



Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Interstate Renewable Energy Council
125 Wolf Road, Suite 207
Albany, NY 12205

Dear Scott Annis and Theresa Perry:

On behalf of Region 1 Planning Council (R1), we are proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated regional organization. In partnership with the SolSmart team, R1's dedicated staff members will work to improve solar market conditions, making it faster, easier, and more affordable for the residents and businesses in our region to install solar energy systems. These efforts will also increase the efficiency of regional processes related to solar development, which may save local governments time and money.

SolSmart designation for R1 builds upon Rockford and Freeport's participation in achieving Gold Status, which resulted in wide-scale growth of its solar and green energy economy.

Region 1 Planning Council will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following goals for our region:

- *Establish standards and create a regional plan for public and private incorporation of renewable energies and related energy supply;*
- *Improve and seek infrastructure projects which accommodate new technology and increase efficiencies of existing systems; and*
- *Prioritize green economic development.*

These efforts demonstrate that our organization is committed to driving continual improvement in our regional solar market and, in the process of doing so, all the related areas identified as organizational priorities in our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Inquiries related to Region 1 Planning Council's participation in SolSmart can be directed to Gabrielle Gamily at ggamily@r1planning.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Dunn Jr.", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Michael Dunn Jr., Executive Director

Region 1 Planning Council