and improve resiliency through support of a variety of programs and projects in the North Central Texas region.

Inquiries related to NCTCOG's participation in SolSmart can be directed to Tamara Cook at tcook@nctcog.org or (817) 695-9221.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mike Eastland
Executive Director
North Central Texas Council of Governments