



Strategic Partnerships, Inc.

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Details of the ARRA Solar American Cities are listed below. If you are interested in having SPI point you to specific opportunities, contact Reagan Weil at 512.531.3900.

Austin, Texas

Solar Curriculum Development and School Demonstration Projects

Austin Energy will collaborate with the Austin Independent School District, the University of Texas, and Austin Community College to improve K-12 solar curriculum, install PV demonstration projects with educational components at area schools, and develop career pathways for Solar Engineers and Solar Technician certifications.

Berkeley, California

Solar Curriculum Development and School Demonstration Projects

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Boston, Massachusetts

Solar Evacuation Route

The City will integrate solar energy applications into its emergency response infrastructure by creating a pilot solar evacuation route that will feature a backup PV system at Boston's main emergency-vehicle fueling station as well as solar-powered traffic control and monitoring equipment, lighting, and emergency radio repeaters.

Madison, Wisconsin

MadiSUN Community Solar Financing

The City will develop a financing strategy that allows residents and businesses to take an ownership share in solar projects located on City property, enabling a greater portion of the community to invest in local solar energy generation.

Target Marketing Solar to Businesses

The City will deliver customized assessments and economic analyses to businesses and business groups that are well-positioned to invest in solar energy systems.

Solar Business Center

The City will develop a solar business and educational hub, based on the Solar Info Center of Freiburg, Germany, intended to support the rapid and sustained deployment of solar in the Midwest.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Solar Hot Water Business Council

The City will create a Council to educate and enable local water technology manufacturers to shift into the growing solar industry, leading to the creation of a solar manufacturing cluster in the region.

Solar Water Heating Demonstration Projects and Best Practices Manual

The City will install large-scale commercial as well as smaller-scale residential solar water heating demonstration projects, and will develop a best practices manual for solar water heating in northern climates.

Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing

Following Wisconsin's passage of authorizing legislation for property assessed clean energy financing, the City will establish a long term financing mechanism such as a revolving loan fund to help consumers offset the high initial cost of solar installation.

Solar School Swap

The City will facilitate a learning competition between two rival high schools involving installation of a PV and solar water heating system on each school. The project will train students in assessing, financing, and installing solar systems, as well as educate the broader community.

Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota

Solar for District Heating and Cooling

The City will integrate a solar thermal system into a local district energy system to demonstrate how solar energy can supplement existing district energy systems from both a technological and business model perspective.

New Orleans, Louisiana

Third Party Solar Tax Credit Implementation

The City will develop guidelines for public entities and tax-exempt institutions to take advantage of the state tax credit via third party financing.

Sustainable Energy Financing District Implementation

Following the passage of authorizing legislation by the state, the City will implement a sustainable energy financing program that allows customers to pay off a solar system through a long term assessment on their property tax bill.

New York City

Smart Solar City Data Acquisition System

The City will develop a system to allow communication and control between the electric grid and distributed PV generation, increasing the ability of electric utility ConEdison to depend on solar as a peak generation source.

Community Solar Financing

The City will develop a financing structure that empowers residents to invest in solar electricity generation even if they cannot support solar arrays on their own homes and businesses.

Smart Solar Virtual Community

The City will develop an online portal with a solar planning map that will help predict the interaction of loads, PV generation, and grid reactivity, as well as calculate statistics such as the daily amount of solar energy produced in New York City.

Portland, Oregon

Solar Now! Regional Outreach Campaign

The City will deliver the Solar Now! marketing toolkit to ten new communities in the region to create a corps of well-informed, well-trained solar volunteers across Oregon.

Neighborhood-Based Volume Solar Purchasing

The City will facilitate volume purchasing of solar energy systems in four Portland neighborhoods to bring down installed costs and increase the rate of installation.

Residential Solar Power Purchase Agreement Model for Utility-Bill Financing

The city will incorporate a residential solar power purchase agreement into Portland's new clean energy financing program, Clean Energy Works Portland.

Neighborhood-Scale Distributed Energy Systems

The City will identify and remove regulatory barriers to neighborhood-scale shared renewable energy utilities, focusing on a pilot project involving combining a PV system with ground source heat pumps to heat and cool water for a 40-block area.

Salt Lake City, Utah

Solar Rebate Program Expansion and Third Party PPA Legal Analysis

The City will engage the Utah Public Service Commission, Rocky Mountain Power, and solar stakeholders to improve the business environment for solar, in particular by expanding the utility rebate program and allowing third party power purchase agreements.

