



Leaders at the Core of Better Communities

**FINAL REQUEST**

If you have already returned this questionnaire, please disregard this request. Thank you.

Please enter the 6 digit ID number included in the e-mail that you received describing this survey.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deadline is: Friday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2012

**ICMA Solar Survey of Local Governments**

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) is conducting this survey to collect data on what local governments are doing that relates to the adoption of solar energy, particularly solar electric (solar PV). By completing this survey, you are providing ICMA with important information it needs to support local governments and their solar initiatives. Survey results will be made available on the ICMA website. ICMA will also share this information with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to help with DOE's efforts to support solar market growth at the local level.

Please complete and return the survey no later than **Friday January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012**. The survey can also be completed online at <http://icma.org/solarsurvey>. You may also scan and email your survey to [surveyresearch@icma.org](mailto:surveyresearch@icma.org).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Robert J. O'Neill, Jr.  
Executive Director, ICMA

**BACKGROUND**

1. Which of the following has your local government adopted or established? (Check all that apply.)
  - a.  A renewable energy goal
  - b.  A solar installation goal
  - c.  None of the above
2. If your local government has any of these positions, please indicate whether staff or a consultant fills the position. (Check all that apply.)

	Local government staff position	Use consultant for this position
a. A solar energy coordinator/manager	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. A renewable energy coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. A sustainability coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Other position that works on solar/sustainability projects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. No, none of these positions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 2 A. If your local government has another position that works on solar energy/sustainability projects please describe: \_\_\_\_\_
3. If any of the positions are local government staff, how many FTEs are dedicated to sustainability or solar energy?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Has your local government faced any challenges to solar energy development? 1.  Yes 2.  No
5. If you answered “yes” to question 4, which of these challenges to solar energy development has your local government faced?  
(Check all that apply.)
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic impact concerns  | g. <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of interest in or awareness about solar energy development |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> Impact on property values  | h. <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of qualified installers                                    |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> Trouble working with local utilities to interconnect systems to the grid | i. <input type="checkbox"/> Safety concerns   |
| d. <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of understanding of technology                                      | j. <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of enabling legislation to incentivize solar installations |
| e. <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of coordination between levels/agencies of government               | k. <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of enabling legislation to regulate solar installations    |
| f. <input type="checkbox"/> High solar costs   | l. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____                                    |
6. Does your local government offer any community outreach and education programs on solar energy?  
1.  Yes 2.  No 3.  Don't know
7. If you answered “yes” to question 6, which of the following community outreach and education programs does your local government offer on solar energy? (Check all that apply.)
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops             | d. <input type="checkbox"/> Informational website               |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness campaigns   | e. <input type="checkbox"/> Staff available to assist customers |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> Educational brochures | f. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____        |
8. What type of electric utility is the primary provider of electricity in your jurisdiction (select one):
- Municipal utility not regulated at the state level
  - Municipal utility regulated at the state level (by a Public Utilities Commission, Board of Public Utilities, Public Service Commission, etc.)
  - Investor-owned utility
  - Rural Electric Cooperative
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

***If your local government is not currently doing anything with solar energy, please stop here, complete the contact information section at the end of the survey if you would like to be contacted, and return the survey. If your local government has a solar program, has municipal solar installations, or is looking into a solar program, please continue with the survey.***

9. If your electric utility is a municipal utility, are you aware if your utility has established interconnection standards for solar PV systems?  
1.  Yes 2.  No 3.  Don't know
10. Does your primary utility have a net metering policy (a billing mechanism that credits solar energy system owners for the electricity exported to the grid) for solar PV installations?  
1.  Yes 2.  No 3.  Don't Know

## INSTALLED CAPACITY

11. Has your local government installed a solar system on local government-owned facilities or land?  
1.  Yes 2.  No
12. If you responded “yes” to question 11, which of the following has been installed on a local government-owned building?  
(Check all that apply.)
- Solar electric (PV) panels on a local government facility or facilities

If yes, total installed capacity \_\_\_\_\_ (# of panels) \_\_\_\_\_ KW

- b.  Solar water heating on a local government facility
- c.  Solar air collectors on a local government facility
- d.  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
13. For solar systems on local government facilities or land (Check all that apply.):
- a. Do you own the system? 1.  Yes 2.  No
- b. Do you buy the power? 1.  Yes 2.  No
- c. Do you lease the roof space or land on which the system is located? 1.  Yes 2.  No
14. Which best describes your local government's baseline survey of all community-wide solar PV installations?
- a.  It is completed.
- b.  It is in process.
- c.  We have not conducted one.
- d.  Don't know.
15. If you have completed the survey of installations, what is the total installed capacity of solar PV?
- a. Total installed capacity \_\_ KW
- i. Residential \_\_KW
- ii. Commercial \_\_KW
- iii. Local Government facilities \_\_ KW
- b. Year survey completed \_\_\_\_\_
16. Has your local government installed one or more solar PV demonstration projects (a project intended as a public showcase and educational opportunity)? 1.  Yes 2.  No
17. If you answered "yes" to question 16, where is the demonstration project located? (Check all that apply.)
- a.  A government facility
- b.  A community facility (e.g. a recreational center or public library)
- c.  A school
- d.  Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

