



Green Practices Commission

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AGENDA



GREEN PRACTICES COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, September 13, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Avenue

1. Roll Call
2. Opening Round
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. 10/11/18 Green Practices Commission Meeting Minutes
4. Special Presentations
 - a. Public Comments (Limited to 3 minutes for individual's comments and 5 minutes for representatives of groups or organizations)
5. New Business
 - a. Plastic bag initiative
 - b. Mayors for Solar Cities
 - c. SWMD and St. Louis County Grants
 - d. No Idling Signs
6. Old Business
 - a. Sustainable Practices Guidelines (Developmental Green Practices): Update
 - b. Renew Missouri: Update
7. Commission Reports
 - a. Council Liaison Update
 - b. Quarterly Report – Energy: Adam Staudt
 - c. Quarterly Report – Waste/Resource Conservation: (see 6a)
8. Closing Round
9. Adjournment

NO DECEMBER MEETING!

RECYCLE RESPONSIBLY: THE TRUTH ABOUT PLASTIC BAGS

DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY PLASTIC BAGS ARE USED EACH SECOND
IN THE U.S.? OUR INSTALLATION ILLUSTRATES THE STAGGERING
ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION.



THURSDAY NOV. 15 | 8 A.M. - 4 P.M.
WORLD'S FAIR PAVILION AT FOREST PARK

On **America Recycles Day**, come learn about how plastic bags affect our community, our environment and our health! Organizations from across the region will be there from 10am-2pm to provide education and give away prizes!

School groups encouraged!



For more information, visit our Facebook event page (<https://bit.ly/2CDfRiT>)
and mark "going" or email us at recycle@stlouis-mo.gov



PAPER



FLATTENED
CARDBOARD



PLASTIC BOTTLES
AND CONTAINERS



GLASS BOTTLES
AND JARS



METAL FOOD AND
BEVERAGE CANS



FOOD AND
BEVERAGE CARTONS

Keep items loose (not in plastic bags), clean and dry.

RECYCLE RESPONSIBLY

STICK WITH THE

6

NOT ON THE LIST? NOT IN THE BIN!

Putting the wrong items in your recycling bin does more harm than good.

Find out where to recycle or donate other items at [RecycleResponsibly.org](https://www.RecycleResponsibly.org)



THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING RESPONSIBLY!

[RecycleResponsibly.org](https://www.RecycleResponsibly.org)

NO BAGS IN BINS, PLEASE!

PLASTIC BAGS ARE CREATING A HUGE PROBLEM.
SKIP THE PLASTIC BAGS TO IMPROVE RECYCLING!



DID YOU KNOW?

- Plastic bags cannot be recycled in your regular recycling bin.
- Recycling facilities shut down for hours when plastic bags jam machinery. These malfunctions also put workers at risk for injuries.
- To recycle plastic bags, bring them back to your local grocery or retail store. Plastic bags require different processing equipment than your regular recycling.
- Visit PlasticFilmRecycling.org to learn more about plastic bag and plastic film recycling and to find a drop-off location near you!

REMEMBER to always bring your reusable bags when shopping!



THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING RESPONSIBLY!

For more information about proper recycling in the metro St. Louis area, please visit RecycleResponsibly.org

Funding provided by the St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Regional Group Launches “Recycle Responsibly” Campaign

First task is tackling plastic bag recycling

ST. LOUIS, MO (Nov. 1, 2018) – A local group of recycling professionals has launched a campaign to encourage the public to “Recycle Responsibly,” with a special push during November to keep plastic bags and plastic film out of recycling bins. The experts at [OneSTL](http://www.RecycleResponsibly.org) have launched a new web page-- www.RecycleResponsibly.org -- with information on how to properly recycle. They say plastic bags often make their way into residents’ recycling bins, but the plastic bags and other plastic film should be brought back to grocery and retail stores for recycling instead.

“Plastic bags are a big contaminant in recycling. They jam up the equipment at processing facilities, putting workers at risk and ruining baled paper and other items that could otherwise be recycled,” said Jean Ponzi, a member of the OneSTL Materials and Recycling Working Group and a recycling educator at Missouri Botanical Garden. “Many people are trying to do the right thing by recycling, but they simply don’t realize that plastic bags cannot be put in their bins at home.”

