



City of Edmonds Media Release

Office of the Mayor ~ 121 5th Avenue North, Edmonds

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Edmonds Celebrated as One of 300 Communities Who Are Now “Open for Solar Business”

City Joins SolSmart Communities in 40 States Utilizing Solar Energy to Help Reduce Carbon Emissions and Lower Energy Costs.

(Edmonds, WA) – The City of Edmonds joins more than 300 cities, towns, and counties across the country who have now met national benchmarks for encouraging the growth of solar energy and removing barriers to solar market development. It’s the latest solar recognition for Edmonds, which received national recognition in 2017 for its efforts to promote solar energy when SolSmart, a program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative, awarded a bronze designation to the City for taking important first steps to encourage solar energy growth. Edmonds was the first city in the state to achieve this designation.

As a SolSmart Bronze designee, the City of Edmonds received national recognition for adopting programs and practices that make it faster, easier, and cheaper to go solar. A SolSmart designation is a signal that the community is “open for solar business,” helping to attract solar industry investment and generate economic development and local jobs. Through the SolSmart program, Edmonds received no-cost technical assistance and national recognition for its bold actions to advance solar energy locally.

Planning Manager Rob Chave notes that “Edmonds’ solar achievements include a variety of initiatives, such as reducing the cost and approval times for installing solar panels on homes

and businesses, being a sponsor of a community solar project at the Anderson Center, and modifying development codes to make it easier to install solar in the city. Promoting solar energy is an important part of Edmonds' approach to sustainability, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, while at the same time reducing energy costs for our citizens."

"We are very proud of Edmonds' continued progress in providing solar energy to our community," says Mayor Dave Earling. "And it's wonderful news to see how many other communities throughout our country are joining Edmonds in its dedication to protecting and improving both our environment and our economy through solar energy."

Led by The Solar Foundation and the International City/County Management Association, and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office, [SolSmart](#) helps local governments make it faster, easier, and more affordable to go solar. The program launched in 2016 and has now achieved its goal of designating at least 300 communities as SolSmart Gold, Silver, or Bronze, with designees in 40 states and the District of Columbia.

The SolSmart designees include cities, counties, small towns, and regional organizations in 40 states and the District of Columbia, representing 82 million people. One in four people in America now live in a SolSmart-designated community. All designees, including Edmonds, have met national criteria to prove they have streamlined local procedures to make it easier for homes and businesses to install solar energy systems.

The actions that SolSmart communities have taken help reduce soft costs, which are the non-hardware costs that today represent roughly 65% of the cost of solar installations. SolSmart helps local governments streamline permit approvals, review planning and zoning guidelines, facilitate group purchase campaigns, and improve solar financing options. Taken together, these actions help lower the overall costs of solar installations and allow the solar industry to expand more rapidly nationwide.

Throughout the month of October, these communities are planning events, local announcements, and other special activities to highlight their solar energy achievements. More information on these communities and their achievements can be found at <http://www.SolSmart.org/SolSmart300>.

About SolSmart

SolSmart is a national designation and technical assistance program that recognizes leading solar communities and empowers additional communities to expand their local solar markets. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office, SolSmart strives to

cut red tape, drive greater solar deployment, and make it possible for even more American homes and businesses to access solar energy to meet their electricity needs. More than 300 local governments in 40 states and the District of Columbia have achieved SolSmart designation, representing 82 million people. SolSmart is led by The Solar Foundation and the International City/County Management Association. Learn more at [SolSmart.org](https://www.solsmart.org).

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