



Contact: Debbie Wilmot  
Public Information Officer  
City of Lafayette  
1290 S. Public Rd / Lafayette, CO 80026  
Office: (303) 661-1225  
Cell: (720) 245-1446  
[debbiew@cityoflafayette.com](mailto:debbiew@cityoflafayette.com)  
[www.cityoflafayette.com](http://www.cityoflafayette.com)

# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Lafayette to receive SolSmart Program Ambassador to further sustainability efforts

**LAFAYETTE, Colo February 6, 2017** – The City of Lafayette is one of 11 communities nationwide that have been chosen to receive services from a SolSmart Advisor. The SolSmart Advisors are experienced professionals, hired and funded by The Solar Foundation, to assist the chosen communities in their efforts to reduce soft costs associated with solar installations, making solar more affordable for residents. Figures have shown that up to 64% of solar system expenses can be associated with soft costs such as planning and zoning, permitting, interconnection and inspection, installation labor, and financing.

Municipalities, counties, and regional organizations applied to host the advisors through a nation-wide, competitive process. Communities were selected based on their potential to benefit from the in-depth technical assistance the advisors will provide to encourage solar energy growth. After completing training in Washington, D.C., the advisors will work in communities for up to six months.

"Lafayette is committed to implementing best practices in local policy, permitting, and other areas to reduce the soft costs of Solar PV systems. Participating in the national SolSmart Advisor program will help ensure that Solar PV costs are increasingly more affordable and City processes continue to be more efficient and conducive to expanding renewable energy," said Antoinette Maes, LESAC Sustainability Consultant. "The collaboration between the Lafayette Energy Sustainability Advisory Committee (LESAC), and the Lafayette Community Development Departments is a great testament to the value and importance our community holds for sustainable practices."

"Local governments have the tools to make an enormous impact on solar energy growth in their communities. This provides new energy choices for consumers while encouraging economic development and new jobs," said Andrea Luecke, President and Executive Director at The Solar Foundation. "The SolSmart Advisors will use their professional expertise to help make these communities open for solar business."

###

**About LESAC:** The Lafayette Energy Sustainability Advisory Committee (LESAC) was established to serve in an advisory capacity and make recommendations to City Council. LESAC's goal is to increase access to energy efficient and clean energy solutions and help establish a governmental infrastructure for an economically thriving, sustainable, and healthy community. LESAC leverages partnerships with community stakeholders to develop collaborative innovations and initiatives to help the City meet its sustainability goals. Visit [www.cityoflafayette.com/GoGreen](http://www.cityoflafayette.com/GoGreen) for more information.

**SolSmart** is a national designation and technical assistance program that recognizes leading solar communities and empowers additional communities to expand their local solar markets, and is unded by the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative. [www.SolSmart.org](http://www.SolSmart.org)

**The Solar Foundation's** mission is to accelerate adoption of the world's most abundant energy source through leadership, research, and capacity building. [www.TheSolarFoundation.org](http://www.TheSolarFoundation.org).

The U.S. Department of Energy **SunShot Initiative** is a national effort to drive down the cost of solar electricity and support solar adoption through research and development efforts in collaboration with public and private partners. [www.energy.gov/sunshot](http://www.energy.gov/sunshot).

#### Solar Foundation Contact

Avery Palmer

[apalmer@solarfound.org](mailto:apalmer@solarfound.org)

202-866-0908