## PERMITTING AND INTERCONNECTION PROCESSES

18. Do you have any mechanisms for expediting permitting for solar PV installations (e.g., expedited review for standard installations, expedited review for qualified contractors, expedited review for customers willing to pay an extra fee)?
1.  Yes 2.  No
- A. If you have a mechanism, please describe it: \_\_\_\_\_
19. Does your local government make information about the permitting process for solar PV installations and associated fees available online?
1.  Yes 2.  No 3.  Don't know
20. Please indicate the ways to submit permits for solar PV projects. (Check all that apply.)
- a.  Online permitting
- b.  Email submission of permits
- c.  Submission of permits by mail
- d.  Over-the-counter permitting
- e.  Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_
21. Have your code officials gone through training on approving permits and inspecting solar PV installations?
1.  Yes
2.  No
3.  No, but are interested
4.  Don't know
22. Has your local government adopted the 2011 National Electric Code?
1.  Yes 2.  No 3.  Don't know
23. Is information about your local utility's interconnection process for solar PV installations and associated fees available online?
1.  Yes 2.  No 3.  Don't know



30. Does your local government regulate solar PV installations?

1.  Yes

2.  No

3.  Don't know

31. If you answered "yes" to question 30, how is solar PV regulated in your local government, for each type of solar PV installation? (Check all that apply.)

	<b>Small Rooftop Less Than or Approximately 15KW</b>	<b>Large Rooftop Less Than or Approximately 15KW</b>	<b>Small Ground- mounted Less Than or Approximately 15KW</b>	<b>Large Ground- mounted Less Than or Approximately 15KW</b>
a. Permitted as a primary use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Permitted as an accessory use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Permitted as a conditional or special use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Restricted from certain districts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Restricted from certain view sheds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Restricted from historic districts or buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Regulations related to setbacks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Regulations related to lot/building coverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Subject to height limits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Subject to height exemptions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Includes maintenance provisions (e.g., maintained in good repair)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. Includes safety provisions (e.g., wind resistance)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m. Other provisions (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**FINANCING OPTIONS**

32. Does your local government or municipal utility offer financial incentives for installing solar PV?

1.  Yes

2.  No

3.  Don't know

33. If you answered "yes" to question 32, which of the following incentives does your local government or municipal utility offer for installing solar PV? (Check all that apply.)

	<b>Residential</b>	<b>Commercial</b>
a. Rebates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Direct Grants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Direct loans/low-interest loans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Feed-in tariffs (FIT)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Production-based incentives (other than FIT)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Interest rate buy-downs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Property tax abatement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Property tax credit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Sales tax incentives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

34. If you answered “yes” to 32, how are direct incentives funded? (Check all that apply.)

- a.  Ratepayer surcharge
- b.  Publicly-owned utility budget
- c.  Revolving loan fund
- d.  General fund
- e.  Fees collected through an energy or environmental mitigation program
- f.  State or federal grants
- g.  Don't know
- h.  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

35. Are there any customer aggregation programs (programs that coordinate group purchases of solar energy systems) for solar PV installations in your community?

- 1.  Yes
- 2.  No
- 3.  Don't Know

36. Is third-party financing for solar PV systems (e.g., power purchase agreements, leases) available in your area?

- 1.  Yes
- 2.  No
- 3.  Don't Know

37. If you answered “yes” to question 36, which of the following third-party financing options are available? (Check all that apply.)

	<b>Residential</b>	<b>Commercial</b>
a. Power Purchase Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Leasing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

38. Has your local government considered property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing?

- 1.  Yes
- 2.  No, my jurisdiction has not considered PACE financing
- 3.  I don't know what PACE financing is

39. If you answered “yes” to question 38, which of the following best describes the status of PACE financing? (Check all that apply.)

- a.  Active residential program
- b.  Residential program on hold
- c.  Active commercial program
- d.  Commercial program on hold
- e.  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

40. Do you have an active community solar program for solar PV installations, defined as a solar-electric system that, through a voluntary program, provides power and/or financial benefit to or is owned by multiple community members?

- 1.  Yes
- 2.  No
- 3.  In Progress

41. Does your local government provide incentives for clean energy businesses to locate in the area?

- 1.  Yes
- 2.  No
- 3.  Don't Know

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for completing this important survey. Please return to:**  
**Evelina Moulder, Director of Survey Research, ICMA**  
**777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 500, Washington DC 20002-4201.**  
**You may scan and email your survey to [surveyresearch@icma.org](mailto:surveyresearch@icma.org)**