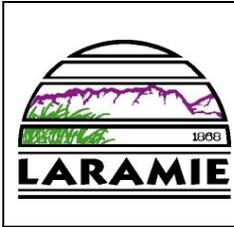


**CITY OF LARAMIE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING September 21, 2021**



**Agenda Item: Resolution**

**Title: Resolution No. 2021-62, recognizing the City of Laramie's commitment to solar initiatives through the participation in the US Department of Energy's SolSmart program**

**Recommended Council MOTION:**

Move to **Approve** City Council Resolution No. 2021-62, recognizing the City of Laramie's commitment to solar initiatives through the participation in the US Department of Energy's SolSmart Community, and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign.

---

**Administrative or Policy Goal:**

To promote, facilitate, and improve the feasibility of residential and commercial solar throughout the Laramie community in an effort to support the City's sustainability efforts and improve the bureaucratic approval process for current and future citizens.

---

**Background:**

SolSmart is a national designation program recognizing cities, counties, and regional organizations that foster the development of a mature local solar markets. Led by the International City/County Management Association and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, along with a team of partners with deep expertise in solar energy and local governments, SolSmart uses objective criteria spanning 5 categories to designate communities that have successfully met these goals. These 5 categories include;

- Permitting and Inspection,
- Planning and Zoning,
- Government Operations,
- Community Engagement,
- Market Development.

Though many who have installed solar panels are finding that solar drastically reduces utility costs and provides extra security in the face of electric grid failure, "soft costs" significantly impact the affordability of solar energy systems. "Soft Costs" refer to business processes or administrative costs that can increase the time and money it takes to install a solar energy system, which is then passes down to customers. To address solar soft costs at a local level, SolSmart provides technical assistance and national designation with funding allocated from the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Energy Technologies Office.

While City staff believes that prior efforts to include solar on City facilities as well as additions, updates and modifications to the Unified Development Code have improved the feasibility of solar in the community, it recognizes that there are opportunities to improve. The technical assistance provided by SolSmart will allow city staff to consult with industry leaders to ensure the implementation of industry best practices in city processes which will improve the likelihood of residential and commercial solar within the community.

In order to start this process, the City must indicate their commitment to supporting solar development within their community through this resolution. The City hopes to leverage the Sol Smart program to;

- Reduce barriers to solar installation
- Reduce community wide carbon emissions
- Improve community resilience by diversifying energy systems
- Promote Laramie as a Solar Community

Following the completion of the program the City will track key metrics related to solar energy deployment, such as installed solar capacity and the number of installations across sectors. Please review the following link called the "[SolSmart Program Guide](#)" for more information and detail about this program.

**Legal/Statutory Authority:**

N/A

**BUDGET FISCAL INFORMATION:**

**REVENUE**

Source	Amount	Type
Fees/Charges for Service		
Grant		
Loan		
Other		
Total	\$0.00	

**Responsible Staff:**

Derek Teini, Planning Manager, AICP  
721-5245  
Joseph Shahidi, Planning Intern

Future dates are subject to change

Advertised	
Public Hearing (PH) Held	
PH Advertised	
Introduction/1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	September 21, 2021
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Reading	

Attachments:

- Proposed Resolution No. 2021-62