Financing Options for Mid to Large Scale Solar Systems

Identify and implement innovative financing structures for solar installations on Salt Lake County facilities, such as new market tax credits combined with a third party power purchase agreement. These financing structures will serve as a model for other nontaxable entities, such as local governments, schools, churches and nonprofits.

San Diego, California

Solar Financing Options for Multifamily Affordable Housing

The City will work to remove barriers that prevent multifamily affordable housing developments from installing PV systems by generating and providing data to developers that demonstrate the expected benefits of PV systems for both tenants and building owners, as well as conducting the first PV impact studies that incorporate the new state virtual net metering tariff.

Solar-Powered Fire Shelter Integration into Disaster Response Planning

The City will equip a city-owned facility located near fire-prone areas with secure, solar generation and energy storage systems in order to create a strategic full-service island where officials can attend to impacted residents and assist fire, rescue and health responders without fear of losing critical infrastructure.

San Francisco, California

Debt-Financed Solar Water Heating Retrofits for Affordable Housing

The City will partner with Enterprise Community Partners to pilot a solar water heating financing model for affordable housing that uses the energy savings to service the debt needed to pay for the solar systems.

San Francisco Sustainable Financing Program (SF²)

The City will conduct an outreach and marketing campaign targeting previously untapped markets that could benefit from property assessed financing, for solar water heating systems in particular.

Commercial Solar Power Purchase Agreement Model

The City will develop a new solar PPA model to take advantage of federal incentives such as New Market Tax Credits and Community Reinvestment Act Credits and expand the market for midsize solar system installations.

Solar Financing for Public Schools

The San Francisco Unified School District and SF Public Utilities Commission will partner with a third party interested in combining a unique blend of incentives to develop a solar PPA structure for public schools at a per kW price below current PPA market rates.

San Jose, California

Property Assessed Solar Financing through Joint Powers Authority

The City will implement the CaliforniaFIRST financing structure to enable property owners to finance 100% of the upfront capital costs of clean energy projects and repay the loan through their property tax payments over 20 years.

Solar Loans for City Staff

The City will partner with the San Jose Credit Union to offer low interest loans and solar group buys for the City's 7,000 employees.

Qualified Energy Conservation Bond Financing for Revolving Solar Loan Fund

The City will explore financing a revolving loan fund for solar projects through QECBs and convene internal and external stakeholders to determine target community recipients such as low-income households.

Streamlined Regional Solar Permitting Process

The city will coordinate permitting efforts with other jurisdictions in the region to minimize inconsistency and reduce the time and cost involved in the solar permitting process.

Solar Train the Trainer Internship Program

The City will collaborate with local education institutions, non-profit organizations, and labor unions to provide opportunities for students enrolled in various green workforce training programs to gain hands-on experience in conducting solar site evaluations, generating reports and communicating results to community members.

Solar Career Training for At-Risk Youth

The City will develop a program to connect disadvantaged youth with the prospects of green career pathways with a specific emphasis on the solar industry.

Green Vision Education and Demonstration Center

The City will develop an Education and Demonstration Center across the street from City Hall that will act as a hub for the dissemination of information on solar technologies and innovative financing options, and allow the community to gain hands-on experience with solar technologies.

Santa Rosa, California
Clean Energy Advocate

The City will establish a Clean Energy Advocate pilot project within Santa Rosa and Sonoma counties, which will provide an independent non-commercial advocate to assist property owners in navigating the solar energy purchase and installation process.

Seattle, Washington
Community Solar Financing through Municipal Utility

The City will develop a sustainable financial and ownership model that addresses all legal, technical and logistical requirements to community solar, and will market the program and enroll participants.

Tucson, Arizona
Creative Financing for Municipal Solar Installations

The City will explore innovative financing mechanisms for solar systems on city facilities, including Buy America Bonds, New Market Tax Credits, and partnership flipping.

Solar One Stop Shop

The City will partner with Pima County to establish and maintain a central location that provides information and referral services for consumers, businesses, and the solar industry, including training opportunities and permitting assistance.

Solar Integration into Green Building Codes and Infrastructure Planning

The City will coordinate with planning and permitting staff to integrate solar and solar-ready requirements into green building certification processes and long range city infrastructure planning.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy