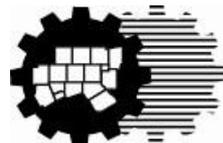


Solar Ready II

UTA Construction Research Advisory Board

March 18, 2014



North Central Texas
Council of Governments



U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative Rooftop Solar Challenge



U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) SunShot Initiative

The U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative is a collaborative national effort that aggressively drives innovation to make solar energy fully cost-competitive with traditional energy sources before the end of the decade.

Through SunShot, the DOE supports efforts by private companies, academia, and national laboratories to drive down the cost of solar electricity to \$0.06 per kilowatt-hour.

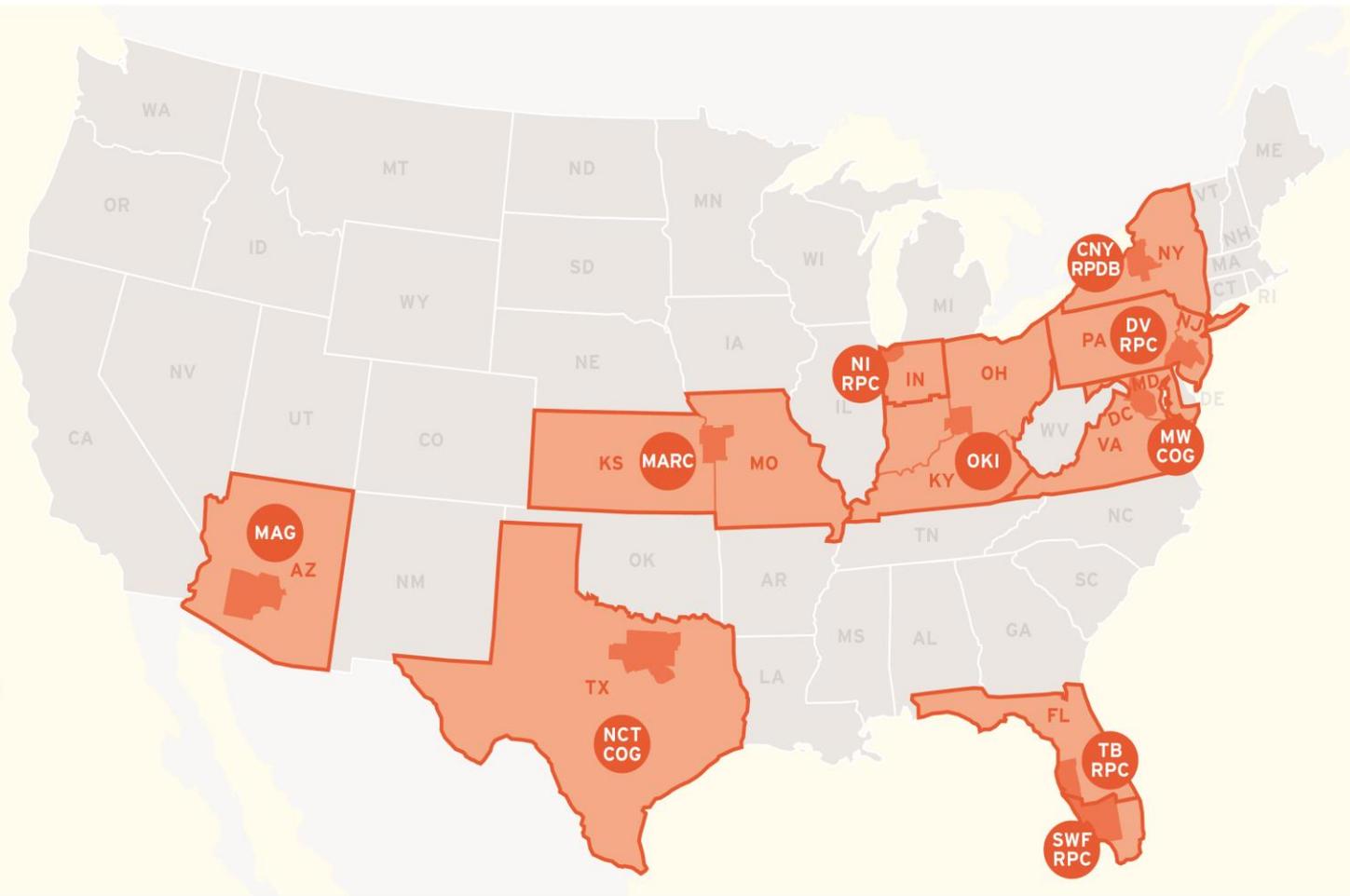
U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative Rooftop Solar Challenge

The U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative Rooftop Solar Challenge incentivizes regional awardee teams to make it easier and more affordable for Americans to go solar.

