# **Solar Project Development Pathway**



# ESTABLISH A SOLAR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND/OR RENEWABLE ENERGY USAGE GOAL

Establishing a publicly available solar project development and/or renewable energy usage goal helps bring clarity and focus to the process of developing solar projects. It gives your local government direction and affirms your intent to both you and your stakeholders This is the minimum requirement to be listed on the Portal.

## DEVELOP A PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

One of the best indicators of project development success includes use of a solar project development plan. The plan will detail your local government's specific set of circumstances and chart a pathway. A plan is optional to be listed on the Portal.

# ASSESS YOUR SOLAR SITE OPPORTUNITIES, CATALOG SITE INFORMATION, AND COLLECT YOUR UTILITY DATA

It is important to understand your solar site opportunities, which starts with collecting site information and utility data. This information becomes critical when seeking project proposals from developers and is the basis for conducting site assessments to identify the most suitable sites.

## BUILD AND COMMISSION YOUR PROJECT

Once your project is built and generating solar power, EPA would be excited to share your success. Send us an email and provide us a photo of your new project. Email EPASolarPortal@erg.com to provide us with an update and photo of your new project.

#### SELECT A PROJECT PROPOSAL AND SIGN A CONTRACT

You are in the home stretch! After you identify the best project opportunity, it is time to sign a contract. Once you select a project and sign a contract, be sure to let EPA know so we can share your success with your peers.

### REVIEW AND EVALUATE YOUR PROJECT PROPOSALS

An RFP will generally result in one or more project proposals from developers. Evaluating these project proposals objectively can be challenging, yet is critical for selecting the best project that meets your goals.

## DEVELOP AND ISSUE A SOLAR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

An RFP is a solicitation for products and services that outlines the general terms and conditions of request from market suppliers. For solar, this can involve a wide array of requirements. If you are interested in making claims about using renewable energy, be sure to retain the Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from your project.

https://www.epa.gov/repowertoolbox/local-government-solar-project-portal

# Local Government Solar Project Portal



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to support local governments in meeting their environmental, energy, economic and domestic job creation goals through greater utilization of solar energy which serves municipal operations. The Local Government Solar Project Portal is intended to provide solar project development tools and resources to aid local governments through each step of solar project development.

Any municipality that is considering developing new solar projects over the next two years, can receive recognition by providing regular updates to EPA on their project development progress. Municipal governments can take advantage of the resources that EPA, NREL, and DOE offer, including:

- Industry best practices, tools, and resources designed to solve your most challenging project development issues
- Webinars with experienced industry experts
- Targeted trainings and learning modules, and
- Peer-exchange opportunities to gain insights from other local governments

Visit the Local Government Solar Project Portal today:

https://www.epa.gov/repowertoolbox/local-government-solar-project-portal

Find resources to assist in developing your solar project:

https://www.epa.gov/repowertoolbox/solar-project-development-pathway-resources

Share your progress and successes in developing new solar projects:

https://www.epa.gov/repowertoolbox/share-your-solar-project-experience

For more information, send an email to <u>EPASolarPortal@erg.com</u> (contractor in support of EPA).