



Bipartisan and Bicameral Streamlining Home Installation of New Energies (SHINE) Act

*Introduced by Reps. Susie Lee (D-NV), Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ), and Paul Tonko (D-NY)
with a Senate companion bill led by Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)*

What Is the Need for the SHINE Act?

Across the country, local governments are struggling to keep pace with the number of applications they are receiving for residential distributed energy systems like rooftop solar. This is important because — when these permits take weeks, or even months, to process — it means higher prices, fewer local jobs, and a worse customer experience for homeowners.

How Does the SHINE Act Address This Need?

The SHINE Act would help state, local, and Tribal governments implement a streamlined permitting and inspection process for home energy systems. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) developed this innovative technology, called Solar Automated Permit Processing Plus (SolarAPP+), which is free for local governments to voluntarily adopt.

What Is SolarAPP+?

SolarAPP+ is an online platform that processes instant permits for code-compliant residential solar and battery storage systems. SolarAPP+ allows contractors to upload system specifications, automatically reviews the system for code compliance, and enables local governments to immediately issue permits for compliant systems. SolarAPP+ also provides inspection checklists to verify installation practices and adherence to approved designs. SolarAPP+ is available to interested state, local, and Tribal governments at no cost.

What Are the Benefits of SolarAPP+?

- Local governments can generate more permit revenue, cut costs, and save staff time;
- Businesses can operate more effectively and efficiently — and spur more local jobs; and
- Homeowners can enjoy a better customer experience, lower prices, and less wait time.

Why Is Legislation Necessary?

Of the more than 15,000 local permitting jurisdictions across the country, fewer than 100 have adopted SolarAPP+ to date. Resources are necessary to scale up SolarAPP+ adoption and make it self-sufficient and available to any local government within the U.S. that wants to streamline its permitting. NREL estimates that the technical potential of solar on homes and small buildings (under 5,000 sq. ft.) is 731 gigawatts, which is 65 percent of the total U.S. rooftop solar technical potential. This legislation would also support efforts to streamline permitting for other residential energy systems that SolarAPP+ does not yet have the capability to process.

What Specifically Does the SHINE Act Do?

The SHINE Act authorizes modest, time-limited funding — \$20 million per year for four years — to enable the Department of Energy to provide technical assistance, training, and adoption grants to state, local, and Tribal governments that adopt a streamlined permitting and inspection process for qualifying home energy systems, including rooftop solar and wind power systems.

For more information or to cosponsor or endorse this bill, please contact Mark Coombs in Congresswoman Susie Lee's office at mark.coombs@mail.house.gov.

Select Endorsements:

- **Solar Energy Industries Association**
- **League of Conservation Voters**
- **Advanced Energy United**
- **Sunrun**
- **SunPower**
- **Solar United Neighbors Action**
- **GRID Alternatives**
- **Vote Solar**
- **Nevada Conservation League**

"As we deploy clean and affordable solar energy at record pace, we need solutions that can help local governments handle the increase in solar permit applications. Now is not the time for red tape to hold back our clean energy progress. We commend Representative Lee and Senator Heinrich for championing legislation that will significantly expand the SolarAPP+ program and help more Americans benefit from streamlined, efficient rooftop solar permitting."

Abigail Ross Hopper, President and CEO, Solar Energy Industries Association

"Helping homeowners tap into solar power on their roofs and benefit from the associated cost-saving federal tax incentives of the affordable clean energy plan — all while saving local authorities and contractors time and money on standard solar permitting processes and keeping more workers on the job — is a win-win-win-win."

Matthew Davis, Vice President of Federal Policy, League of Conservation Voters

"The Department of Energy has created a great tool in SolarAPP+ to help streamline local permitting to make it easier for homeowners to install solar, storage, and more. United strongly supports the SHINE Act so that more localities can adopt this important tool, expedite permitting, and build a reliable, affordable, and clean electric system."

Harry Godfrey, Managing Director, Advanced Energy United

"SolarAPP+ is a proven solution for local governments struggling to process the many solar permits coming in their door. It is also pro-business and pro-consumer. We thank Congresswoman Lee and Senator Heinrich for this commonsense legislation."

Stephen Lassiter, Policy Director, Sunrun

"SolarAPP+ cuts red tape, saves local governments money, and helps Americans access the bill savings and resiliency benefits of residential solar and battery storage. We need help ensuring local governments across the country put SolarAPP+ to use as soon as possible. I am grateful for Representative Lee and Senator Heinrich's leadership bringing this bill forward."

Suzanne Leta, Senior Director and Head of Policy & Strategy, SunPower

"In too many places around the country, inefficient permitting processes and red tape drive up the cost of going solar. The SHINE Act would encourage and support municipalities to adopt a streamlined permitting process for reviewing and approving rooftop solar systems, making it less expensive for homeowners and small businesses to control and reduce their energy costs."

Glen Brand, Vice President of Policy, Solar United Neighbors Action

"SolarAPP+ is a proven way to expand access to solar and storage for everyone, especially economic and environmental justice communities. The Streamlining Home Installation of New Energies Act of 2023 is a crucial piece of the puzzle for maximizing the benefits of renewable energy for all Americans."

Andie Wyatt, Policy Director and Counsel, GRID Alternatives

"The SHINE Act is a pivotal stride towards equity in solar access. We recognize that time is valuable, and any way to save the government and public time is crucial in a just and equitable transition."

Sach Constantine, Executive Director, Vote Solar

"Thanks to the SHINE Act, Nevada has a unique opportunity to boost permit revenue and reduce costs and time for both businesses and homeowners. By removing the roadblocks that have hindered the growth of solar energy, we're creating a level playing field, where more Nevadans can take control of their energy costs and reduce their environmental impact. We're thrilled to see this legislation consider environmental justice and move us closer to reaching our state's carbon reduction goals. Nevadans value efficiency, accessibility, and equity when it comes to clean energy, so this is a step in the right direction."

Kristee Watson, Executive Director, Nevada Conservation League