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## **Silt recognized for making solar energy easier for residents, businesses**

*The Town of Silt receives Gold level designation from National SolSmart Program*

The Town of Silt is receiving a Gold designation from the national [SolSmart](#) program for making it faster, easier, and more affordable for homes and businesses to go solar.

The SolSmart Gold designation is a signal that Silt is “open for solar business.” This designation recognizes Silt town government for making common sense regulatory reforms that make it easier for home owners and businesses to gain approval to install solar energy. The Town’s solar permitting rules now include:

- Issuing permits within three days of application;
- Providing inspections within 48 hours of the request;
- And capping the permit fees at \$50.

These changes reduce costs for solar companies working to secure the permits, allowing the savings to be passed on to customers.

“This was a no-brainer for the Silt staff and Town Board of Trustees to make the necessary changes to streamline the process for our residents and businesses who want to install solar,” says Town of Silt Community Development Director Janet Aluise.

Silt is the second member jurisdiction in the Garfield Clean Energy collaborative to receive a SolSmart designation, following the Town of Carbondale’s Silver designation in **June** of this year. Nationally, more than 320 cities, counties, and small towns have achieved SolSmart gold, silver or bronze designation since the program launched in 2016.

"We can all agree that solar energy is an important part of Garfield County's energy mix," says Garfield County Commissioner Tom Jankovsky. "Silt and Carbondale both have taken steps to make it easier and more affordable for solar businesses to serve their customers, and I'm proud to work with both as a county commissioner and as the county's representative Garfield Clean Energy."

SolSmart is a federally funded program that provides assistance and recognition to communities working to support the adoption of solar power in homes and businesses. It is managed by The Solar Foundation, a 42-year old nonprofit that promotes solar energy use, and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), an organization that helps local governments adopt best practices that support good governance and economic resiliency. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office.

“We are excited that Silt and Carbondale are leaders in the region. We hope this encourages more jurisdictions to streamline their permitting processes leading to increased growth of solar across the region,” says Katharine Rushton, the Renewable Program Director at the nonprofit CLEER, which implements the programs for Garfield Clean Energy.

Garfield Clean Energy is a joint effort of all seven local governments in Garfield County plus the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority and Colorado Mountain College that works to expand energy efficiency, renewable energy and alternative transportation fuels for households, businesses and local governments.

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