

SolSmart Credit Validation Report

Resubmit - FINAL

Credit #	Credit Description	Already awarded	Points Newly Claimed	Points Newly Validated	Comments
PR-1	PR-1: Post a public statement of solar goals in the form of a SolSmart commitment letter.	Yes			
Permitting			35	40	40
P-1	P-1: Create and make available an online checklist detailing the steps of your community's solar permitting process. (0 points)	Yes			
P-2	P-2: Provide a streamlined permitting pathway for small PV systems with turn-around time of no more than 3 days. (20 points)		20		
P-3	P-3: Distinguish between systems qualifying for streamlined or standard review. (5 points)				
P-4	P-4: Require no more than one application form for a residential rooftop PV project. (5 points)				
P-5a	P-5a: Conduct a review of solar permit fees for residential and commercial solar. (5 points)		5		
P-5b	P-5b: Earn additional points: Revise or demonstrate that permit fees reflect national best practices (\$400 or less for residential, and based on cost-recovery for commercial). (5 points)				
P-6	P-6: Review permitting process for efficiency improvements and reduce processing time to 10 days or less. (10 points)				
P-7	P-7: Adopt a standard solar permit form aligned with best practices (e.g. Solar ABCs). (10 points)				
P-8	P-8: Train permitting staff on best practices for permitting solar PV and/or solar and storage systems. (10 points)		10	10	
P-9	P-9: Train fire and safety staff on solar PV. (10 points)		10	10	
P-10	P-10: Develop a regular communication schedule to solicit recommendations from the solar installer community regarding procedural changes. (10 points)		10		
P-11	P-11: Offer an online process for permitting submission and approval. (20 points)				
P-12	P-12: Share open source permit data with fire and safety and other key third parties. (20 points)		20	20	
P-13	P-13: Local Innovation: Has your community taken action to reduce permitting soft costs that wasn't captured in the list above?				
Planning, Zoning, and Development Review			40	20	20
PZD-1a	PZD-1a: Review zoning requirements and identify restrictions that intentionally or unintentionally prohibit solar PV development. Compile findings in a memo. (0 points)	Yes			
PZD-1b	PZD-1b: Formally present PZD-1a memo findings to planning commission, or relevant zoning body. (5 points)				
PZD-1c	PZD-1c: Draft proposed language for changes to zoning code based on PZD-1a memo. Involve planners and/or local zoning experts in the creation of the draft language. (5 points)		5		
PZD-2	PZD-2: Allow solar by-right and as an accessory use in all major zones, and implement any zoning ordinance adjustments. (20 points)		20	20	
PZD-3a	PZD-3a: Conduct review of existing planning documents and identify new opportunities to integrate solar PV into planning goals. (5 points)				
PZD-3b	PZD-3b: Earn additional points: In consultation with planners and other staff, provide draft language on solar PV. (5 points)				
PZD-4	PZD-4: Provide clear guidance for solar in historic and special use districts. (10 points)				
PZD-5	PZD-5: Integrate solar and/or shared solar into relevant local plans (e.g. energy plan, climate plan, comprehensive plan). (10 points)		10		
PZD-6	PZD-6: Include considerations for active and passive solar in development regulations. (10 points)				
PZD-7	PZD-7: Provide development incentives for solar within subdivision or zoning process or as part of other development incentives. (20 points)				
PZD-8	PZD-8: Incentivize solar development on parking lots, vacant lots, landfills, buffer lands around uses with nuisances, etc. (20 points)				
PZD-9	PZD-9: Train planning staff on best practices in planning and zoning for solar PV. (must have occurred within the past five years). (10 points)				
PZD-10a	PZD-10a: Ensure that the ordinance clarifies regulations for small ground-mounted PV. (5 points)				
PZD-10b	PZD-10b: Ensure that the ordinance establishes a clear regulatory pathway for primary use solar PV. (5 points)				
PZD-10c	PZD-10c: Ensure that the ordinance exempts rooftop solar PV from certain restrictions on accessory uses. (5 points)				
PZD-10d	PZD-10d: Ensure that the ordinance exempts small ground-mounted solar PV from certain restrictions. (5 points)				
PZD-11	PZD-11: Create and provide a handout online for developers which provides an overview of development regulations. (5 points)		5		
PZD-12	PZD-12: Local Innovation: Has your community taken action to reduce PZD soft costs that wasn't captured in the list above?				
Inspections			20	20	20
I-1	I-1: Provide cross-training of inspection and permitting staff on solar PV via in-person or online resources. (20 points)		20	20	
I-2	I-2: Eliminate excess inspections and consolidate inspection trips for solar PV. (10 points)		10		
I-3	I-3: Offer inspection appointment times in lieu of appointment windows. (10 points)				
I-4	I-4: Make inspection requirements for PV available online. (10 points)				
I-5	I-5: Have a fixed time frame between inspection requests and scheduling of inspections of no more than 10 days. (10 points)		10		
I-6	I-6: Provide an online process for scheduling and responding to inspection requests. (20 points)				
I-7	I-7: Local Innovation: Has your community taken action to reduce inspections soft costs that wasn't captured in the list above?				
Construction Codes			0	0	0
CC-1a	CC-1a: Develop and provide "solar-ready construction guidelines" for developers to enable lower cost installation of future solar installations on buildings within the permitting office and online. (10 points)				
CC-1b	CC-1b: Earn additional points: Include guidance for solar parking lots and other types of non-traditional structures. (10 points)				
CC-2	CC-2: Require or incentivize new construction to be solar ready in order to complete future installations at lower cost. (10 points)				
CC-3	CC-3: Offer design guidelines for PV aligned with NEC and fire code.				
CC-4	CC-4: Adopt the most recent ICC codes. (20 points)				

