

Leadership Roundtable: Empowering Cities to Accelerate Rooftop Solar Installations Across America

- **Jennifer M. Granholm**, Secretary of Energy
- **Regina Romero**, Mayor of Tucson, Arizona
- **Sam Liccardo**, Mayor of San Jose, California
- **Lynn Jurich**, CEO of Sunrun
- **Will Jawando**, Councilmember of Montgomery County, Maryland
- **John Alita**, Deputy City Manager of Stockton, California
- **Jeff Cook**, SolarAPP+ Project Lead, National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- **Becca Jones-Albertus**, Director of the Solar Energy Technologies Office



Today's presentation will be available at:
energy.gov/seto-webinars

Welcome and Logistics

- This event is being recorded
- It is also being livestreamed at energy.gov/live
- Slides, recording, and transcript will be available on energy.gov/seto-webinars
- Submit questions in the chat
- For technical difficulties, chat or email Meisha Baylor (meisha.baylor@ee.doe.gov)

Leadership Roundtable Guests



Jennifer M. Granholm
Secretary of Energy



Regina Romero
Mayor of Tucson, Arizona



Sam Liccardo
Mayor of San Jose, California



Lynn Jurich
CEO of Sunrun



Becca Jones-Albertus
*Director of the Solar Energy
Technologies Office*



Jeff Cook
*SolarAPP+ Project Lead,
National Renewable Energy
Laboratory*



Will Jawando
*Councilmember of
Montgomery County, Maryland*



John Alita
*Deputy City Manager of
Stockton, California*



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Summer of Solar



Learn More: energy.gov/solar

Get Updates: bit.ly/summerofsolar-newsletter

SolarAPP+ Performance and Adoption Next Steps

Presenter: Jeffrey J. Cook PhD

Analysis Team: Juliana Williams, Matt Miccioli, and Minahil Qasim



What is SolarAPP+ and how is it governed?

- A flexible, web-based PV-permitting tool for residential systems at no-cost to AHJs.
 - Delivers instant plan review, permit approval, and a clear inspection checklist.
 - Incorporates energy storage and will expand to other market segments.
- SolarAPP+ Foundation has been established to oversee the expansion of SolarAPP+.
 - Balanced group of code officials, local governments, contractors, and subject matter experts.

SolarAPP+ Flow

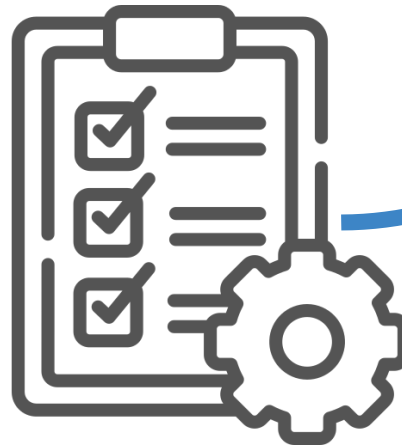
Installer submits an application with design specifications through SolarAPP+

1



2

SolarAPP+ checks the application to ensure the system design is code compliant



3

Code compliant applications are issued a permit instantly after fee payment

([Review sample approval docs here](#))



How is SolarAPP+
Performing?

