Thursday, May 31, 2018

The Solar Foundation
1717 Pennsylvania AVE NW, Ste. 750
Washington, DC 20006

On behalf of James City County, I am proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated community. In partnership with the SolSmart team, James City County’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.

SolSmart builds upon our community’s participation in several operation initiatives that were developed as part of the James City County 2035 Comprehensive (CP) and Strategic (SP) Plans including:

- SP Goal 2: Modern Infrastructure, Facilities and Technology Systems
  - Long-range facilities plans,
- SP Goal 3: Expanding and Diversifying Local Economy
  - A review of ordinances, fees and procedures to remove barriers for businesses and provide incentives
  - Implement target industries study strategies
  - Conduct scenario planning of large land use changes
  - Coordinate with regional partners
- SP Goal 5: Exceptional Public Services
  - Neighborhoods through partnerships
  - Emergency preparedness
  - Expand opportunities for public participation
  - Environmental education
- SP Goal 6: High Quality Education
  - Collaborate with WJCC schools
  - Collaborate with regional entities on workforce development & training initiatives
- SP Goal 7: Fiscally Efficient Government
  - Update and coordinate CIP process
- CP ENV 4.5: Encourage appropriate energy production & conservation technologies in residential areas including solar panels
- CP PF 4.1: Innovation and technology (such as solar panels) should be employed where feasible
- CP Residential Development Standards (7).g – Considering siting for solar orientation

James City County will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following goals:
- Develop a streamlined process for solar permitting or inspections.
- Provide online information regarding solar installation process
- Conduct review of state policies so citizens can make informed solar PV purchasing decisions
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 Operation Initiatives and Capital Projects as outlined in the Strategic and Comprehensive Plans.

In order to measure progress along the way James City County will track key metrics related to solar energy deployment, such as installed solar capacity the and number of installations across sectors.

Inquiries related to James City County's SolSmart participation can be directed to Dawn Oleksy at dawn.oleksy@jamescitycountyva.gov or 757-259-5375.

Sincerely,

Dawn Oleksy
Environmental Sustainability Coordinator