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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2, 2022

VILLAGE BOARD

President
Frank DeSimone

Board of Trustees

Rosa Carmona
Ann Franz
Marie T. Frey
McLane Lomax
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Village Manager
Evan K. Summers

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Bensenville Receives “SolSmart Silver” Designation for Advancing Solar Energy Growth

Bensenville, IL – The Village of Bensenville recently received the Silver designation from the national SolSmart program for making it faster, easier, and more affordable for homes and businesses to go solar.

This designation recognizes the Village of Bensenville for taking bold steps to encourage solar energy growth and remove obstacles to solar development. For companies looking to expand, a SolSmart Silver designation is a signal that Bensenville is “open for solar business.”

SolSmart is led by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office. Bensenville joins over 400 cities, counties, and small towns that have achieved a SolSmart designation since the program launched in 2016.

“The Village has implemented a number of green initiatives over the last few years and we are thrilled to add the SolSmart Silver designation to our list. Not only has this process allowed us to streamline our approval procedures, but it has also made going solar in Bensenville easier, faster, and more affordable. We hope this designation encourages our community to consider alternative energy solutions and helps reduce our carbon footprint and reliance on foreign energy for future generations to come,” said Village President Frank DeSimone.

As a SolSmart designee, Bensenville is helping solar companies reduce the cost of installations and pass those savings on to consumers. This allows even more local homes and businesses to obtain affordable, clean, and reliable electricity through solar. The actions taken by the village will help encourage solar companies to do business in the area, driving economic development and creating local jobs.

To receive the designation, cities and counties make changes to their local processes to reduce the time and money it takes to install a solar energy system. This includes evaluating local permitting processes, as well as planning and zoning procedures. SolSmart designees also develop innovations in areas such as market development and finance.

About Bensenville: Bensenville is conveniently located just 20 miles west of downtown Chicago in DuPage County, adjacent to O’Hare International Airport, surrounded by major expressways, and boasts several public transportation options including a Metra commuter station. With plenty to offer both families and businesses like brand new schools, great parks, and special events year round, Bensenville really is the “Gateway to Opportunity.” Please visit our website at: www.bensenville.il.us



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The changes implemented by the Village included a solar permitting checklist, inspection and permitting training, and zoning clarifications.

SolSmart uses objective criteria to award communities points based on the actions they take to reduce barriers to solar energy development. Communities that take sufficient action are designated either gold, silver, or bronze.

As part of the SolSmart program, a team of national experts provides no-cost technical assistance to help communities achieve designation. All municipalities, counties, and regional organizations are eligible to join the SolSmart program and receive this technical assistance. Interested communities can learn more at SolSmart.org.



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