



For Immediate Release

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Longmont gets day in the sun with SolSmart Bronze award
City recognized for encouraging adoption of solar energy

LONGMONT, CO - Longmont will be presented with a federal SolSmart Bronze designation at Tuesday's City Council meeting, recognizing the city's efforts to make it faster and easier to "go solar."

SolSmart designations go to communities that have worked to reduce the "soft costs" of installing a solar energy system, such as permitting, financing, and other non-hardware expenses. Among other things, Longmont allows solar installation permits to be applied for and issued online - typically within five days - and has streamlined its application process to a few simple steps.

"Solar energy is a growing topic of interest in our community, and we're glad to help ease the way for those pursuing it," said Longmont Power & Communications spokesman Scott Rochat. The community-owned utility draws about a third of its own power from renewable sources, including the 30 megawatt Rawhide Flats Solar site operated by Platte River Power Authority.

Representatives from LPC and Longmont's Planning & Development Services Department will be on hand to accept the award. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at 350 Kimbark St.

The SolSmart program is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative and was launched in April 2016 to indicate communities that are "open for solar business." As a bronze



designee, Longmont can take additional steps to earn points toward a silver or gold designation.

About Longmont Power & Communications

Longmont Power & Communications is a community-owned, non-profit electric and internet services utility that operates under the direction of Longmont City Council. Established in 1912, our goal is to deliver electric and communications services that provide outstanding value to our customer-owners. In 2014, we began to build and operate the award-winning NextLight fiber-optic broadband system, which has made Longmont the first “Gig City” in Colorado, offering citywide symmetrical gigabit service with no contracts or data caps. To learn more, visit www.LongmontColorado.gov/lpc.