

SOLAR STATEMENT



Wednesday, September 6, 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 Andrea Fox and Philip Haddix:

On behalf of **Athens County, Ohio**, I am proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated community. In partnership with the SolSmart team, **Athens 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.

Athens County will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following goals:

- **Encourage the development of a long-range plan for clean, localized energy production that is based on proven resource availability.**
- **Expand and communicate solar finance options for residential or commercial properties.**
- **Provide local business with information regarding energy efficiency, renewable energy options and available grants, such as the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), which provides financial assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses in rural America to purchase, install, and construct renewable energy systems.**

We also hope to use renewable technologies in county facilities (when feasible) that reduce energy consumption. Technologies may include geothermal heat pumps, radiant heating and cooling, solar hot water, energy recovery ventilators, HEPA filtration, and/or micro-hydro technologies.

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 **relevant plans or initiatives**.

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

Inquiries related to **Athens County's** SolSmart participation can be directed to **Athens County Commissioner Chris Chmiel** at cchmiel@athensoh.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Chmiel".

Chris Chmiel
Commissioner, Athens County, Ohio

