



Local Government Solar Decision Making Resources

Solar Suitability App

A simple website or app where users can input an address to determine its solar suitability.

<http://solar.maps.umn.edu/app/>

Made in Minnesota Solar

A solar incentive program that aims to encourage installation of Minnesota Made PV and thermal solar. Projects are selected for funding via a lottery system. Projects within Xcel Energy, Minnesota Power, and Otter Tail Power territory are eligible. Applications are open January 1 – February 28 annually.

<http://mn.gov/commerce/industries/energy/solar/mim/>

Xcel Energy Solar*Rewards

Xcel Energy's solar production incentive program (\$0.08/kWh for 10 years). The 2016 program capacity is 4.6 MW. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Website currently unavailable.

Xcel Renewable Development Fund

Renewable-energy technologies eligible for funding typically include wind, biomass, solar, hydroelectric generators and fuel cells. Funding is generally split between new development projects that result in the production of renewable energy, and research and development.

<http://energy.gov/savings/xcel-energy-renewable-development-fund-grants>

Energy Savings Partnership

The St. Paul Port Authority, with a grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce, established the Energy Saving Partnership, a municipal leasing program with U.S. Bank, that can offer reduced interest rates for energy efficiency and renewable projects.

3rd party Solar

Solar Photovoltaic Financing: Deployment on Public Property by State and Local Governments:

<http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy08osti/43115.pdf>. This document contains perhaps more than you ever wanted to know about solar financing for governments. It has a section on 3rd party along with a section on bonding and one on Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs).

Solar Power Purchase Agreements (an overview): <http://www.seia.org/research-resources/solar-power-purchase-agreements>

Solar Power Purchase Agreements: A toolkit for Local Governments:

<http://www.irecusa.org/publications/solar-power-purchase-agreements-a-toolkit-for-local-governments/>

Community Solar Gardens

Clean Energy Resource Teams maintains a website full of community solar garden information:

<http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/solargardens>

Local Government Toolkit: <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/solargardens>



Local Government Solar Decision Making Resources (cont.)

Subscriber Decision Tool (to compare escalation rates):

<http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/solargardens/csg-calc>

Tips for Subscribing to a Community Solar Garden:

http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/sites/default/files/CERTs_CommunitySolar_SubscriberTips_2.pdf

Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)

- An overview of RECs and Green-e certification: <http://www.green-e.org/>
- REC Best Practices and Claims: http://www.resource-solutions.org/pub_pdfs/REC%20Best%20Practices%20and%20Claims.pdf

Green Pricing Resources

Available programs: Can I buy Green Power in My State? Minnesota:

http://apps3.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/buying/buying_power.shtml?state=MN

Utility programs in and around the metro:

- <http://www.dakotaelectric.com/File%20Library/Residential/programs/Wellspring.pdf>
- http://www.xcelenergy.com/Energy_Solutions/Business_Solutions/Renewable_Solutions/Windsource_Product_Content_Label_Business_MN

Resources for a Green Pricing outreach campaign: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/buy-green-power#signup>

Solar Permitting, Planning and Zoning

Grow Solar Local Government Solar Toolkit: Planning, Zoning and Permitting:

<http://www.growsolar.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Minnesota-Toolkit.pdf>

Property Assessed Clean Energy: <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/pace>