

**CITY OF LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN  
CITY PLAN COMMISSION  
REPORT  
July 29, 2019**

- **AGENDA ITEM – 19-0906 (Lewis Kuhlman)**  
AN ORDINANCE to create Division 6 of Ch. 115, Art. VII of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Crosse regarding Solar Energy Systems.
- **ROUTING:** CPC 7/29/19, J&A 7/30/19
- **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**  
This ordinance follows up on the April 2019 memorandum from the Great Plains Institute reviewing how La Crosse can achieve SolSmart designation at the Bronze, Silver, or Gold level. The ordinance is based on a model from the *Grow Solar: Local Government Solar Toolkit* referred to in the memo. The intention is to clarify what kinds of solar arrays are allowed in each zoning district and their respective standards. This ordinance has the potential to help reduce energy costs for property owners and tenants, and to reduce the impact of outages in the wider power grid. It could increase demand for skilled solar installers and maintenance professionals as well.
- **GENERAL LOCATION:**  
Citywide
- **RECOMMENDATION OF OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** Not applicable
- **CONSISTENCY WITH ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**  
This ordinance supports comprehensive plan objectives of redevelopment and preserving natural resources.
- **PLANNING RECOMMENDATION:**  
**Approval** – By making explicit zoning regulation for solar arrays, citizens will have a better guidance and be more likely to pursue renewable energy systems.