

# SOLAR STATEMENT



Monday, February 27, 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 Emily Sparks and Philip Haddix:

On behalf of the City of Mercer Island, I am proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated community. In partnership with the SolSmart team, Mercer Island'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 participation in a 2014 Solarize Washington campaign which resulted in over 47 new residential and commercial solar installations, totaling over 320 kilowatts of capacity, and planted the seed for research into a 75-kw Community Solar array on City Hall.

The City of Mercer Island will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following goals:

- **Expand and communicate solar finance options for residential or commercial properties.**
- **Install solar energy systems on key local government facilities.**
- **Explore adding solar incentives to residential new construction guidelines.**

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 Comprehensive Plan and City sustainability goals.

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

In these efforts, we call on our residents, businesses, non-profits, and others to get involved, and we invite everyone to stay tuned by visiting [www.mercergov.org/SolarPower](http://www.mercergov.org/SolarPower).

Inquiries related to the City of Mercer Island's SolSmart participation can be directed to Ross Freeman, Sustainability Manager at [Ross.Freeman@mercergov.org](mailto:Ross.Freeman@mercergov.org) or (206) 275-7662.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Julie Underwood", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Julie Underwood

Julie Thuy Underwood  
City Manager, City of Mercer Island