Ponzi added that many people like to bag their recyclables and then put them in the bin or cart, still in the plastic bag. This is also harmful. All plastic bags must stay out of recycling bins, she said.

To make people aware of this issue, the OneSTL working group has reached out to area grocers to partner on an educational campaign during the last three weekends in November. Volunteers will hand out flyers and, at some stores, reusable shopping bags. Participating stores include all four Straub’s locations (Central West End, Clayton, Webster Groves and Town & Country), Ruler Foods in Tower Grove, Local Harvest in South St. Louis, and Walmart in Fenton. **Various business districts in the region, like the Delmar Loop, are committed to encouraging the use of reusable shopping bags in partnership with this educational campaign.**

The OneSTL group is also organizing a plastic bag awareness event to celebrate America Recycles Day on November 15. Recycle Responsibly: The Truth About Plastic Bags, features a unique art installation that illustrates the stunning number of plastic bags that are used each second in the U.S. Visitors can learn about how plastic bags affect our community, our environment and our health.

The event takes place at the World's Fair Pavilion in Forest Park on Thursday, November 15 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Organizations from across the region will be on hand from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to offer educational presentations, prizes and giveaways. Schools and other groups are encouraged. More information can be found on the [Facebook event page](#) or by sending an e-mail to recycle@stlouis-mo.gov.

OneSTL has launched a web page – [RecycleResponsibly.org](#) – to encourage proper recycling of plastic bags as well as other recyclables.

Problems Caused by Plastic Bags

While plastic bags may be convenient, they cause a number of problems for people, wildlife and the environment. Plastic bags used in St. Louis end up in our oceans and coastal areas, too, as they wash down storm drains or blow into our streams and rivers leading to oceans. This pollutes and harms wildlife along the way. According to the Center for Marine Conservation, plastic bags are among the 12 items of debris most often found in coastal cleanups. Hundreds of thousands of sea turtles, birds, whales and other marine mammals die every year from eating discarded plastic bags mistaken for food.

From a health standpoint, plastic bags clog gutters and storm drains, causing water and sewage to overflow and become a breeding ground for disease-causing germs, bacteria and insects, like mosquitoes. It is more important than ever to prevent plastic bags from littering our streets, leading to these health issues.

Plastic bags also deplete fossil fuel supplies. "Americans use 100 billion plastic bags a year, which require 12 million barrels of oil to manufacture," Ponzi said. "We can all help reduce our use of this finite natural resource by simply bringing reusable bags when we shop. Every time you say no to a plastic bag, you're truly making a difference for the environment."

Ponzi added that educating consumers about what can and cannot be recycled in their home has become critically important. She encourages the public to find out more by visiting [RecycleResponsibly.org](#) and by following OneSTL on Facebook and Twitter.

OneSTL is a regional initiative that focuses on a sustainable future for the St. Louis region. The [OneSTL Materials and Recycling Working Group](#) includes the following entities: East-West Gateway Council of Governments, St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District, City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, Jefferson County, Madison County, City of University City, Brightside St. Louis, EarthWays Center of Missouri Botanical Garden, Republic Services, St. Louis Composting, St. Louis Earth Day, St. Louis Green Dining Alliance, Recycling on the Go, University of Missouri-St. Louis, and Washington University. For more information, visit www.OneSTL.org.

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SHINING CITIES CAMPAIGN

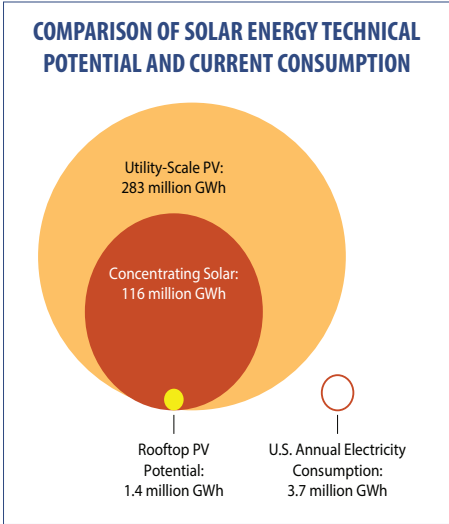
With solar on the rise, cities can reap the benefits

Hundreds of thousands of Americans have invested in solar panels on their roofs or solar projects in their communities, and millions more are ready to join them.