By streamlining permit processes, updating planning and zoning codes, improving standards for connecting solar power to the electric grid, and increasing access to financing, teams will clear a path for rapid expansion of solar energy and serve as models for other communities across the nation.

SOLAR READY II REGIONAL PARTNERS

- CNY RPDB** Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board
- DV RPC** Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
- MAG** Maricopa Association of Governments
- MW COG** Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- MARC** Mid-America Regional Council
- NCT COG** North Central Texas Council of Governments
- NI RPC** Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
- OKI** Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments
- SWF RPC** Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
- TB RPC** Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council



Solar Ready II

Partnering with **Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)**, **National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)**, **Meister Consultants Group (MCG)**, and **Council of State Governments (CSG)**

Goals are to implement solar best management practices, training materials and methods, and other proven implementation strategies previously established by MARC's 2012 Solar Ready KC Initiative

Ultimately will result in more streamlined and standardized solar practices, and will achieve measurable improvements in solar market conditions and access for ten million people across the US

DFW Solar Ready II

Major Goals

Engage local governments and industry

Identify opportunities to reduce obstacles

Streamline processes to reduce overall barriers (permitting, fees, codes, etc.)

Funding Amount

\$90,000 (\$75,000 plus \$15,000 if goals are met)

Timeframe

18 to 30 months (depending on accomplishments met)

Major Deliverables and Milestones

Subtask	Target Date
Engage stakeholders including local government officials, planners, utility representatives, etc.	December 2013
Evaluate existing processes/policies and update with Best Management Practices (BMPs)	February 2014 and ongoing
Submit jurisdiction questionnaires	March 2014
Engage 10-30 local governments as committed participants	March 2014 and ongoing
Provide qualitative and quantitative data from industry professionals to verify market maturity	March 2014 and ongoing
Assist MCG in gathering/compiling financial options data for the region	March 2014 and ongoing
OPTIONAL: Implement citizen engagement/market research panels	July 2014 and ongoing

