

SolSmart Advisor



Job Description

The Solar Foundation (TSF), serving as the Technical Assistance Provider for the SolSmart program (www.solsmart.org) – funded by the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative – is seeking a highly-motivated, experienced self-starter to act as a SolSmart Advisor to the City of Atlanta, Georgia.

SolSmart Advisors are temporary, program-funded and -trained staff who work in selected communities pursuing SolSmart designation for up to six months. This Advisor will assist the City of Atlanta in achieving designation through the SolSmart program by addressing solar “soft costs” and barriers to the use of solar energy in the city. The Advisor will work with municipal staff and other stakeholders (both internal and external) to apply industry-leading best practices that allow the City of Atlanta to achieve SolSmart designation.

Specifically, the Advisor will help Atlanta achieve SolSmart criteria (www.solsmart.org/resources) related to solar permitting and inspections, planning and zoning, construction codes, solar rights, community engagement, and market development and finance. In this role, the Advisor will likely have responsibilities such as (but not limited to) reviewing and providing feedback about zoning requirements, streamlining the permitting process for solar PV systems, creating and implementing solar training programs for municipal staff, and posting solar-related information online. Additionally, the Advisor will interact with surrounding communities to promote the SolSmart program and engage in regional discussions about solar energy. A complete scope of work for the community can be found at www.solsmart.org/solsmart-advisors.

This is a temporary, contractual position based in Atlanta, Georgia that will last no more than six months.

Key Responsibilities

- Working with municipal staff to reduce solar “soft costs;”
- Assisting the city in its pursuit of solar goals related to SolSmart criteria, including solar permitting and inspections, planning and zoning, construction codes, solar rights, community engagement, and market development and finance;
- Tracking key metrics related to both solar energy in Atlanta, Georgia and progress toward SolSmart designation;
- Engaging in regular communication with SolSmart Technical Assistance Provider Team; and
- Conducting SolSmart program outreach to communities within the Atlanta region.

Qualifications

Candidates for this position will:

- Possess a graduate degree or equivalent in public policy (with a focus in renewable energy/sustainability or local government management/issues), planning, engineering, business, law, or environmental management, and 2+ years of work experience related to one or more key criteria topic areas **OR** a related Bachelor’s degree and 5+ years of relevant experience;
- Have superb written and verbal communication skills and be an effective facilitator;
- Understand what motivates local government staff and elected officials to embrace and pursue program and process changes - and the competing interests that may inhibit them from doing so;
- Have experience or strong interest in supporting the solar industry by working in local solar/clean energy issues;
- Have the ability to work well with limited supervision;
- Be eligible to work in the United States.

Compensation and Status

The Solar Foundation will provide a stipend of up to \$1,250 per week for up to six months. All other costs (e.g. travel to and within the city) will be borne by the Advisor or included as cost share by the City. Advisors are independent contractors and not employees of The Solar Foundation, the City of Atlanta, or the U.S. Department of Energy.

All Advisors will be required to travel to Washington, D.C. the week of January 9-13, 2017 for a training session. The SolSmart program will cover all reasonable and necessary travel costs associated with this training session.

To Apply

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and writing sample – all of which should demonstrate your experience, qualifications, educational background, and your desire to succeed in this position – to Philip Haddix at phaddix@solarfound.org with the subject line “Atlanta SolSmart Advisor.” All application materials must be received no later than Friday, November 18th, 2016.

If you wish to be considered for more than one of our SolSmart Advisor Communities, please indicate all communities of interest (listed in order of preference) in your application email. A full list and short description of these communities is available at www.solsmart.org/solmart-advisors/#hostcommunities.

About SolSmart

SolSmart is a national designation and technical assistance program that recognizes leading solar communities and empowers additional communities to expand their local solar markets. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative, SolSmart strives to cut red tape, drive greater solar deployment, and make it possible for even more American homes and businesses to access solar energy to meet their electricity needs. Learn more at SolSmart.org.

About The Solar Foundation

The Solar Foundation (TSF) is the leading provider of high-quality economic impact analyses for the solar industry, a trusted partner for technical assistance spurring public sector implementation, and a champion of solar workforce development. An independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 1977, TSF’s mission is to increase understanding of solar energy through strategic research and education that transform markets. Learn more at www.thesolarfoundation.org.

About the SunShot Initiative

The U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative is a collaborative national effort that aggressively drives innovation to make solar energy fully cost-competitive with traditional energy sources before the end of the decade. Through SunShot, the Energy Department supports efforts by private companies, universities, and national laboratories to drive down the cost of solar electricity to \$0.06 per kilowatt-hour. Learn more at energy.gov/sunshot.