



CITY OF BOULDER
Energy Strategy and Electric Utility Development

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Letter of Commitment to SolSmart Designation

To Whom it May Concern:

The City of Boulder is committed to participating in the SolSmart designation process. The city has a history of dedication to the expansion solar energy development in the community.

These efforts began in 1982, when Boulder created its Solar Shadow Ordinance, which guarantees access to sunlight for homeowners and renters in the city by setting limits on the amount of permitted shading by new construction and requiring that new buildings be sited to provide good solar access. Most recently, in 2015, Boulder was named a Platinum Solar-Friendly Community by the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association. Popular solar development programs in Boulder include solar installation tax rebates and grants for solar panels on non-profit organization's buildings and affordable housing.

Recently, staff proposed an aggressive renewable electricity target—100% renewable electricity by 2030—to City Council. The city plans to meet this goal by relying, in large part, on locally generated solar energy. The sun shines over 300 days a year making solar Boulder's most prevalent natural resource. One target associated with the renewable electricity goal is 50 MW of locally installed generation capacity by 2050. The city, which has been tracking solar installations since 2009, already has approximately 18 MW of solar installed and believes that this target is achievable.

Boulder has a dedicated staff working on solar development, including grant program managers, environmental and sustainability planners, energy experts who testify before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission and solar strategy developers., all focused on supporting our community efforts to expand the use of solar energy.

Sincerely,

Heather Bailey

Executive Director of Energy Strategy and Electric Utility Development