America's major cities have played a key role in the clean energy revolution and stand to reap tremendous benefits from solar energy. As population centers, they are major sources of electricity demand, and with millions of rooftops suitable for solar panels, they have the potential to be major sources of clean energy as well.

Solar can create more healthy and vibrant communities by:

- 
Reducing pollution that harms our health and our climate.
- 
Creating local jobs that can't be outsourced.
- 
Saving governments, residents and businesses money on their electric bills.
- 
Making the power system more resilient.
- 
Keeping energy dollars in the local economy.



Cities have only scratched the surface on solar energy

Cities have only begun to tap into their solar energy potential. Nationwide, we still generate less than 1 percent of our energy from the sun.

A recent study by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory shows that nearly 40 percent of U.S. electricity could come from rooftop solar alone. Many, if not most, of

the country's potential solar rooftops are located in cities and urban areas.

As solar prices continue to decline and technologies advance, we can do much more. By combining rooftop solar with energy efficiency and other renewable resources, we can power America's cities with 100 percent clean, renewable energy.

SHINING CITIES CAMPAIGN



We're asking cities to take solar to the next level

Environment America and our state affiliates are working to get cities and local governments across America to tap into the benefits and potential of solar by making major commitments to capture the power of the sun.

The “Shining Cities” campaign will engage and mobilize thousands of members and volunteers and the growing ranks of stakeholders who recognize the tremendous environmental and economic benefits to urge local governments to expand their use of pollution-free solar power.

The goal of the campaign is to have at least 20 cities embrace big solar targets by year-end 2017. We're working in commu-



In 2014, Philadelphia committed to 20,000 solar roofs by 2025



In 2015, Atlanta committed to putting solar on 28 city buildings.

nities from coast to coast toward this goal, everywhere from Maine to California.

The effort builds off the momentum and success of dozens of successful campaigns to convince local and state governments to adopt strong solar

policies and programs, including in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Athens (GA), Cincinnati, Lansing (MI), Austin (TX), Milwaukie (OR) and Lake Oswego (OR), as well as successful campaigns for state level renewable energy policy in nearly 20 states.

What cities can do to go solar

Local governments can tap into solar power in their communities by:

- **Setting a strong solar goal**, such as: a number of solar rooftops, percentage of energy from solar, or a number of solar megawatts.
- **Leading by example** by putting solar on public buildings.

- **Establishing programs** that help citizens and businesses get better access to solar power, such as solar co-ops or wvsolarize programs.

Additionally, our campaign will seek to connect governments to experts and technical assistance programs to help execute these plans.

Join us to get your community to go solar

We want you to join us by showing your support for solar. Local officials can propose strong solar goals and helpful programs. Citizens can send an email to your local officials, write a letter to your local newspaper, attend one of our solar forums, or join us at a news conference or other special event.

Whatever you can do, the time for action is now. Solar is at a tipping point. If we keep winning more pro-solar policies, we'll see millions more Americans go solar in the next decade, put-

ting us on a path to a 100% renewable future. If we let utilities and other special interests get in the way, that future will remain out of reach as solar sputters and stalls.

We can do this. Together, we can bring more solar power to our homes, our communities, our churches and schools, our workplaces and our lives—and leave a cleaner, healthier world for kids growing up today and future generations.

Ten Ways Your City Can Go Solar



Solar Power is on the Rise Across America.

The United States has enough solar energy installed to power the equivalent of millions of homes. America's major cities are playing a key role in this clean energy revolution. Our annual Shining Cities report shows that cities in every region of the country are driving the adoption of solar energy, but most have only begun to tap their solar energy potential. The cities that are setting the pace for solar growth are driving development through effective public policy, and they are seeing benefits for the environment, public health, grid resilience, and consumers.

