

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the state of Washington has a long history of building clean energy resources and supporting energy conservation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Energy has recognized our state's leadership by providing vital support to the Washington Department of Commerce "Northwest Solar Communities" program to make solar energy cost-competitive through initiatives such as the Sunshot Rooftop Solar Challenge; and

WHEREAS, Northwest Solar Communities support Executive Order 14-4 goals for reducing carbon pollution, and the goal of the Pacific Coast Action Plan on Climate and Energy to streamline permitting of renewable energy infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, local governments, utilities, and solar industry stakeholders from Washington and Oregon worked together to reduce the cost of solar deployment by simplifying and standardizing permitting and interconnection, while supporting planning, and financing; and

WHEREAS, rooftop solar energy investments will diversify our energy system, reduce carbon pollution, reduce the need for new transmission lines, produce energy where it is used and improve system resiliency; and

WHEREAS, local governments have, over the past 18 months, led by example in making their jurisdictions "Open for Solar Business" by adopting a number of best practices, including providing for online permitting; instituting predictable, flat fees; promoting solar education and a group purchase campaign; and

WHEREAS, in these same local jurisdictions, solar installations have increased by 197% since 2013, and jobs in the solar industry across Washington State grew 20% in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Legislature, Department of Commerce, State Building Code Council and electric utilities have assisted this effort by adopting solar-friendly policies and programs to promote solar installations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim and officially recognize the City of Bellevue, City of Edmonds, City of Kirkland, City of Seattle, and City of Mercer Island as

Northwest Solar Communities

and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 3rd day of April, 2015

Governor Jay Inslee

