City of Boise SolSmart Solar Statement
The City of Boise is developing a strategic plan for our energy future, focusing on energy options and goals that are applied at municipal facilities and in the community. Solar energy is expected to hold a significant place in this plan which is expected to be completed in 2018.

The City of Boise is also participating in the U.S. Department of Energy’s SolSmart program confirming our commitment to increasing solar power development in Boise.

Achievements related to non-grid renewable energy, including solar PV projects:

Biogas:

- Digester gas (methane) produced in the water cleaning process at the City’s Water Renewal Facilities (WRFs) is used for process and space heat at the plants.

Geothermal:

- Four geothermal systems and individual systems serve over 450 homes, businesses, schools or governmental facilities in and around downtown Boise.
- Four Boise City municipal buildings have been heated with geothermal energy for over 25 years.
- Solar thermal hot water heating was added at City Hall in 2014.
- The pool at the Natatorium (a city pool) has been heated using geothermal energy since 2015.

Solar:

- Two municipal buildings, City Hall West and the Foothills Learning Center have had solar photovoltaic (PV) installations providing partial required power to those buildings since 2011 and 2005, 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. The building has performed better than expected and produced about 82,000 kbtus of electricity from solar power last year exceeding the power needs of the building by 58%
- Solar power will be considered for all new municipal buildings. The Library at Bown Crossing which opened last year has a solar power installation. New Fire Stations 4 and 8 were mindfully built and wired so that solar panels can easily be added in the future.
- City Hall West and the Boise Airport terminal have solar thermal systems to reduce costs 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.
• Staff is committed to following and reporting solar power achievements.