Here are some tips for how your city can follow their lead:

LEAD THE WAY

1. Set ambitious goals for solar energy adoption: Goals provide an opportunity to institutionalize a shared vision of a solar-powered future. Some cities have established solar goals as a part of a broader commitment to 100 percent renewable energy, while others have stand-alone solar commitments. San Diego, which has one of the highest installed solar capacities in the country, aims to generate 100 percent of all electricity used within the city from renewable sources by 2035. Solar energy makes up a large part of the city's plan to achieve that goal. Such commitments that apply to the entire community drive the most progress in both distributed and utility-scale solar.

2. Lead by example with solar installations on public buildings: Cities can set an example, boost the local solar market and save on electricity bills by installing solar projects on public buildings. The city of New Bedford, Massachusetts, has reduced electricity spending by installing solar power on city buildings and public spaces, including installations on three schools, a public gym and the Department of Public Infrastructure Building.

EXPAND ACCESS

3. Develop and publicize local financing options: The Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE) allows local and state governments to loan money to home and business owners for energy improvements, which they repay over time through

Above: high school in Reno celebrates new solar array

Photo: BlackRockSolar via Flickr, CC BY 2.0

MORE ►



Solar panels atop homes in Tucson

property taxes. Cities can also partner with local financial institutions to offer competitive loans for solar projects. The “Milwaukee Shines” program, for example, partnered with Summit Credit Union to offer low-interest loans of up to \$20,000 for eligible solar PV installations. Partnering with local solar installers to allow customers to lease panels over time can also help reduce up-front costs.

4. “Solarize” your city: Bulk purchasing programs allow businesses, homeowners and nonprofits to purchase solar energy collectively, thus lowering the cost for everyone involved. Portland, Oregon, was the first to offer a “Solarize” bulk purchasing program, and many other cities have followed suit. In less than five months, “Solarize Athens” more than tripled the residential solar energy capacity in the Athens, Georgia, metropolitan area.

5. Encourage community solar projects: Community solar programs allow customers to support and benefit from solar power projects in their communities. Customers can either own a share of a community solar project, or they can subscribe through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Cities can work with their utilities to offer both alternatives. For example, through the Tallahassee Solar program, city residents and businesses signed up to purchase electricity from a community solar farm at a fixed rate.

REMOVE OBSTACLES

6. Eliminate red tape: Non-hardware costs like those associated with zoning and permitting now make up about two-thirds of the total price of residential solar systems. So, cities can eliminate barriers by reducing fees, making permitting rules clear and readily available, and expediting permitting processes. The Department of Energy’s SolSmart program can help cities reform their permitting processes. West Palm Beach and El Paso provide online applications with same-day approval; actions that helped both achieve SolSmart Gold designation.

7. Guarantee solar rights: Solar access ordinances guard homeowners’ right to generate electricity from sunlight that shines on their property, regardless of homeowners’ association policies. Local governments should also offer clear zoning regulations that allow solar energy installations on residential and commercial rooftops. The city of Bozeman, Montana, successfully changed its city code to remove barriers to installing rooftop solar. The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

offers a model ordinance guide that cities can apply to their own local laws.

8. Be “solar ready:” Some local governments have adopted policies to require new homes and buildings to have solar power or to be designed so that it can be easily installed. The city of San Francisco requires that most new buildings be constructed with solar energy systems already installed. The city of Tucson requires that any new single-family homes or duplexes either include a solar energy system or be “solar ready,” meaning pre-outfitted so that future solar PV and hot water systems are easy to add.

BE AN ADVOCATE

9. Partner with utilities: Cities should encourage the electric utilities serving their areas – whether municipal or investor-owned – to partner with them in unlocking the potential of solar energy. Con Edison, an investor-owned electric utility, worked with New York City and the State of New York to launch a “100 Days of Solar” initiative. While many investor-owned utilities have been willing partners with cities in promoting solar energy, cities served by less supportive utilities may wish to consider forming a municipal utility in order to gain greater control over their local electric grids.

10. Support strong state-level solar policies: State policies can have a large impact on a city’s ability to expand solar energy, so it is important that cities use their influence to advocate for stronger state financial incentives for solar energy, ambitious renewable electricity standards, strong net metering and interconnection standards, and comprehensive solar rights policies.

Sources available upon request.

For more information about Environment America research & Policy Center, for additional copies of this factsheet, or for copies of annual *Shining Cities* reports, please visit: www.environmentamericacenter.org

