

# SOLAR STATEMENT



Friday, September 13, 2019

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 Andrea Fox and Zach Greene:

On behalf of Portage County, Wisconsin I am proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated community. In partnership with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) serving as our SolSmart Advisor **and subject to the approval of all pertinent oversight committees and our full county board**, Portage County's dedicated staff members will work with our county board 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 Portage County's 2015 Energy Report, which incorporates support efforts to reduce energy consumption within the community.

Portage County will leverage SolSmart to achieve the following goals:

- Evaluate the economics associated with installation of solar energy systems on key local government facilities.
- Expand and communicate the value and benefits of WI PACE as a financial resource for commercial businesses in Portage County to finance solar projects.
- Continue supporting and executing a solarize campaign in Portage County, Wisconsin.

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 Portage County's 2015 Energy Report, which seeks to integrate renewable energy design into future construction projects.

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

Inquiries related to Portage County's SolSmart participation can be directed to **Melinda McCord** at [mccordm@co.portage.wi.us](mailto:mccordm@co.portage.wi.us) or (715) 346-1997.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Holman".

**Chris Holman**  
Portage County Executive

