



Village of Lake in the Hills Press Release

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For Immediate Release

The Village of Lake in the Hills Receives SolSmart Gold Designation as a Solar Energy Friendly Community

The Village of Lake in the Hills was one of twenty-three Illinois municipalities awarded a SolSmart community designation in a ceremony at Argonne National Laboratories on May 9. Communities that meet the official SolSmart criteria are designated SolSmart Gold, Silver, or Bronze depending on their level of process improvements across various categories. The Village of Lake in the Hills finished in the top category of Gold, along with five other communities, and is the first community in McHenry County to receive any SolSmart designation. Ann Marie Hess, Assistant Director of Community Development commented, "While the Village was responsible for a great deal of the work behind this honor, we could not have accomplished this without help from the Algonquin/Lake in the Hills, Huntley, and Crystal Lake Fire Protection Districts."

SolSmart is a national program designed to recognize communities that have taken key steps to address barriers to solar energy and foster the growth of mature local solar markets through streamlining processes for development approvals and permitting, pertaining to the installation of solar energy systems in their community. SolSmart-designated communities are opening up solar markets and encouraging a dramatic expansion of solar energy market growth.

Guidance on the SolSmart program was provided by the Chicagoland's Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, which served as a SolSmart Advisor. "SolSmart designations underscore the spirit of collaboration between municipalities and a desire for greater clean energy options," says Geneva, Illinois Mayor Kevin Burns, who served as master of ceremony for the event, and who also chairs the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Environment Committee. Illinois has taken an important step forward in solar power growth – with resulting new job creation, economic development and reduced carbon emissions – a step that aligns with a national trend toward solar energy development.

With the 23 new designations, Illinois has 41 municipalities and counties that have earned SolSmart designation, zooming past California and Colorado. Nationwide, 267 communities in 37 states and the District of Columbia have received designations, representing 69 million Americans. "We congratulate these 23 SolSmart communities in Illinois for removing barriers to solar development and lowering the costs for homes and businesses," said Andrea Luecke, President and Executive Director at The Solar Foundation. "With more designees than any other state, Illinois municipalities and counties are working to ensure their residents continue to benefit from clean solar energy."

For further information about the United States Solar Foundation and the SolSmart program, learn more at SolSmart.org.