

August 24, 2020



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

Re: SolSmart Solar Statement

Dear Scott Annis and Zach Greene:

On behalf of Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI), I am proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated regional organization. Our region encompasses three states, and our Board is made up of 118 members, representing governmental, social and civic groups from nearly 200 communities. In partnership with the SolSmart team, OKI's dedicated staff members will work to improve awareness of solar opportunities, making it faster, easier, and more affordable for residents and businesses to install solar energy systems. These efforts will also increase the efficiency of permitting processes related to solar development, which will save local governments time and money.

SolSmart builds upon our organization's participation in Solarize Cincy and US Department of Energy's Rooftop Solar Challenge. The result has been increased partnership with local leaders in energy management, such as Duke Energy Ohio, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and the Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance. These partnerships are delivering assistance in education and outreach, and providing technical tools and resources to participants. We are dedicated to achieving our long-term Solar Ready goals, which are:

- **Reducing costs and improving efficiency of solar permitting processes, through promoting best practices,**
- **Increasing the promotion of access to low-cost financing options,**
- **Increasing awareness and boosting solar adoption and investment, and**
- **Continuing to engage a variety of local governments, utilities, businesses, and organizations, to guide this initiative and provide a series of solar best management practices for consideration, by communities in the OKI region.**

These efforts demonstrate that our organization is committed to driving continual improvement in our region's planning efforts, and, in the process of doing so, all the energy-related areas identified as community priorities in our *Elements of an Effective Local Comprehensive Plan*.

Inquiries related to OKI's participation in SolSmart can be directed to Andrew Meyer at ameyer@oki.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark R. Policinski".

Mark Policinski, CEO

Kris Knochelmann
President

Mark R. Policinski
CEO

720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 420 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 | Phone: 513.621.6300 | Fax: 513.621.9325 | www.oki.org
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