



Austin, Texas, ranked among the top cities for solar energy.



Solar panel installations have grown rapidly across America.

Shining Cities 2020

The Top U.S. Cities for Solar Energy

America's major cities are at the forefront of the movement toward 100 percent renewable energy, with rapidly expanding installations of solar power. Our annual survey of solar energy in cities shows that every American city can become a "solar star."

Solar power is expanding rapidly

U.S. cities are turning to solar power for reliable, pollution-free energy. More solar capacity was added to the grid last year than any other electricity source, and in many states, electricity from solar panels is cost competitive with electricity generated by fossil fuels.

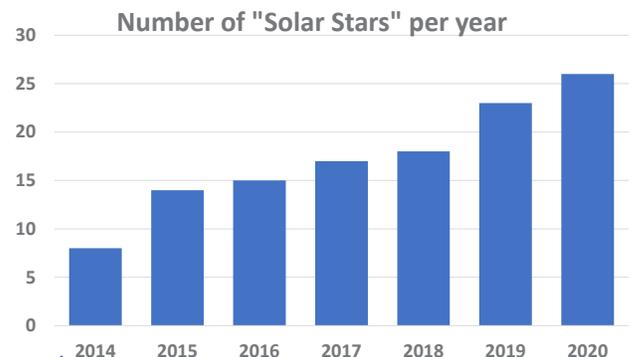
In 2014, eight cities were "Solar Stars" – with more than 50 watts of solar capacity per resident – but in 2019, 26 cities earned that title.

Top cities are leading the way

The top seven cities in this year's report have more collective solar power capacity than the entire U.S. did in 2010. Among the 57 cities included in every edition of "Shining Cities," 51 (89 percent) have at least doubled their solar capacity since 2014. Among those, 25 cities have at least quadrupled their solar capacity.



Albuquerque leapt from tenth to third place in our per capita rankings this year.



Number of "Solar Stars" (cities with >50 watts/person) in each edition of "Shining Cities."

Every city can “go solar”

Leading solar cities can be found in every region of the country, from New England to California. Cities are major sources of electricity demand, and with millions of suitable rooftops, potentially major sources of solar power production as well. The cities in our rankings have shown lots of progress in recent years – and every city still has room to expand their solar capacity many times over.

Cities can keep growing solar power

Cities can most effectively promote solar power when local, state and utility policies work together. To take full advantage of cities’ solar energy potential – and move closer to a future of 100 percent renewable energy:

- **Local governments** should set goals for solar energy adoption and make permitting, zoning and inspection processes easy, quick and affordable. They should also expand access to community solar programs for people who are otherwise unable to “go solar.”
- **State governments** should adopt strong net metering policies to ensure fair value for solar power and encourage solar energy installations through rebate programs, tax credits and financing programs. They should also implement policies that support energy storage, electric vehicle charging and microgrids.
- **The federal government** should expand the Solar Investment Tax Credit and support research to drive solar power innovations.



Rooftop solar panels at the Market One commercial building in Des Moines, Iowa.

Top cities by total capacity

For the third year running, Los Angeles is the number one city for total solar capacity.

City	Total solar (MW DC)
Los Angeles	483.8
San Diego	420.4
Honolulu	292.1
Phoenix	272.4
San Antonio	254.5

Top cities per capita

For the seventh year in a row, Honolulu leads the nation in solar power per capita.

City	Per capita solar (watts/person)
Honolulu	840.9
San Diego	294.8
Albuquerque	273.2
San Jose	217.1
Burlington	183.8