

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: March 17, 2021

SUBJECT: SolSmart Community Designation – EAC Request

PRESENTER: Andrew Myers, EAC Chairman
Grady Nance, EAC Vice-Chair

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1. EAC SolSmart Cover Letter
2. SolSmart Letter of Support

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

On December 1st, 2020, the Henderson County Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) voted to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that Henderson County pursue a SolSmart Community designation. SolSmart is a Department of Energy program that nationally recognizes local communities that are “solar friendly” as Gold, Silver, or Bronze. The designations are general indicators of the ease in which solar installations can be built in a community. The specific line items listed in the Gold, Silver and Bronze qualifications are very useful aids in understanding the impediments to solar projects in a community. There is no cost to join except for committing staff time to working on the designation criteria. More information can be found at www.solsmart.org/.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested hear the presentation, and direct Staff accordingly.

Suggested Motion:

No motion suggested.

HENDERSON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



ANDREW MYERS, CHAIR • STEFANIE WOLF • STEPHEN TILLOTSON • LUCY BUTLER •
MICHAEL SAVAGE • CHRIS BERG • GRAYDON NANCE • SHANE LAUGHTER • NEIL BROWN

www.hendersoncountync.org/engineering/solidwaste/eac.html

January 4th, 2021

Henderson County Board of Commissioners
1 Historic Courthouse Square, Suite 6
Hendersonville, NC 28792

RE: Recommendation for Henderson County to pursue a SolSmart designation

Dear Henderson County Board of Commissioners:

On December 1st, 2020, the Environmental Advisory Committee voted to recommend to the Board that Henderson County pursue a SolSmart Community designation. The program is funded by the US Department of Energy and nationally recognizes local communities that are “solar friendly”. The SolSmart Gold, Silver, or Bronze designations are general indicators of the ease in which solar installations can be built in a community. The specific line items listed in the Gold, Silver and Bronze qualifications are very useful aids in understanding the impediments to solar projects in a community. There is no cost to join except for committing staff time to working on the designation criteria. More information can be found at www.solsmart.org/

Respectfully submitted by,

The Henderson County Environmental Advisory Committee

Henderson County Board of Commissioners

1 Historic Courthouse Square • Suite 1 • Hendersonville, NC 28792
Phone (828) 697-4808 • Fax (828) 692-9855 • www.hendersoncountync.gov

William G. Lapsley
Chairman
Rebecca K. McCall
Vice-Chairman



J. Michael Edney
Daniel J. Andreotta
David H. Hill

March 17, 2021

The Solar Foundation
1717 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Suite 750
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear SolSmart Program Administrators,

This letter is in support of Henderson County's application to participate in the SolSmart designation program. We are committed to completing the designation process with the aim of seeking technical assistance to expand our efforts to promote responsible solar energy generation.

Henderson County has shown support for the development of local renewable solar energy including installing a 32-collector solar thermal system at our Courthouse and a solar panel at our Convenience Center to power employee shed.

On behalf of Henderson County, I am proud to announce our commitment to become a SolSmart-designated community. In partnership with the SolSmart team, Henderson County's dedicated staff members will work 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.

Inquiries related to Henderson County's SolSmart participation can be directed to Christine Wittmeier, Environmental Programs Coordinator at cwittmeier@hendersoncountync.gov or 828-694-6524.

Sincerely,

William Lapsley, Chairman
Henderson County Board of Commissioners