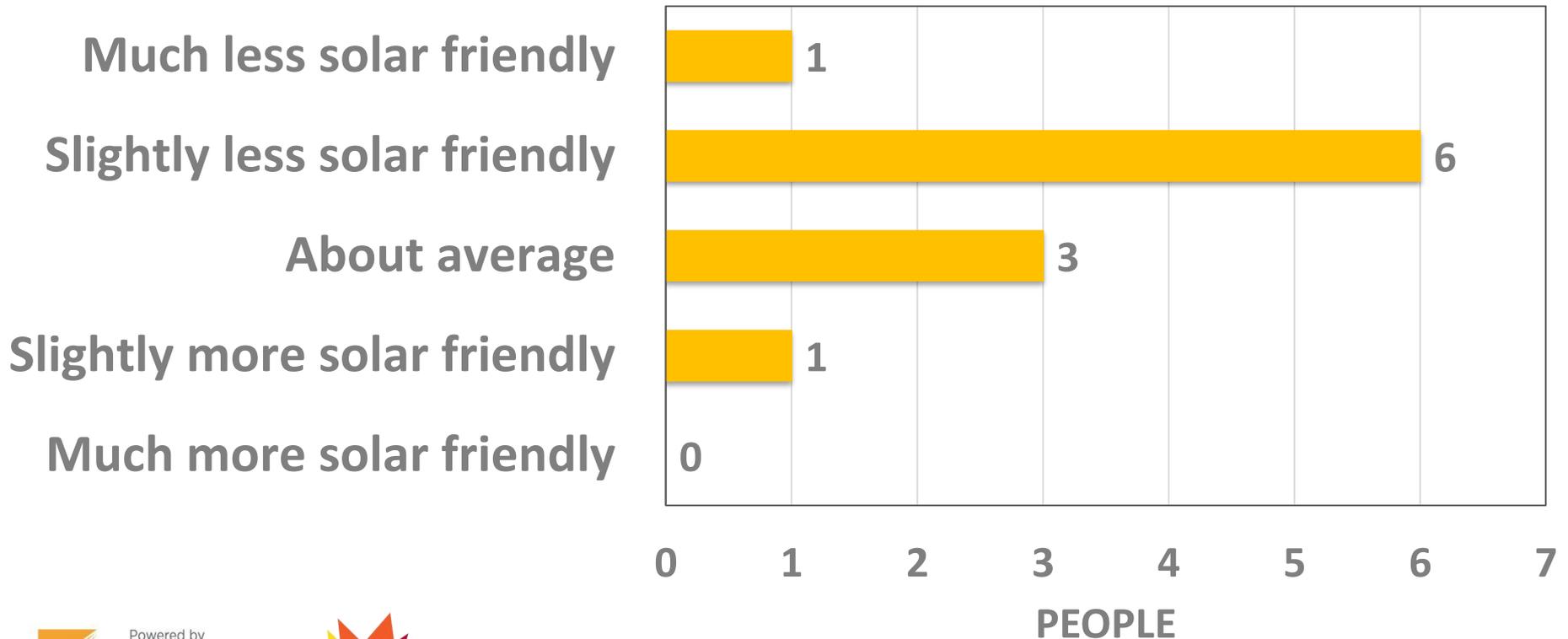
Goals in Progress

We are currently working to:

1. Discover “baseline” opinions on the current solar market through multiple perspectives;
2. Establish solar needs and goals of the DFW region;
3. Identify priority Best Management Practices (BMP) for our region; and
4. Request local government participation.