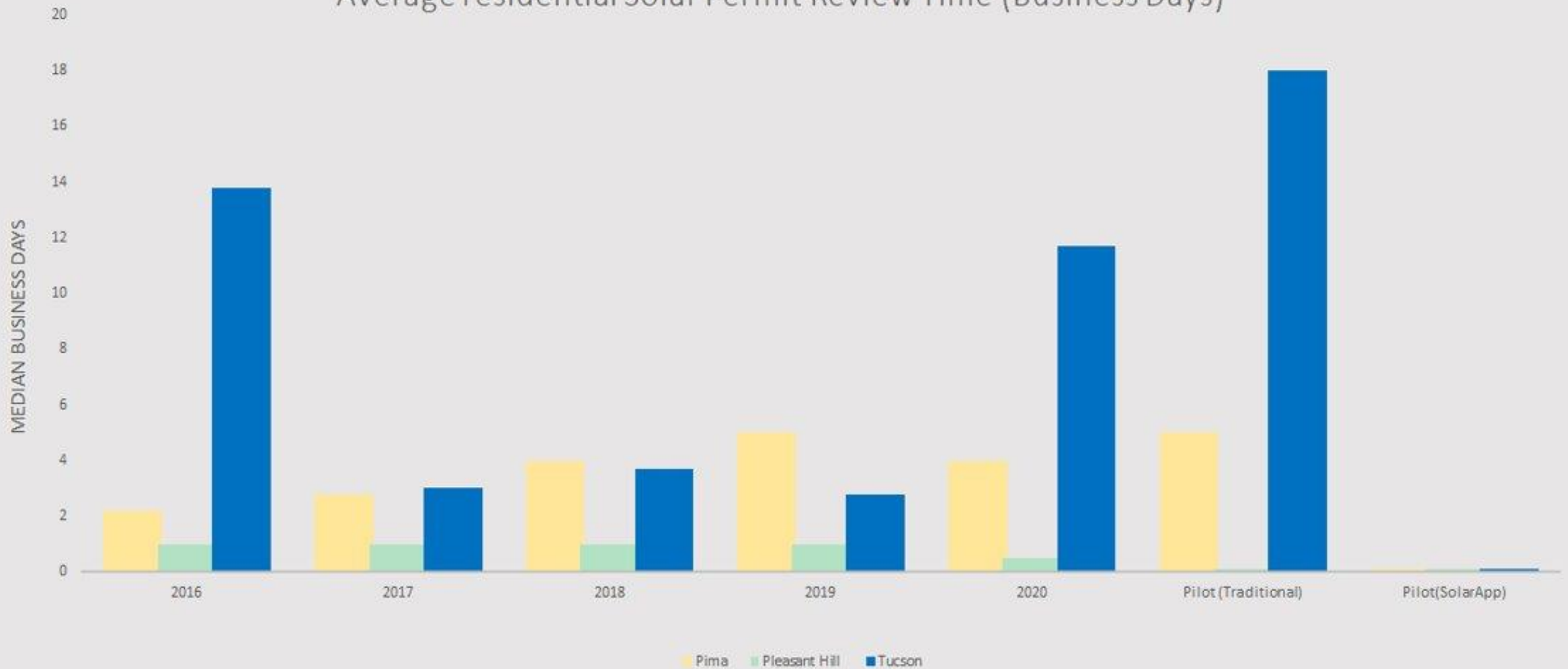
Piloting Communities and Projects

- SolarAPP+ delivered instant permits for ~150 jobs during the pilot and over 620 jobs since.

Residential Solar Permit Submittals during SolarAPP+ Pilot				
	Traditional		SolarAPP+	
	Submitted	Inspected	Submitted	Inspected
Pima County, AZ	24	18	54	34
Pleasant Hill, CA	10	5	19	10
Tucson, AZ	17	12	76	44
Total	51	35	149	88

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESULTS: DO NOT CITE

Average residential Solar Permit Review Time (Business Days)



SolarAPP+ significantly reduces permit review times

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESULTS: DO NOT CITE

Time Savings for Local Governments

- Time saved during SolarAPP+ pilot: 186.45 hrs
- **Estimated time saved since launch: ~420 hrs**

Permitting Time Saved by SolarAPP+

	Mean permit review time (hours)	SolarAPP+ Permits	Time saved on permit review (hours)	Mean Permit Revision Time (hours)	SolarAPP+ Revisions	Time saved on permit revision (hours)	Total time saved (hours)
Pima County, AZ	1	54	54	0.75	11	8.25	62.25
Pleasant Hill, CA	0.25	19	4.75	0.20*	41	8.20	12.95
Tucson, AZ	1	76	76	0.75	47	35.25	111.25
Totals	-	149	134.75	-	99	51.7	186.45