CC-5	CC-5: Local Innovation: Has your community taken action to reduce construction codes soft costs that wasn't captured in the list above?			
Solar Rights		10	10	10
SR-1	SR-1: Conduct review of state policies related to protecting rights of property owners to install solar and solar system owners' right to sunlight on their property. Make this information available to residents. (5 points)		5	5
SR-2	SR-2: Provide consumer protection resources on solar. (5 points)		5	5
SR-3	SR-3: Develop local process to enable solar rights through a solar access ordinance. (10 points)			
SR-4	SR-4: Offer procedure for recording solar easements for property owners. (10 points)			
SR-5a	SR-5a: Engage homeowners' and neighborhood associations and discourage unnecessarily restrictive requirements for PV through meetings with leadership. (10 points)	10		
SR-5b	SR-5b: Earn additional points: Encourage subdivisions to consider shared solar allowances. (5 points)			
SR-5c	SR-5c: Earn additional points: Work with HOAs to develop appropriate guideline documents for solar PV. (5 points)			
SR-6	SR-6: Local Innovation: Has your community taken action to reduce solar rights soft costs that wasn't captured in the list above?			
Utility Engagement		0	0	0
U-1	U-1: Review best practices for integrating interconnection with electrical inspections and share best practices with staff. (5 points)			
U-2	U-2: Discuss community or shared solar programs with local utility. (10 points)			
U-3a	U-3a: Engage and communicate with utility on community goals for solar, net metering and interconnection processes. (10 points)			
U-3b	U-3b: Earn additional points: Coordinate with regional organization or other local governments to engage utilities. (5 points)			
U-4	U-4: Coordination of utility and city inspections for solar PV, reducing the total number of inspections needed. (20 points)			
U-5	U-5: Launch of and outreach support for utility-provided community solar program. (20 points)			
U-6	U-6: Local Innovation: Has your community taken action to reduce utility engagement soft costs that wasn't captured in the list above?			
Community Engagement		50	10	10
CE-1	CE-1: Active energy task force or working group which meets on at least three times per year. (10 points)	10		
CE-2	CE-2: Create a solar landing page on local government's website with information on community's solar goals and local resources for solar development. (10 points)		10	10
CE-3	CE-3: Encourage solar on non-profit or community facilities through fee waivers, technical assistance or connections to other forms of support. (10 points)			
CE-4a	CE-4a: Support or host a community-group purchase program (e.g. a Solarize campaign). (20 points)	20		
CE-4b	CE-4b: Earn additional points: Design program or create financing support options to encourage low-to-moderate income participation in community solar initiatives. (10 points)			
CE-5a	CE-5a: Host a solar workshop open to the general public and/or local government staff explaining PV opportunities and policies. (5 points)	5		
CE-5b	CE-5b: Creation and distribution of educational materials at relevant community events and through local government channels. (5 points)			
CE-5c	CE-5c: Establish partnerships with local non-profits or organizations on solar with multi-year goal or planned initiatives. (5 points)	5		
CE-5d	CE-5d: Publicly encourage community solar projects or solar projects on community facilities. (5 points)	5		
CE-5e	CE-5e: Engage community in robust, on-going discussion around climate, energy or sustainability plans. (5 points)	5		
CE-6	CE-6: Create and publish job training and placement opportunities for solar in coordination with local community colleges. (20 points)			
CE-7	CE-7: Conduct feasibility analysis for solar on brownfields, landfills, formerly contaminated lands and/or other under-utilized properties. (10 points)			
CE-8	CE-8: Install or lease land for solar development on brownfields, landfills, formerly contaminated lands and/or other under-utilized properties. (20 points)			
CE-9	CE-9: Engage with regional organizations on advancing solar policies in the region including, but not limited to unified permitting processes and group procurement opportunities. (20 points)			
CE-10	CE-10: Demonstrate activity in state-level conversations regarding solar PV. (20 points)			
CE-11	CE-11: Create and share an interactive solar map for your community. (20 points)			
CE-12	CE-12: Local Innovation: Has your community taken action to reduce community engagement soft costs that wasn't captured in the list above?			
Market Development & Finance		20	15	15
MDF-1	MDF-1: Provide resources on active installers and/or local incentives for solar. (5 points)		5	5
MDF-2	MDF-2: Make solar metrics publicly available. (5 points)			
MDF-3	MDF-3: Provide information to consumers about different solar PV financing options, including commercial options, such as property-assessed clean energy (PACE) financing. (5 points)			
MDF-4	MDF-4: Conduct feasibility analysis for solar PV installations on public facilities. (10 points)		10	10
MDF-5	MDF-5: Install solar capacity on local facilities. (20 points)	20		
MDF-6a	MDF-6: If applicable, provide PACE financing in your community. (10 points)			
MDF-6b	MDF-6b: Earn additional points: Demonstrate that PACE financing has been used to finance solar PV in your community. (10 points)			
MDF-7	MDF-7: Provide local incentives (i.e. permit fee waivers, rebates, or property tax exemptions) or locally-enabled finance (i.e. a revolving loan fund) for solar. (20 points)			
MDF-8	MDF-8: Engage local banks, credit unions, foundations and/or community funds about lending for solar PV projects through in-person meetings, discussions and/or workshops. (20 points)			
MDF-9	MDF-9: Demonstrate that community's installed per capita capacity is above top 20% of states (>99 watts/person). (20 points)			
MDF-10	MDF-10: Integrate solar with other distributed or emerging technologies such as storage, CHP or electric vehicles in at least one installed or proposed project. (20 points)			
MDF-11	MDF-11: Develop feasibility analysis or planning for resilient solar technologies for critical facilities and emergency planning such as solar and storage. (20 points)			
MDF-12	MDF-12: Local Innovation: Has your community taken action to reduce market development and finance soft costs that wasn't captured in the list above?			