

EVERGREEN STATE SOLAR PARTNERSHIP

The Evergreen State Solar Partnership (ESSP) is working to create a streamlined solar photovoltaic development process to expand the market across the State of Washington that will lower costs and increase revenue for homeowners, solar installers, local government, and utilities.

The Challenge

Currently, solar installers and customers in Washington State face a patchwork of solar permitting, zoning and utility interconnection processes that vary by jurisdiction and utility.

The Solution

The Washington Department of Commerce (Commerce) convened the ESSP, a team of four jurisdictions and the electric utilities that serve them, to facilitate the development of a streamlined, standardized process for deploying solar that could be adopted across all utility types and jurisdictions. Other solar industry stakeholders will assist Commerce in developing and implementing the proposed changes.

In 2012, Commerce and its partners began to simplify and standardize the installation of solar electric systems by addressing four target areas:

- 1) Standardized, streamlined permitting
- 2) Improved net metering and interconnection standards
- 3) Solar-friendly planning and zoning
- 4) Expanded financing options

The objectives of the ESSP project are to:

- 1) Lower the cost of rooftop solar electric systems by streamlining and standardizing the permitting processes and interconnection standards throughout Washington State.
- 2) Improve market conditions by creating business certainty for solar PV deployment across multiple jurisdictions.
- 3) Facilitate the adoption of solar financing options to make solar energy affordable for all Washington residents.

In 2013, the ESSP will support statewide efforts to adopt best practices, through training, workshops, peer-to-peer exchanges, and technical assistance for local governments.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

- City of Edmonds
- City of Seattle
- City of Bellevue
- City of Ellensburg
- Snohomish Public Utility District
- Seattle City Light
- City of Ellensburg Municipal Utility
- Puget Sound Energy
- Northwest Sustainable Energy for Economic Development
- Solar Washington
- Sustainable Connections
- Washington State Department of Commerce

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