

# SOLAR STATEMENT



Saturday, September 28, 2024

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

Brandy O'Quinn  
Interstate Renewable Energy Council  
125 Wolf Road, Suite 100  
Albany, NY 12205

Dear Debra Perry and Brandy O'Quinn:

On behalf of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission I am proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated community. In partnership with the SolSmart team, our 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.

We will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following solar goals:

- **Train staff on solar PV best practices in planning, zoning, permitting, and inspection.**
- **Develop and execute a solarize campaign.**
- **Develop an inventory of sites suitable for large-scale solar PV within the region.**

These goals demonstrate that our community is committed to making continual improvement in our solar market. This includes ensuring solar development is inclusive and equitable. We're looking forward to learning more from the SolSmart program how to expand access to solar for all our residents and support solar energy adoption for those that are under resourced or underserved.

The SolSmart program will build on our solar efforts, such as to continue and expand upon aiding localities with solar zoning amendments and to provide more comprehensive solar PV best practices trainings.

To measure progress along the way, we will track key metrics related to solar energy deployment, such as installed solar, permitting processing time, and growth in residential installations.

We understand that the SolSmart program has criteria and point requirements as outlined in the SolSmart Program Guide needed to achieve each tier of designation. We're excited to submit this solar statement to complete the first requirement of the program.

Inquiries related to our SolSmart participation can be directed to Kevin Jenks at [kjenks@rvarc.org](mailto:kjenks@rvarc.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jeremy Holmes'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jeremy Holmes  
Executive Director