



## Loudoun County, Virginia

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## NEWS RELEASE

Office of the County Administrator, Public Affairs and Communications  
1 Harrison Street, SE, P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177-7000  
703-777-0113 • Fax 703-771-5841

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Media Contact: Glen Barbour, Public Affairs and Communications Officer  
703-771-5086, [glen.barbour@loudoun.gov](mailto:glen.barbour@loudoun.gov)

### **Loudoun Receives National Recognition for Support of Solar Energy**

Loudoun County has been recognized by the national SolSmart Program for its efforts to make it easier for homes and businesses to go solar, County Administrator Tim Hemstreet announced Wednesday. Loudoun has received a SolSmart Silver designation, one of only four communities in Virginia to achieve this ranking.



SolSmart, a program of the International City/County Management Association and The Solar Foundation, recognizes communities that have taken key steps to address local barriers to solar energy and foster the growth of local solar markets.

Using objective criteria, SolSmart awards jurisdictions points for removing obstacles to solar energy development in areas such as planning and zoning, permitting and inspections. The designation recognizes Loudoun's processes, procedures and policies that help support solar energy development, including:

- A [Zoning Ordinance](#) that allows solar energy by right in most residential areas of Loudoun County
- A [tax exemption for certified solar energy equipment](#)
- Streamlining the process for obtaining permits for installing residential and commercial solar energy systems and providing an online checklist at [www.loudoun.gov/SolarPermits](http://www.loudoun.gov/SolarPermits)
- Providing cross-training of inspection and permitting staff on solar photovoltaic systems

In addition to achieving the SolSmart Silver designation, Loudoun takes part in the annual Solarize NOVA campaign, which provides free assessments for homeowners and businesses in regards to their property's suitability for solar. The program also offers discounted pricing on solar panels and can connect property owners to a network of qualified, local solar installers.

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