



Office of the City Manager

December 3, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Subject: SolSmart Gold Award

The City of Berkeley has been awarded a Gold designation from the national [SolSmart](#) program for making it faster, easier, and more affordable for homes and businesses in Berkeley to go solar. This award recognizes the City for its action to encourage solar energy growth and remove obstacles to solar development. These actions include providing clear guidance and permitting checklists, streamlining permitting, training permit and inspection staff on solar, and supporting group purchase programs like [SunShares](#). These efforts are one component of the Planning Department's work to continually improve customer service.



SolSmart is led by The Solar Foundation and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office. SolSmart uses objective criteria to award communities points based on actions they take to reduce barriers to solar energy development. Gold is the highest designation and requires 200 points to achieve – the City earned 505 points and was recognized with [special awards](#) in permitting, planning, construction codes, and market development. Staff from the Planning Department's Office of Energy and Sustainable Development (OESD) and Building & Safety Division were instrumental in delivering the services which led to this recognition.

As part of the SolSmart program, the City will be awarded up to 100 hours of no-cost technical assistance to further support work to promote solar. In addition, the City will be receiving a plaque for display in the Permit Service Center.

For more information please see the City's [solar webpage](#), or contact Timothy Burroughs, Director of Planning at [tburroughs@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:tburroughs@cityofberkeley.info) or 510.981.7437.

cc: Paul Buddenhagen, Interim Deputy City Manager  
Mark Numainville, City Clerk  
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager  
Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor  
Timothy Burroughs, Director of Planning and Development