



Thursday, March 29, 2018

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

The Solar Foundation  
600 14th St. NW, Ste. 400  
Washington, DC 20005

In re: Johnson County, Kansas Solar Statement

Dear SolSmart review staff:

Johnson County, Kansas is pleased to acknowledge its commitment to solar-friendly best practices. Johnson County has been a long-standing partner with Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) and twenty-five other local governments in the Kansas City metropolitan region as part of the Solar Ready KC and Solar Ready II initiatives funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Rooftop Solar Challenge. As part of the Rooftop Solar Challenge, MARC developed a program to recognize local communities for their efforts implementing solar best management practice (BMPs.) Over the course of the last five years, 2012-2016, coordinated efforts have been underway to make the Kansas City region solar ready.

Johnson County is further committed to become a SolSmart-designated community. In partnership with the SolSmart team, Johnson County staff will work with MARC and our region's peer cities and counties to improve solar market conditions, making it faster, easier, and more affordable for our county 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 county time and money.

The SolSmart designation program builds upon our community's participation in Solar Ready KC and Solar Ready II, which resulted in the identification, codification and implementation of solar BMPs. As part of the Solar Ready designation program, Johnson County received the Gold level honor by:

- Addressing solar energy in its zoning ordinance;
- Making solar-ready construction guidelines available on its website;
- Creating a solar landing page;
- Providing links to MARC's solar mapping website;
- Offering solar training through its Contractor Licensing Program; and
- Completed a 17.3 kW solar installation on its Crime Lab

These efforts demonstrate that Johnson County is committed to driving continual improvement in our solar market, and in the process of doing so, all of the related areas identified as community priorities in the Kansas City region. Johnson County is willing to measure its progress by tracking key metrics related to solar energy deployment, such as installed solar capacity the and number of installations across sectors.

Inquiries related to Johnson County, Kansas SolSmart participation can be directed to Jay Leipzig, Planning, Development and Codes Director at [jay.leipzig@jocogov.org](mailto:jay.leipzig@jocogov.org) or 913.715.2220.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Leipzig", with a long, sweeping underline.

Jay Leipzig  
Planning, Development and Codes Director