



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

MAYOR: Lauren McLean

City of Boise SolSmart Solar Statement

The City of Boise has developed a strategic plan, Boise's Energy Future, that provides a vision for our community's transition to clean energy. More specifically, the plan establishes goals and actions for electricity and thermal (natural gas and geothermal) energy sources including a goal that 100% of the electricity used by the City of Boise's residents and businesses will be clean by 2035 while prioritizing affordability and access for all. Our clean electricity goals will be achieved through a combination of actions including increased solar installations at homes and businesses in Boise.

The City is proud of our designation as a U.S. Department of Energy SolSmart "Gold" Community and looks forward to continued participation in the program.

Achievements related to non-grid renewable energy:

Biogas:

- Digester gas (methane) produced in the City's water renewal (wastewater treatment) facilities is used for process and space heating at the facilities.

Geothermal:

- Geothermal heating districts, including a large system owned and operated by the City, serve over 330 homes and over 120 businesses, schools or governmental facilities in downtown Boise.
- Four Boise City municipal buildings, including City Hall and the Library! have been heated with geothermal energy for many years.
- Hot water heating using geothermal water was added at City Hall in 2014.
- A municipal pool has been heated using geothermal energy since 2015.

Solar:

- Boise City has several solar installations at municipal facilities and considers solar power during the design of all new municipal buildings:
 - Two municipal buildings, the Foothills Learning Center and City Hall West have had solar photovoltaic (PV) installations that provide a portion of the required power to those buildings since 2005 and 2011, respectively.
 - The Twenty Mile South Biosolids Application site administration/shop building was completed in 2016 as the City's (and Idaho's) first commercial net zero building. Annually, electricity produced from solar power exceeds the needs of the building
 - The Library! at Bown Crossing which opened in 2017 has a solar installation.

- Fire Station 9, completed in 2019, has a solar installation that is expected to provide about 25% of the electricity annually required to operate the facility.
- City Hall West and the Boise Airport terminal have solar thermal systems to reduce costs and offset natural gas use for heating hot water.
- City building codes and process/permitting improvements for solar PV installations include:
 - Expedited reviews for residential solar PV installations, typically 3 days or less, can be over the counter
 - New solar PV submittal checklists created for applicants, both residential and commercial
 - Residential solar PV systems handout/guide
 - Reduced permit fees for solar PV system installations
 - Policy on the field inspection process for solar PV system installations
 - Training for plan reviewers and inspectors on solar PV systems
 - Policy with Fire Department on alternate method for solar panel roof layouts/fire roof access
 - Reporting on number of solar PV system permits issued

Tracking Solar Energy Metrics:

The City of Boise tracks municipal and community use of solar power and will provide updated information on the City's web site annually:

- Solar power at municipal facilities; size and type of installations, and energy generated.
- Residential and commercial solar installations; number and total capacity of each.

Dedication to improve the local environment for solar PV:

- Boise will continue to seek opportunities to increase the use of solar power and is committed to following and reporting solar power achievements.

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Mayor Lauren McLean	Date

