

# MIAMIBEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, [www.miamibeachfl.gov](http://www.miamibeachfl.gov)

Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager  
Tel: 305-673-7010, Fax: 305-673-7782

**260-2019**

NO. LTC #

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Dan Gelber and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: May 3, 2019

SUBJECT: Miami Beach Awarded SolSmart Gold Designation

I am excited to share with you that the City of Miami Beach has achieved the SolSmart Gold designation, the highest SolSmart designation. SolSmart is a national designation program, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office, designed to recognize communities that have taken key steps toward addressing local barriers to solar energy and making it faster, cheaper and easier to go solar.



The SolSmart Gold designation demonstrates the city's efforts to reduce barriers to solar for the community, making it easier for residents and businesses to switch to solar energy. The city has streamlined its process and reduced the time and soft-costs associated with going solar.

In 2017, the City of Miami Beach was awarded the SolSmart Bronze designation. Since then, the Building, Planning, and Environment and Sustainability Departments have worked diligently to further support the solar development in Miami Beach. The city achieved the Gold designation by:

- Creating a solar energy webpage (<http://www.mbrisingabove.com/climate-mitigation/renewable-energy/solar-energy/>) with information on the city's solar incentives;
- Establishing expedited one-day walk-through solar permitting review process;
- Passing the Urban Heat Island (UHI) Ordinance; and
- Conducting additional staff training on solar technology, permitting, and planning review best practices.

Your leadership in passing the UHI ordinance was instrumental in reaching this milestone through the establishment of the following standards:

- Residential height standards that allow for exceedances to the maximum allowable height for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems;

- Accessory use for PV in all districts; and,
- Requiring that new construction install sustainable roofing systems, including the option of solar roofs.

I would like to highlight the Building Department's efforts in streamlining the permitting process. In addition to achieving Gold designation, Miami Beach has also earned a Special Recognition Award in the Permitting criteria category thanks to their efforts.

A special thanks to the Planning, Building and Environment & Sustainability Department on their collaboration in this great achievement. Please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Wheaton, Environment & Sustainability Director, if you have any questions related to the SolSmart program.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SMT'.

SMT/ESW/FCT/amb