Solar Ready II
Introductory Stakeholder Meeting

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U.S. Department of Energy
Goals of the Solar Ready II (SRII) Program

- Reduce costs through regulatory reform
- Increase access to financing
- Promote solar adoption
Grant Details

Major Goals
Streamline the permitting process
Update planning and zoning codes
Reduce overall barriers to solar implementation

Funding Amount
$90,000 ($75,000 plus $15,000 if goals are met)

Timeframe
18 to 30 months (depending on accomplishments met)
Grant Details

National Partners

• Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)
• National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)
• Meister Consultants Group
• Council of State Governments
Grant Details

Regional Participants

- Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board (CNYRPDB)
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
- Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG)
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)
- North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)
- Northwester Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC)
- Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI)
- Southwestern Florida Regional Planning Commission (SWFRPC)
- Tampa Bay Regional Planning Commission (TBRPC)
## Major Deliverables and Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subtask</th>
<th>Target Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engage stakeholders including local government officials, planners, utility representatives, etc.</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluate existing processes/policies and update with Best Management Practices (BMPs)</td>
<td>February 2014 and ongoing</td>
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<td>Submit Jurisdiction Questionnaires</td>
<td>March 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engage 10-30 local governments as committed participants</td>
<td>March 2014 and ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide qualitative and quantitative data from industry professionals to verify market maturity</td>
<td>March 2014 and ongoing</td>
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<td>Assist MCG in gathering/compiling financial options data for the region</td>
<td>March 2014 and ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPTIONAL: Implement citizen engagement/market research panels</td>
<td>July 2014 and ongoing</td>
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Goals of Today’s Session

By the end of today’s session we would like to:

1. Establish “baseline” opinions on the current solar market;

2. Identify state-level legislative/regulatory issues to forward to grant partners;

3. Prioritize best management practices for our region;

4. Establish solar needs and goals of the DFW region; and

5. Create/finalize a stakeholder working group to execute program objectives.
POLLING QUESTIONS
How many days did you stay home due to weather conditions?

A. 0
B. 1
C. 2
D. 3
E. 4+
What type of organization do you represent?

A. Local Government
B. Industry Group
C. Utility
D. Installer
E. Citizen Group
F. Other
Thinking about the solar market across the country, how do you think the DFW region compares in terms of regulations that impact solar implementation?

A. Much more solar friendly
B. Slightly more solar friendly
C. About average
D. Slightly less solar friendly
E. Much less solar friendly
Thinking about the solar market across the country, how do you think the DFW region compares in terms of regulations that impact solar implementation?

- **Much more solar friendly**: 25%
- **Slightly more solar friendly**: 25%
- **About average**: 25%
- **Slightly less solar friendly**: 25%
- **Much less solar friendly**: 67%

![Bar Chart](chart.png)

Legend:
- Local Government
- Industry Group
- Utility
- Installer
- Citizen Group
- Other
Rank the following “soft cost” areas in order of those that create the most difficult barriers to least difficult barriers:

A. Permitting
B. Zoning
C. Financing
D. Labor cost
E. Lack of education/info
F. Utility support
G. Lack of incentives
H. Other
Rank the following “soft cost” areas in order of those that create the most difficult barriers to least difficult barriers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Local Government</th>
<th>Industry Group</th>
<th>Utility</th>
<th>Installer</th>
<th>Citizen Group</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permitting</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finishing</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor cost</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of education/info</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility support</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of incentives</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Best Management Practices

Process Improvements
- Standardize Permit Fees
- Streamline Permits
- Pre-Qualify Plans and Installers
- Notify Utility

Planning Improvements
- Improve Solar Access
- Educate Developers
- Educate Homeowners
- Improve Solar Readiness
- Engage HOAs

HOA = Homeowners Association
Process Improvements

Streamline Permits

1. Provide a central clearinghouse of solar info
2. Create a permit checklist summarizing necessary regulatory steps
3. Develop permit criteria outlining “standard” installations

