

Attachment I

Clean Energy Coalition

Become a Solar-Ready Community!

A Guide for Michigan Local Governments

Executive Summary

Known for innovation and home to several solar industry leaders, Michigan has the foundation to become a front-runner in solar energy. Local governments are key to Michigan's success in this effort and can help create an encouraging climate for residents and business owners to install solar by becoming Solar Ready. Solar Readiness means:

- Proactively addressing solar in policies and procedures
- Supporting the local and statewide solar industry
- Responding to the needs of local citizens
- Helping developers, homeowners, and businesses through a cost-effective solar installation process

Clean Energy Coalition completed a guidebook to assist local jurisdictions with becoming Solar Ready. This Guidebook provides detail on the following ten steps to become Solar Ready along with resources that can help make Solar Readiness easy and more consistent throughout the state. The following ten steps provide a pathway for Michigan local government to achieve Solar Readiness.

STEP 1: BEGIN THE DISCUSSION - Introduce the concept of Solar Readiness to raise awareness and gather support for the project. Reaching out to neighboring jurisdictions and utility providers is important to consider during this step.

STEP 2: ADOPT A RESOLUTION - The resolution adoption process introduces the conversation of solar at the leadership level, helping to both inform and ensure buy-in from local officials.

STEP 3: ESTABLISH A GUIDING POLICY THAT SUPPORTS SOLAR - Planning document language that supports the advancement of solar will set the direction towards Solar Readiness and provide the basis for solar-related land use regulation.

STEP 4: UPDATE CODE LANGUAGE - Solar language in your zoning codes will give clear guidance about how solar installations are to be integrated into the community.

STEP 5: CREATE AN EASY-TO-USE PERMITTING PROCESS - Common information and permit language will help residents, businesses, developers and installers have a clearer understanding of the local and regional expectations with regard to solar installation.

STEP 6: PROVIDE EASY ACCESS TO INFORMATION - Online and printed materials that detail how solar installation works in the community will help interested property owners and installers understand local expectations and better prepare for an installation process.

STEP 7: ESTABLISH SOLAR INSTALLATION TARGETS - Establishing solar installation targets will help continue the momentum and ensure that measures are taken to ensure solar readiness leadership in Michigan.

STEP 8: TRAIN STAFF - Increasing staff familiarity with solar technology and installation will help make the permitting process more efficient.

STEP 9: PURSUE SOLAR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES - Working with development specialists on solar can leverage your Solar Ready Community's status to enhance economic reinvention.

STEP 10: GO THE EXTRA MILE- Going the extra mile is for communities that are really looking to be a solar leader by developing creative outreach efforts and encouraging programs.

http://cec-mi.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Guide-Book_Solar_FINAL_web.pdf