
Tuesday, September 29, 2020

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

Dear Scott Annis:

On behalf of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), I am proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated regional organization. In partnership with the SolSmart team, DVRPC's dedicated staff members will work to improve solar market conditions, making it faster, easier, and more affordable for the residents and businesses in the Greater Philadelphia region to install solar energy systems. These efforts will also increase the efficiency of regional processes related to solar development, which may save local governments time and money.

DVRPC will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following goals and strategies for our region:

- Support the production of energy with less GHG by continuing to promote municipal adoption of regionally consistent best practices for minimizing the soft costs of solar PV, including zoning, permitting, and inspection.
- Investigate the feasibility of a multi-jurisdictional solar power purchase agreement that will allow participating entities to lower the GHG content of the energy they consume while saving energy costs. As part of this, DVRPC will explore ways to engage the local utility in an on-going collaborative discussion on issues surrounding solar, including shared solar, interconnection, and net metering.
- DVRPC will explore ways, and if possible draft language, to include quantifiable metrics for solar PV in DVRPC's Long Range Plan (LRP) Connections 2050, currently in development. DVRPC's LRP supports a target of reducing regional 2005 GHG emissions 60 percent by the year 2040. This target provides foundational support for all of DVRPC's initiatives that promote reductions in GHGs, including the development and/or use of solar energy in the region. DVRPC's current Long Range Plan states that "an electricity supply transformed to solar energy—while extremely challenging—has the potential to be more resilient and less susceptible to disruption of fossil fuel supply."

These efforts will demonstrate that our organization is committed to driving continual improvement in our regional solar market and, in the process of doing so, all the related areas identified as regional priorities in our Long Range Plan, Connections 2045.

Inquiries related to DVRPC's participation in SolSmart can be directed to Liz Compitello at ecompitello@dvrpc.org.

Sincerely,



Barry Seymour
Executive Director
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Cc: Karin Morris, Associate Director, Livable Communities