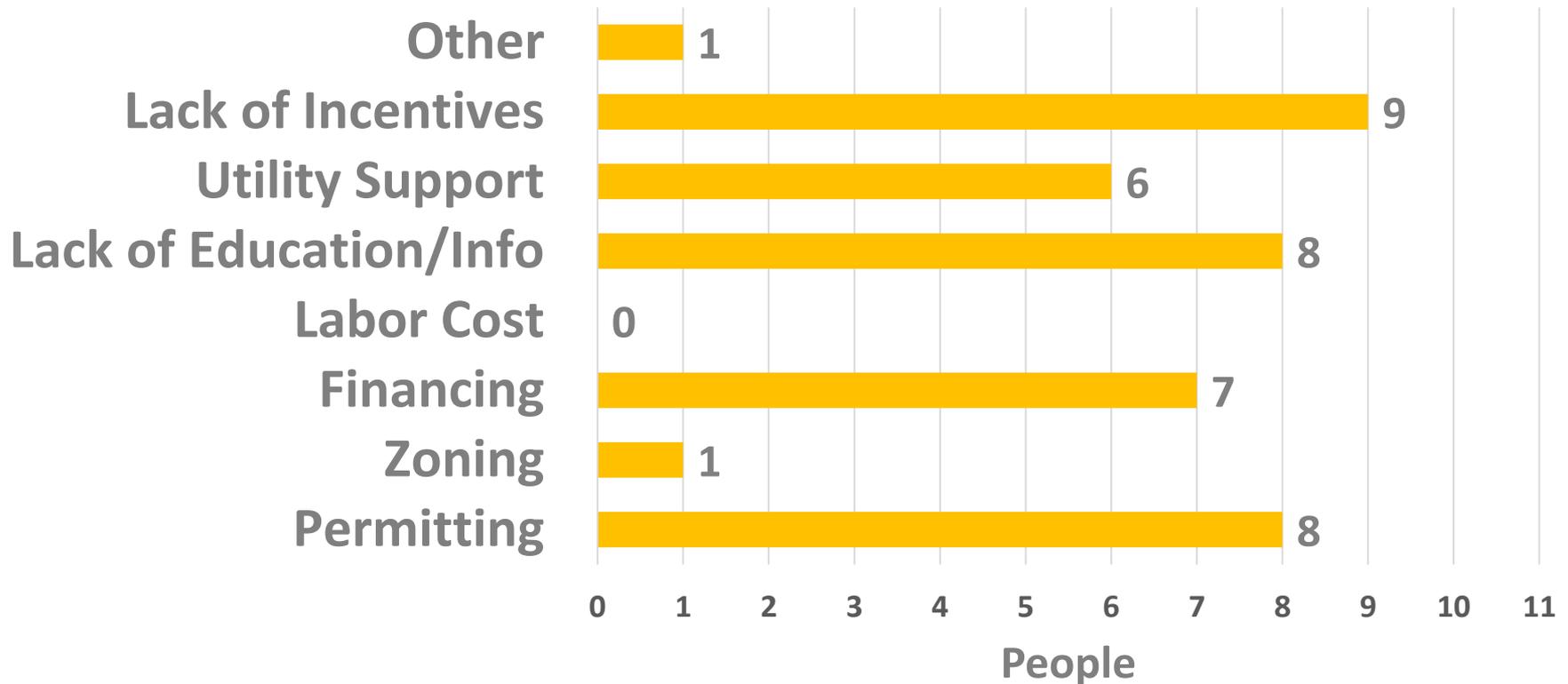
Installer Survey Results

How do you think the DFW region compares in terms of regulations that impact solar implementation?



Installer Survey Results

Which soft cost areas create the most difficult barriers?



Installer Survey Results

Comments:

Increase communications regarding the importance of increasing the growth of solar in the North Texas Region

Educate inspectors and engineers (racking methods, equipment in the market, etc.)

Create regional requirements in the DFW area because permitting processes vary widely between jurisdictions

Achieve commonality in requirements and remove the need for stamped plans on cookie cutter installations

Best Management Practices (BMP)

Planning Improvements

Zoning Code Improvements

- **PL 1-A** Address Solar in the Zoning Code and Adopt a Solar Ordinance

Enable Solar Access

- **PL 2-A** Adopt a Solar Access Ordinance
- **PL 2-B** Engage Homeowners Associations

Building Code Improvements

- **PL 3-A** Develop Solar Ready Guidelines
- **PL 3-B** Adopt a Solar Ready Ordinance

*Codes associated with BMP Table handout

Process Improvements

Streamline Permits

- **PR 1-A** Develop criteria for expedited process
- **PR 1-B** Create a permit checklist
- **PR 1-C** Provide a central information source

Standardize Permit Fees

- **PR 2-A** Fixed fees for residential permits
- **PR 2-B** Calculator for commercial permits

Pre-Qualify Plans and Installers

- **PR 3-A** Pre-qualify installers
- **PR 3-B** Pre-qualify electrical plans

Financing Improvements

Engage Local Lenders

- **F 2-A** Provide resources and host a workshop for lending institutions

Enact a Solarize Campaign

- **F 3-A** Launch a Solarize Campaign
- **F 3-B** Partner with local lenders

*Financing Improvements not included on handout

*Codes associated with BMP Table handout

Next Steps

Requesting Local Government Commitment & Participation:

Submit Completed Jurisdiction Questionnaire to Develop Regional Baseline

Submit Top 3 BMP Choices

Sign Letter of Commitment or Resolution

Seeking Industry Verification of Questionnaires

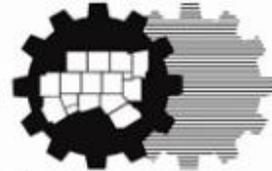
Engaging All Stakeholders to:

Draft/Review Template Documents

Provide Feedback to NCTCOG Regarding Needs and Useful Tools

Promote Project and Solar Goals

Project Overview and Promotion

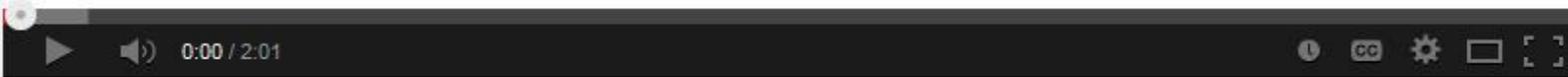


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Future Events

ICLEI Webinar - Community Solar Program Development and Implementation

March 15

Register Here:

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/188750174>

In-Depth Webinar/Workshop on chosen BMPs

TBD

Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association (TREIA) Renewable Energy Roundup and Sustainable Living Expo

September 26-28, Belton and the Bell County
Expo Center, Belton, TX



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