



City of Hopkins

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Monday, January 31, 2022

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

Theresa Perry
Interstate Renewable Energy Council
125 Wolf Road, Suite 207
Albany, NY 12205

Dear Scott Annis and Theresa Perry:

On behalf of the City of Hopkins, I am proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated community. In partnership with the SolSmart team, Hopkins 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 the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's GreenStep Cities Program which helps our community track and improve upon key sustainability and resiliency metrics.

The City of Hopkins will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following goals:

- Education and encouragement of residents and businesses to explore solar opportunities
- Improve staff training and processes related to solar permitting and inspections
- Advance the City's climate resiliency goals

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 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

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

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 <https://www.hopkinsmn.com/1087/Solar-Energy>

Inquiries related to Hopkins SolSmart participation can be directed to PeggySue Imihy Bean, AICP at pimihy@hopkinsmn.com or 952-548-6344.

Sincerely,

Kersten Elverum

Kersten Elverum
Director of Planning and Development