



City of Palm Springs

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City Manager

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Thursday, May 10, 2018

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

The Solar Foundation
600 14th St. NW, Ste. 400
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Solar Statement

Dear Zach Greene:

On behalf of the City of Palm Springs, California, I am proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated community. In partnership with the SolSmart team, Palm Springs'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.

Palm Springs will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following goals set out in its General Plan adopted in 2007 and its Sustainability Plan adopted in 2016:

General Plan goals:

- Support and encourage the use of alternative energy in the construction of new buildings and retrofit of existing buildings.
- Encourage and support the incorporation of energy efficiency and conservation practices in subdivision and building design.
- Make the maximum use of solar electric capabilities on an individual and community wide basis.

Sustainability Plan goals:

- Develop strategies to reduce community-wide contributions to greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and 80% below 1990 by 2050.
- Achieve carbon neutrality for municipal emissions by 2030.
- Encourage the building or retrofitting of one million square feet of green buildings.
- Reduce the total energy use by all buildings built before 2012 by 10%.
- Reduce energy use and carbon use from new homes and buildings.
- Supply 50% of all energy from renewable sources by 2030 and 75% of all City building energy needs from renewable sources by 2020.



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These goals have already resulted in the following relevant outcomes:

- The City requires that all new single-family homes be solar-ready.
- In 2015, the City adopted an expedited, streamlined solar permitting process that complies with AB 2188 (California Government Code Section 65850.5) to achieve timely and cost-effective installations of small residential rooftop solar energy systems.
- Palm Springs was the first city to participate in Desert Community Energy (DCE), the Community Choice Aggregation electricity program sponsored by the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, which will become effective in the summer of 2018. DCE will offer a 100% carbon-free option.
- The City participates in property-assessed clean energy (PACE) programs under which residential and commercial property owners can apply for loans to finance the cost of a solar installation and other energy efficiency improvements.
- The City has adopted a citywide solar project to install solar PV panels at key facilities, including its convention center, wastewater treatment plant, animal shelter, visitor center and several parks.
- Most recently, on January 3, 2018, the City Council unanimously adopted a resolution and policy statement providing that solar photovoltaic systems shall be given preference as a requirement of the discretionary review process for new residential development.

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 General Plan and Sustainability Plan.

In order to measure progress along the way, Palm Springs will track key metrics related to solar energy deployment, such as the number of installations.

In these efforts, we call on our residents, businesses, non-profits, and others to get involved, and we invite everyone to stay tuned by visiting <http://www.palmspringsca.gov/city-services/sustainability-and-recycling/residential-solar-strategy>.

Inquiries related to Palm Springs's SolSmart participation can be directed to Jay Virata, Director, Community & Economic Development at Jay.Virata@PalmSpringsCA.gov or (760) 323-8228.

Sincerely,

David H. Ready, Esq., Ph.D.
City Manager