



ORANGE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

June 27, 2016

The Solar Foundation
600 14th St NW #400
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Philip Haddix:

This letter is in support of Orange County's application to participate in the SolSmart designation program. We are committed to completing the designation process with the aim of seeking technical assistance to expand our efforts to promote responsible solar energy generation.

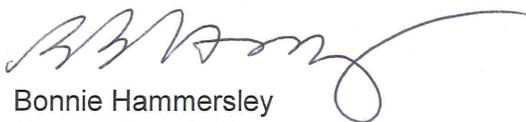
Over the past 10 years and more, Orange County has consistently shown support for the development of local renewable solar energy installations. The adoption of our "Environmental Responsibility Goal" in 2005 committed the County to "initiate policies and programs that increase the use of...renewable energy services." This commitment led in part to the inclusion of solar energy goals and objectives in our 2030 Comprehensive Plan and more recently to our 2015 "Resolution of Support for Small Solar" as a further official statement of public support for solar energy in Orange County.

Within its own operations, the County has committed to lowering the energy use per square foot across all County buildings by 30% by 2017 (2010 baseline). Through investments in large community geothermal projects, lighting upgrades, and automated HVAC control systems, the County has been able to meet our interim milestones moving towards this 30% reduction goal. As we set our sights on how to continue our momentum beyond 2017, we hope to incorporate solar energy generation into our facilities to further reduce our net energy usage and increase the resilience of our critical facilities.

The County Sustainability Program is committed to tracking the installed solar capacity in the County, and to date they have identified five large commercial solar installations with a combined capacity of 16.79 MW. Also, through the hard work of the "Solarize Orange County" campaign organizers, our residents have been able to install more than 723 kW of capacity in over 135 homes.

Through the SolSmart designation process, Orange County will focus on the greatest opportunities to increase clarity and responsiveness in our solar permitting processes and support the development of the local solar marketplace.

Please contact my office at (919)245-2300 with any questions related to our commitment to achieve SolSmart designation.



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Orange County Manager

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