



Board of Supervisors
Linn County, Iowa

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935 Second Street SW
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The Solar Foundation
1717 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Suite 750
Washington, DC 20006

This letter is to express the Linn County, Iowa Board of Supervisors' support for participation in the U.S. Department of Energy's SolSmart Program. Linn County has a strong record of support for the use and development of alternative energy. Linn County has already undertaken efforts to promote sustainability, encourage energy efficiency, and the use of alternative and renewable energy, as evidenced in the 2013 *Linn County Comprehensive Plan: A Smarter Course*.

In 2012, the Iowa Utilities Board designated Linn County as a Small Wind Innovation Zone (SWIZ). The designation allows owners of small wind energy conversion systems (100kW or less) to take advantage of an expedited local approval process and a streamlined interconnection agreement with rate regulated electrical utility providers. To obtain the designation, Linn County amended the zoning standards in its Unified Development Code to conform to the model ordinance published by the Iowa Utilities Board. The Linn County Planning & Development Department received input on the ordinance amendments from the Iowa Wind Energy Association, utility providers, and wind energy companies.

In 2013, the Iowa Economic Development Authority selected Linn County to participate in the Iowa Solar Readiness Initiative. The goals of the Iowa Solar Readiness Initiative include reducing the costs and other barriers to installing solar PV for businesses, residents, and communities. As part of this Initiative, Linn County amended the zoning standards in its Unified Development Code to permit both consumer- and utility-scale solar installations.

The Linn County Planning & Development Department currently tracks permits for both small wind and solar installations, and can commit staff resources as required for participation in the SolSmart Program.

Linn County, Iowa looks forward to participating in the SolSmart Program.

Best regards,

Brent Oleson, Chair
Linn County, Iowa Board of Supervisors

Solar Panels -- Inspections required (box to the left)

Solar Panels -- A Guide (box to left)

