

# SOLAR ROADMAP™

## LPEA CASE STUDY

### LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) is a rural cooperative electric utility that serves more than 40,000 members in the southwest corner of Colorado. LPEA's strategic plan includes supporting local renewable generation projects with education and consultation. LPEA's environmental efforts were recognized in 2010 by the Department of Energy (DOE) with the Green Power Leadership Award. LPEA's participation in Optony's Solar Roadmap™ spanned over a year.



### SOLAR POTENTIAL & BENEFITS

Making solar projects easier and cheaper to permit and build will benefit local economic activity, create jobs and protect the regional environment. There are approximately 939 solar viable homes in Tremonton with a solar potential of over 4.7 MW of total capacity. Capturing this market would result in over \$30M of economic activity and 158 worker-years of job creation in the local region.

## OVERVIEW

La Plata Electric Association is committed to contributing positively to the local community by engaging in economic development and environmental efforts. Supporting local renewable energy generation is a key value in their strategic plan. One of LPEA's most successful programs is the Green Power Fund in which members voluntarily support local renewable energy projects. Projects funded through this program include solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays at four local schools. To expand and improve their renewable energy efforts, LPEA joined Optony's Solar Roadmap™ in 2012.

## LPEA SOLAR HIGHLIGHTS

The Solar Roadmap™ assessment indicated existing areas of strength within LPEA's service territory, and uncovered key actions that would effect the greatest impact on the local solar market. Highlights include:

- A streamlined and standardized **interconnection process** which includes a standard application form which can be submitted online and a fast-track process for qualifying PV systems.
- The incorporation of national **interconnection standards** and the removal of caps on maximum PV system size limit.
- On-going support of local **solar market development** through community education efforts, hosting and sponsorship of local meetings, and funding solar PV projects at area schools among other activities

*"Optony, where appropriate, integrated suggestions from LPEA. By assuring accuracy and completeness, you have made this Roadmap a document that is worthy of being shared with our community, employees, and board of directors."*

*Mark Schwantes, Manager of Corporate Services, LPEA*

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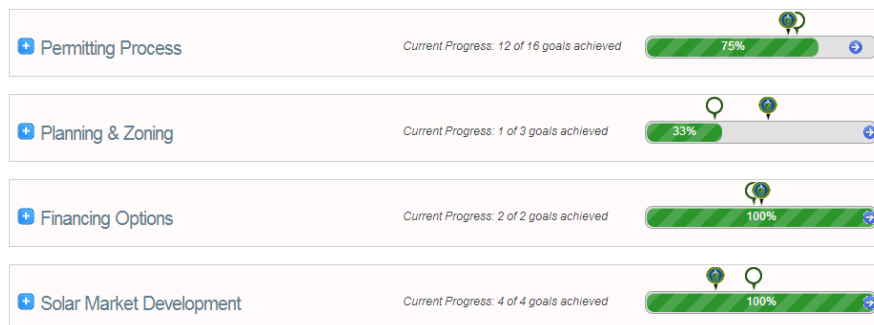
## SOLAR ROADMAP™ APPROACH

The Solar Roadmap™ team will work with local stakeholders to complete the following steps to get the community started on their path toward unlocking local solar power potential.



## SOLAR ROADMAP™ UNIQUE WEB-BASED DASHBOARD

The unique approach of the Solar Roadmap™ includes a web-based interface that guides participants as they progress through their customized plan for local market transformation. The dashboard groups goals and actionable steps in focus areas.



The Solar Roadmap™ dashboard helps participants select the activities with the highest impact according to their particular situation and measures and recognizes their successes along the way.

## ABOUT SOLAR ROADMAP™

The Solar Roadmap™ platform was designed to help cities and rural communities across the United States develop a local level policy and development framework to allow the local solar market to flourish, creating local economic activity, job creation, and environmental benefits. The activities and goals outlined in the Solar Roadmap™ are based on national best practices and lessons learned from successful case studies. Each goal represents a step toward making solar easier and more cost effective in the community.

## BUILD YOUR OWN ROADMAP

Interested in what could be done in your community? Visit the [My Roadmap](#) page to get started!

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact us at [sssti@solarroadmap.com](mailto:sssti@solarroadmap.com)
- Visit us online at [www.solarroadmap.com](http://www.solarroadmap.com)



## ABOUT OPTONY INC.

Optony Inc. is a global research and consulting services firm focused on enabling government and commercial organizations to bridge the gap between solar energy goals and real-world results.

