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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Virginia Department of Energy

Washington Building / 8th Floor

1100 Bank Street

Richmond, Virginia 23219-3638

(804) 692-3200 FAX (804) 692-3237

www.energy.virginia.gov

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Tarah Kesterson

(276) 356-3405

tarah.kesterson@energy.virginia.gov

Harrisonburg Receives SolSmart Bronze Designation for Advancing Solar Energy Growth

The City of Harrisonburg Now Well Positioned for Solar Development

Harrisonburg, Va. –The City of Harrisonburg received a Bronze designation from the national [SolSmart](#) program for making it faster, easier and more affordable for homes and businesses to go solar. The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) partners with the University of Virginia’s Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service to serve as a no-cost technical advisors with the program.

“Congratulations to the city of Harrisonburg for seeing a future in solar development and for taking advantage of the SolSmart program. Our agency is proud to partner with localities interested in welcoming and helping develop this renewable energy industry,” said **Virginia Energy Director John Warren**. “Deploying solar can also lead to job growth as many businesses are looking for clean energy opportunities here in the Commonwealth.”

The City of Harrisonburg’s new SolSmart Bronze designation recognizes Harrisonburg for taking bold steps to encourage solar energy growth and remove obstacles to solar development. For companies looking to expand, a SolSmart Bronze designation is a signal that Harrisonburg is “open for solar business.”

“SolSmart designation is a great step forward for the city,” said **Harrisonburg Public Works Sustainability and Environmental Manager Keith Thomas**. “We are working to reduce barriers and provide access to information so more of our residents and businesses can explore their options to go solar.”

As a SolSmart designee, Harrisonburg is helping solar companies reduce the cost of installations and pass those savings on to consumers. This allows even more local homes and businesses to

obtain affordable, clean and reliable electricity through solar. The actions Harrisonburg has taken will help encourage solar companies to do business in the area, driving economic development and creating local jobs.

SolSmart is led by the IREC and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office. Designees help solar companies greatly reduce the cost of installations and the cost passed on to the consumers. It also expands the solar option to more local homes and businesses. The end result is clean energy and local job creation.

Virginia communities interested in the SolSmart designation can find more information via the Virginia Energy [website](#). All municipalities, counties and regional organizations are eligible to join the SolSmart program.