

The Town of Bristol is pleased to submit this application for consideration to participate in the Spring 2016 Solarize Rhode Island program.

The Town of Bristol is located on a peninsula in Narragansett Bay in the East Bay Region of Rhode Island. The Town has a total land area of approximately 10 square miles. The Town, founded in 1680, is rich in history and culture; and, is home to the Nation's oldest continuous 4th of July parade.

The Town of Bristol has been a leader in efforts to protect, preserve and restore natural resources and has completed many successful projects over the years including the highly regarded Bristol Town Beach Green Infrastructure Project which was completed in 2012, the Fire Department headquarters built in 2011 which is a LEED Certified – Silver building and the recently completed Guiteras School Stormwater Retrofit Project which was another green infrastructure project that included an area for an outdoor education program.

The Town is also home to many organizations that work collaboratively to foster and promote a healthy environment including Save Bristol Harbor, The Mount Hope Farm, Coggeshall Farm and The Audubon Society.

The Town of Bristol has a population of 22,954 with 8,314 occupied housing units. Of the total occupied housing units, 5,490 are owner occupied and 2,842 are renter occupied. Bristol also has many business and industrial buildings including those in the East Bay Industrial Park. Clem's Electric in the East Bay Industrial Park has installed solar on the rooftop of his building and we have received inquiries from others who want to explore solar projects.

The Town has also undertaken many energy projects including utilizing the funds from the 2010-2012 EECBG funding to retrofit 8 public buildings with energy efficiency measures such as high-efficiency boilers, new energy efficient windows, and restored windows in the historic Burnside building.

Recently the Town established a Recycling Committee in order to improve the Town's recycling rate. The Town's ordinance was recently amended to include "no bin/no barrel", requiring that residents recycle on a weekly basis or their trash will not be collected. This is new program that just began in 2016 and we will be assessing the success of this going forward. The Recycling Committee has also done a great job of public education and outreach and has annual events to promote recycling.

The Town Administrator has established a team of Department Heads from the Departments of Community Development, Public Works, Finance, and Parks and Recreation Department to function as an ad hoc "energy committee". This team, working in partnership with the Town of Barrington has completed and continues work on the many tasks associated with the purchase of the street lights from National Grid and conversion of the street lights to LED. We have also partnered with the Town of Barrington to find an energy partner to work with the Town on the energy audits and energy projects to be funded through the RI Infrastructure Bank. As part of this process, we will also be working on the creation of an Energy Plan for the Town. The Towns of Bristol and Barrington have also partnered on the preparation of an RFP to solicit solar

developers for projects on the public buildings (town and school) and the closed Bristol Landfill. The RFP is currently being drafted.

The Town's recently locally approved 2016 Comprehensive Plan includes goals and policies to make the Town more resilient and increase energy efficiency. *Specifically, one of the policies in the plan is to continue to examine ways to ease the ability of residents to access renewable energy.* Another policy in the plan is to promote new programs as they become available, partnering with the Office of Energy Resources to market and advertise the programs to the broadest possible audience.

Participation in the Solarize Rhode Island program would be a natural extension of this work and, based on past projects and overall community interest in environmental initiatives would be successful.

In the past year, the Town has received 9 permits applications for solar installations with the largest being the recently completed solar installation of 160 Solar Array Panels on the gym of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School.

The Department of Community Development will be the lead department in this effort with the team of Diane Williamson, Director of Community Development, Richard Pimenta, the Building Official and Edward Tanner, the Principal Planner/Zoning Officer. Additionally, Jessica Pflaumer, the Town's Economic Development Coordinator will be available to offer assistance in the permitting for commercial building owners. Walter Burke, the Director of Parks and Recreation will also be assisting the team and will serve as an Ambassador for the project. Mr. Burke is a passionate advocate for protecting the environment as well as renewable energy.

The outreach program will include a direct email to the list of over 658 residents maintained by Mr. Burke as part of the database for the summer camp program. Bristol is completing the first year of the Health Equity Zone program which is culminating with a weeklong Health Summit from March 21-26, 2016 and can include promotional materials for the Solarize Rhode Island program. Additionally, the Recreation Department is hosting a Health Resource Fair in May of 2016 which attracts hundreds of participants.

Mr. Patrick "Pat" McCarthy, a Bristol resident, has also enthusiastically agreed to volunteer as an Ambassador for the program. Mr. McCarthy has experience working with Energy Efficiency Programs having previously worked for the OER and with the EERMC. He was the Project Manager for the renewable energy project noted earlier at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel School and was instrumental in getting the financing for that project. Mr. McCarthy has offered to help with a Solarize event which could be held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church.

We have reviewed the North Smithfield Round 1 Pilot Overview Materials which were very helpful in the planning of our program outreach. We anticipate a multi-faceted outreach and marketing approach including a press conference to kick off the program and continued press releases as the program progresses. We will coordinate with the civic organizations in Bristol including Mosaico Community Development Corporation in order to help spread the word. The

Mosaico CDC is prominent in the Low-Moderate Income Neighborhood which is impacted by the high cost of housing and will benefit from renewable energy savings. We will also utilize the Town's web page at Bristolri.us to prominently post information with links to the other participating agencies. Posters will be distributed to retailers who would be willing to help promote the program as well as public buildings including the Rogers Free Library, Town Hall, and the Post Office. We would also plan to install banners in the pre-approved brackets at the locations along Hope Street, Ferry Road, and Metacom Avenue.

A resolution in support of Solarize Rhode Island will be introduced to the Bristol Town Council whose meetings are broadcast live to the public. Local workshops hosted by Solarize Rhode Island could be held in several of the Town's buildings that have a capacity to hold a large number of attendees including the Burnside Building, the Herreshoff Room of the Rogers Free Library, the Mt. Hope High School, or the Quinta Gamelin Community Center.

In addition to the Solarize event at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, we will also include outreach to the other faith institutions in Town with a notice in the bulletins that they publish weekly. We have done this type of outreach for the Town's Natural Hazard Mitigation Update and it was a good way of reaching a wide audience.

Other events that could have a Solarize table for promotional materials are the Bristol-Warren Arts Night which will have the kick off in Bristol this year on May 1. While not officially partnering with the Town of Warren on this application, we are aware that they are also applying and there could be opportunities for joint outreach at events such as The East Bay Chamber of Commerce Local Maker's Fair being held in Warren on April 2.

The Town will work collaboratively with its State partners and SmartPower to schedule the community workshops and arrange for a presence at other outreach opportunities and will be flexible to accommodate the various schedules.