



City of Nappanee

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P.O. Box 29
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Mayor Phil Jenkins
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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 Nappanee, IN, I am proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated community. In partnership with the SolSmart team, Nappanee'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 interest in leveraging alternative energy to reduce utility bills and potentially provide backup power. Local businesses and residents have already installed several solar PV systems, including a 68.6 kW system at McCormick Motors installed between 2009 and 2016.

By first clarifying the process for going solar and pursuing opportunities to install solar on public facilities, we are leading by example.

Nappanee will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following goals:

- *Review the soft costs associated with solar power deployment and identify opportunities to eliminate barriers.*
- *Develop a streamlined process for solar permitting and inspections.*
- *Empower residents to reduce their energy costs through solar by providing access to resources and information.*

We believe the SolSmart program will ultimately make solar more affordable and accessible while strengthening local economic development and attracting solar developers to the region. Designation will reduce uncertainty for residents and businesses and signal to the solar market that Nappanee is "open for business."

In order to measure progress and increase transparency, Nappanee will partner with the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG) to track key metrics related to solar energy deployment, such as installed solar capacity the and number of installations across sectors.

Inquiries related to Nappanee's SolSmart participation can be directed to Don Lehman via email at dlehman@nappanee.org or via phone at 574-773-2112.

Sincerely,



Mayor Phil Jenkins