

# SOLAR STATEMENT



Thursday, February 9, 2017

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

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

Dear Emily Sparks and Philip Haddix:

On behalf of Ashland County, I am proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated community. In partnership with the SolSmart team, Ashland County's 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 Wisconsin Energy Independent Community Program which resulted in the development of a multi-year energy efficiency and renewable energy plan.

Ashland County will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following goals in line with our Energy Independent Community plan:

- **Install solar energy systems on key local government facilities.**
- **Expand and communicate solar finance options for residential or commercial properties.**
- **Implement and promote a PACE program in the county.**

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 Comprehensive Plan and Energy Plan.

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

Inquiries related to Ashland County's SolSmart participation can be directed to Tom Wojciechowski at [tom.wojciechowski@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:tom.wojciechowski@ces.uwex.edu) or 715-682-7017.

Sincerely,



Jeff Beirl  
County Administrator

