

Community Focus Statement A: Preserve the desert ecosystem, its natural beauty, and the community’s harmonious relationship with the environment.

Action Statement A.6: Encourage small-scale rooftop solar rather than large industrial solar farms.

A6

Benchmark: Rooftop solar is easily utilized and proliferating in Joshua Tree.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: Variable depending on size of proposed projects.



Example of residential scale solar. Photo source: Anonymous.

Increasing solar energy production is a vital step in creating clean, sustainable energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, communities need to ensure that the scale and design of solar facilities are compatible with the community they serve in terms of both energy production and aesthetics. The County will soon adopt the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element and related development code amendments focusing on community oriented renewable energy projects on private land.

Policies and design guidelines can be used to encourage rooftop solar by requiring solar hookups on new or renovated buildings, allowing for otherwise restricted features, and taking advantage of state and local rebate and loan programs for private installation. The County can review building standards to ensure they do not directly or indirectly hinder solar panel installation. Local agencies, organizations, or even commercial solar companies can help with following federal or state programs such as PACE programs that subsidize solar installation for private owners or offer other incentives.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Advocate for the County to adopt building standards to require solar-ready hookups.	Champion with Morongo Basin MAC	Months 1 – 3	San Bernardino Draft Renewable Energy and Conservation Element http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/RenewableEnergy.aspx DSIRE Clean Energy Programs http://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program?state=CA
2. Ensure building height standards do not hinder rooftop solar.	Champion with Morongo Basin MAC	Months 1 – 3	
3. Stay informed on state and federal loan and rebate programs.	Champion with Morongo Basin MAC	Month 1 – On-going	
4. Raise awareness and encourage incentives such as PACE programs.	Champion with Morongo Basin MAC, with support from solar energy companies	On-going	