

Green Building / Rooftop Solar City of Scottsdale

This project assists the Office of Environmental Initiatives of Scottsdale in exploring leading Green Building and Rooftop Solar Programs to increase the popularity and competitiveness of the Scottsdale program. The following recommendations to rejuvenate Scottsdale's Green Building and Rooftop Solar Programs are proposed:

1. Take bold action to show real strategic commitment to sustainable building and energy. Scottsdale has done it once before with its original Green Building Program.
2. Simplify the green and solar application, review, and approval by elimination all non-critical steps, fees, and paperwork.
3. Implement a city-wide, or even state-wide, installer certification program so that qualified installers can approve and register own green and solar projects.
4. Eliminate residential solar permitting fees. Nothing declares commitment better than "we will pay for it so it's 100% free to you".
5. Encourage green construction and rooftop solar by attracting green/solar customers and businesses alike. By becoming solar customer-friendly the city is also becoming installer- and manufacturer-friendly, and vice versa.
6. Take a more proactive and direct role in assisting installers and customers in planning, financing, completing, and expanding their rooftop solar systems. This could be done by offering greater discounts or assisting in the application process for all local, state, and federal rebates, credits, and incentives.
7. Support local sourcing to encourage manufacturers, installers, consultants, and financiers to operate in Arizona, and in Scottsdale, but definitely start by supporting the installers which are critical in the short-term success of rooftop solar.
8. Assist in solar project financing by helping residents and installers navigate the complex solar lending and leasing environment or even by offering city-sponsored funding options to qualified residents.
9. Become a troubleshooter for the solar-resident, offering practical planning, financing, design, engineering, permitting, procurement, construction/installation, service, maintenance, and operation advice and assistance. Help residents succeed in the rooftop solar space.
10. Collaborate with neighboring cities to standardize the rooftop solar permitting process across the entire Phoenix area, since very few installers can prosper in a very limited geographic area of a single city.
11. Lead the city and the state, once again, in an economically, socially, and environmentally-driven vision to improve our quality of life.

