

COUNTY OF KANE



Kane County Government Center
719 South Batavia Avenue
Geneva, IL 60134
Phone: (630) 232-3400
www.countyofkane.org

April 21, 2017

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

Solar Statement for Kane County

Kane County is taking steps to become a more solar-friendly community. This letter is to express Kane County's interest in participating in the SolSmart program. Through SolSmart participation, the County will improve the process that residents and businesses must undergo in order to install solar energy systems in unincorporated Kane County.

The *Kane County 2040 Energy Plan* was adopted by the Kane County Board in June 2011. This plan was developed to exemplify leadership in energy efficiency, and it included strategies to encourage on-site renewable energy for residential, commercial and industrial buildings.

In May 2012, the Board adopted the *Kane County 2040 Plan* which incorporated the following Sustainability and Energy policies:

- 2.9.5—Promote small and utility scale renewable energy generation.
- 2.9.7—Enhance opportunities for innovation, economic development and a workforce trained in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.
- 2.9.8—Educate the community about the vulnerabilities that may result from changes in climate and available mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Kane County's participation in the SolSmart program will help support these previously adopted strategies and policies, and give the County the framework to lead the way for other Fox Valley communities seeking to become more solar-friendly.

In order to measure progress along the way, the Kane County Division of Environmental & Water Resources and the Kane County Development Department will track key metrics related to solar energy deployment, such as the number and location of solar installations and their capacity.

Kane County Environmental Division staff have already jumpstarted the process of supporting local solar development during 2016-2017 by becoming a member of the Illinois Solar Energy Association, participating in the Energy Topic Area Team of the Fox Valley Sustainability Network, and attending "Advancing your Clean Energy Strategy" training from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Additionally, the Kane County Building Division has worked with local fire districts and solar companies over the past five years. This has resulted in the development of a "Solar Power Handout" to assist residents and businesses in the permit process.

Kane County is ready to take steps towards SolSmart designation, and looks forward to working with the SolSmart team over the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Mark VanKerkhoff, *Director*
Kane County Development Department

Kenneth N. Anderson, Jr., *Director*
Kane County Division of Environmental & Water Resources