



# MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #VI.D

---

DATE: JULY 23, 2018

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: SOLSMART TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AWARD FOR SOUTH FLORIDA REGION

---

SolSmart is a national technical assistance and designation program through the U.S. Department of Energy's Sunshot initiative that recognizes local governments for making it faster, easier, and more affordable for residents and businesses to go solar. A SolSmart adviser provides no-cost technical assistance to help municipalities and counties become "open for solar businesses." In recognition of their achievements, these communities can receive designations of SolSmart Gold, Silver, or Bronze.

The technical assistance that is provided to cities and counties through SolSmart spans the following areas: permitting; planning, zoning, and development regulations; inspections; solar rights; utility engagement; community engagement; and market development and finance. The adviser (through a regional approach) would be consulting with planners, building services, sustainability managers, inspectors and plan examiners in order to evaluate existing local government policies and processes and apply industry-leading best practices to help these communities achieve designation. The SolSmart adviser would work with these communities to incorporate efficiencies like simplified permitting and inspection and solar-friendly ordinances in order to make it easier for homeowners and businesses to go solar.

Council staff submitted an application to become a regional advisor on June 4, 2018. The Council was selected on June 29, 2018 and will continue contract conversations to finalize start date and subcontracting protocol. The adviser will set up training sessions, conference calls, and in-person meetings as needed for a period of nine (9) months. The project has a preliminary start date of November 1, 2018.

