



Please **SUPPORT HB 1234 - Local Government Grants to Streamline Permitting**
Representatives Brown & Soper / Senator Roberts

This proposal would create a **pilot project to provide grants to local communities**, through **one-time funding** for technical assistance and online improvements to implement SolarApp+. Implementation will mean **reduced time, cost, and burden for permitting**; as well as, **progress with the State's Greenhouse Reduction Roadmap**.

WHAT IS SOLARAPP+?

SolarAPP+ was created by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory as a standardized plan review software **designed for local communities to streamline their residential solar permitting process**. It significantly reduces install times and project cancellations, while expanding access to renewable energy and ensuring compliance with all codes and regulations.

There are **two options for communities**: (1) a standalone model, if they do not currently use online permitting; or, (2) an integrated model to sync SolarAPP+ with their established online permitting software.

HOW SOLARAPP+ HELPS COLORADO

Streamlining the permitting process means:

- **Improved Process for Residents** - SolarAPP+ can instantly process up to 80% of typical permits. Most residential solar systems are very similar. It is the high volume of applications and/or lack of staffing which leads to delays and backups, not the complexity of the project.
- **Less Burden on Permitting Entities** - Permitting entities may continue to collect the same fees, while processing permit applications at an increased volume and utilizing less staff time. Instantaneous permitting of most standard systems will allow the permitting entity to focus on the more complex requests, such as historical buildings or larger, more complicated systems.
- **Reduced Overall Permitting Costs** - Direct and indirect costs of permitting, inspection and interconnection add about \$7,000 (\$1.00 per watt) to the cost of a typical residential solar energy system. This leads to costs far higher than in other countries with mature solar markets.

CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION IN COLORADO

While the SolarApp+ software itself is free, permitting entities **need financial assistance with software integration and training** resources to reach the full benefits.

A number of Colorado communities have expressed interest in implementing this permitting tool - *some examples: Boulder, Breckenridge, Broomfield, Denver, Fort Collins, Lakewood, Superior, and Westminster*. All have indicated financial support is critical.

- **Solution:** Provide a grant pool for local communities to tap for technical assistance and online improvements to implement SolarApp+

EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITIES SOLARAPP+ IS FULLY ACTIVE IN

- Arizona: Tucson and Pima County
- California: Benicia, Dublin, Menifee, Pleasant Hill, Modesto, San Ramon, Simi Valley, Sonoma County, and Stockton
- Dozens of other local jurisdictions are actively piloting and implementing SolarApp+

QUESTIONS

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