

City of Independence

111 E. MAPLE AVENUE – P.O. BOX 1019 – INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI 64051-0519
www.ci.independence.mo.us – (816) 325-7000



January 24, 2018

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

The Solar Foundation
600 14th St. NW, Ste. 400
Washington, DC 20005

In re: Independence, Missouri Solar Statement

Dear SolSmart review staff:

Independence, MO is pleased to acknowledge its commitment to solar-friendly best practices. Independence has been a long-standing partner with Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) and twenty-five other local governments in the Kansas City metropolitan region as part of the Solar Ready KC and Solar Ready II initiatives funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Rooftop Solar Challenge. As part of the Rooftop Solar Challenge, MARC developed a program to recognize local communities for their efforts implementing solar best management practice (BMPs.). Over the course of the last six years, 2012-2017, coordinated efforts have been underway to make the Kansas City region solar ready.

Independence is further committed to become a SolSmart-designated community. In partnership with the SolSmart team, Independence staff will work with MARC and our region's peer cities and counties to improve solar market conditions, making it faster, easier, and more affordable for our county 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 county time and money.

The SolSmart designation program builds upon our community's participation in Solar Ready II, which resulted in the identification, codification and implementation of solar BMPs. As part of the Solar Ready designation program, Independence received the Bronze level honor by:

- Addressing solar energy in its zoning ordinance;
- Making solar-ready construction guidelines available on its website;

These efforts demonstrate that Independence is committed to driving continual improvement in our solar market, and in the process of doing so, all of the related areas identified as community priorities in the Kansas City region. Independence is willing to measure its progress by tracking key metrics related to solar energy deployment, such as installed solar capacity and the number of installations across sectors.

Inquiries related to Independence, MO SolSmart participation can be directed to me by phone at (816) 325-7415 or by e-mail at cdissell@indepmo.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. E. Dissell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "C".

Charlie E. Dissell, AICP
Assistant Director
Community Development Department