Standardize Permit Fees

4. Establish fixed fee for residential permit applications
5. Adopt the Permit Fee Calculator for commercial systems

Notify Utility

6. Alert when permit applications are received and inspections are complete
7. Conduct joint inspections with utility and jurisdiction

Pre-Qualify Plans and Installers

8. Develop process for pre-qualified “standard plans”
9. Develop process for pre-qualification of installers
POLLING
QUESTIONS
The permit process is too complicated and drives people away

A. Strongly agree
B. Somewhat agree
C. No opinion
D. Somewhat disagree
E. Strongly disagree
F. I don’t know
If you represent a local government, does your entity currently have a solar permitting process in place?

A. Yes, process in place
B. Currently developing process
C. No, but planning to develop one
D. No, and no plans to develop
E. I don’t know
Process Improvements: Rank what you believe should be the 5 most important to pursue locally. (1st response entered = most important)

A. Provide a central clearinghouse of solar info
B. Create a permit checklist summarizing necessary regulatory steps
C. Develop permit criteria outlining “standard” installations
D. Establish fixed fee for residential permit applications
E. Adopt the Permit Fee Calculator for commercial systems
F. Alert when permit applications are received and inspections are complete
G. Conduct joint inspections with utility and jurisdiction
H. Develop process for pre-qualified “standard plans”
I. Develop process for pre-qualification of installers
Planning Improvements

Improve Solar Access
10. Incorporate solar access priorities into comprehensive plan
11. Adopt a solar access ordinance

Educate Developers
12. Provide tools for new developments

Educate Homeowners
13. Provide homeowners and HOA’s with recommended strategies

Improve Solar Readiness
14. Develop solar ready buildings checklist for new construction
15. Adopt new ordinances/building codes to promote solar ready construction

Engage Homeowners Associations
16. Create incentives (tax breaks/credits, etc.) for the adoption of best practices
Planning Improvements: Rank what you believe should be the 5 most important to pursue locally. (1st response entered = most important)

A. Incorporate solar access priorities into comprehensive plan
B. Adopt a solar access ordinance
C. Provide tools for new developments
D. Provide homeowners and HOA’s with recommended strategies
E. Develop solar ready buildings checklist for new construction
F. Adopt new ordinances/building codes to promote solar ready construction
G. Create incentives (tax breaks/credits, etc.) for the adoption of best practices
Financing & Adoption

Engage Local Lenders

Enact a Solarize Program
  • Do we want a regional solarize program?
  • Solarize Plano Example

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)
  • Commercial and industrial properties only
  • Potential impacts?
Needs and Goals of the DFW Region

Discussion:

1. Which BMPs are currently being practiced in our region?
2. Which are most practical/relevant for improving the solar market in the DFW region?
3. Do we want a standardized “regional” process/suite of BMP’s, or should we create a collecting BMP documents to be picked/chosen?
4. In your opinion, does the cost and/or dynamic specifications of solar equipment cause home owners or others to refrain from installation?
Finalize Stakeholder Group

Requests & Responsibilities

1. Assist NCTCOG staff with data gathering and statistics

2. Attend meetings on a regular basis (bi-monthly or quarterly?) to:
   a) Discuss accomplishments/hurdles;
   b) Review draft BMP documents; and
   c) Discuss ongoing programs

3. Agree to have time and mileage valued for use as cost-share
Next Steps

Jurisdiction Questionnaire
- Used to create a baseline and will hopefully see improvement by the end of the program period
- 6 pages total
- 10-30 responses needed

Solar Ready II Kick-Off Meeting
- Introduce the program to local governments from across the region and seek engagement
- Presentations on current Best Management Practices from peer jurisdictions
- TBD – Early February?

Stakeholder Meetings
- Discuss hurdles and accomplishments
- Evaluate progress
- Review/refine documents
- TBD - Monthly, Quarterly?
For More Information

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www.nctcog.org/solar
THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!