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESULTS: DO NOT CITE



SolarAPP+ Does Not Impact Inspection Durations

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESULTS: DO NOT CITE

SolarAPP+ Inspection Results have Improved During the Pilot

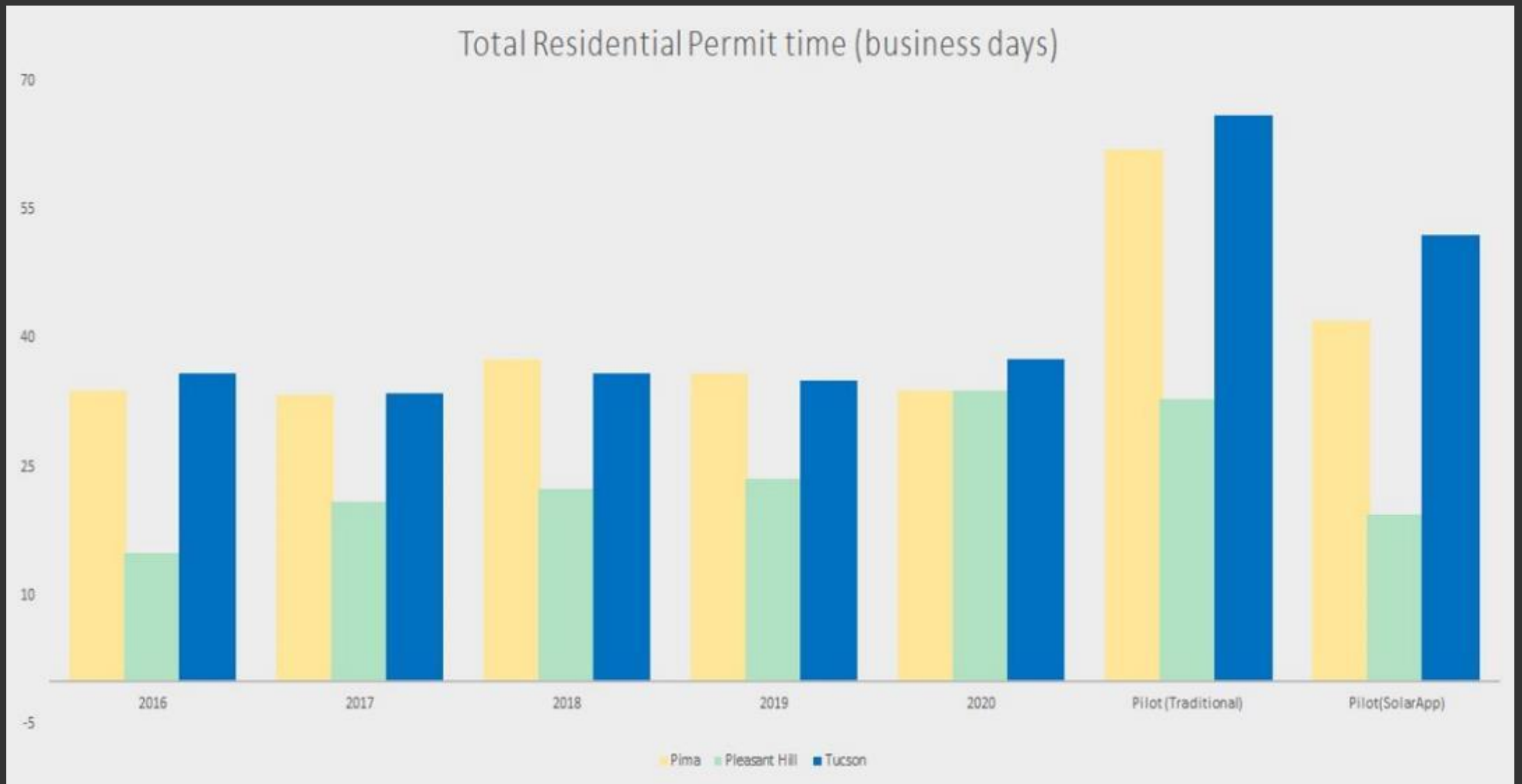
5% of all jobs in the pilot failed their first inspections.

6 of 123 inspected jobs.



5 of the 6 failed inspections occurred before 5/19/21.

4 of the 6 were associated with process miscommunications.



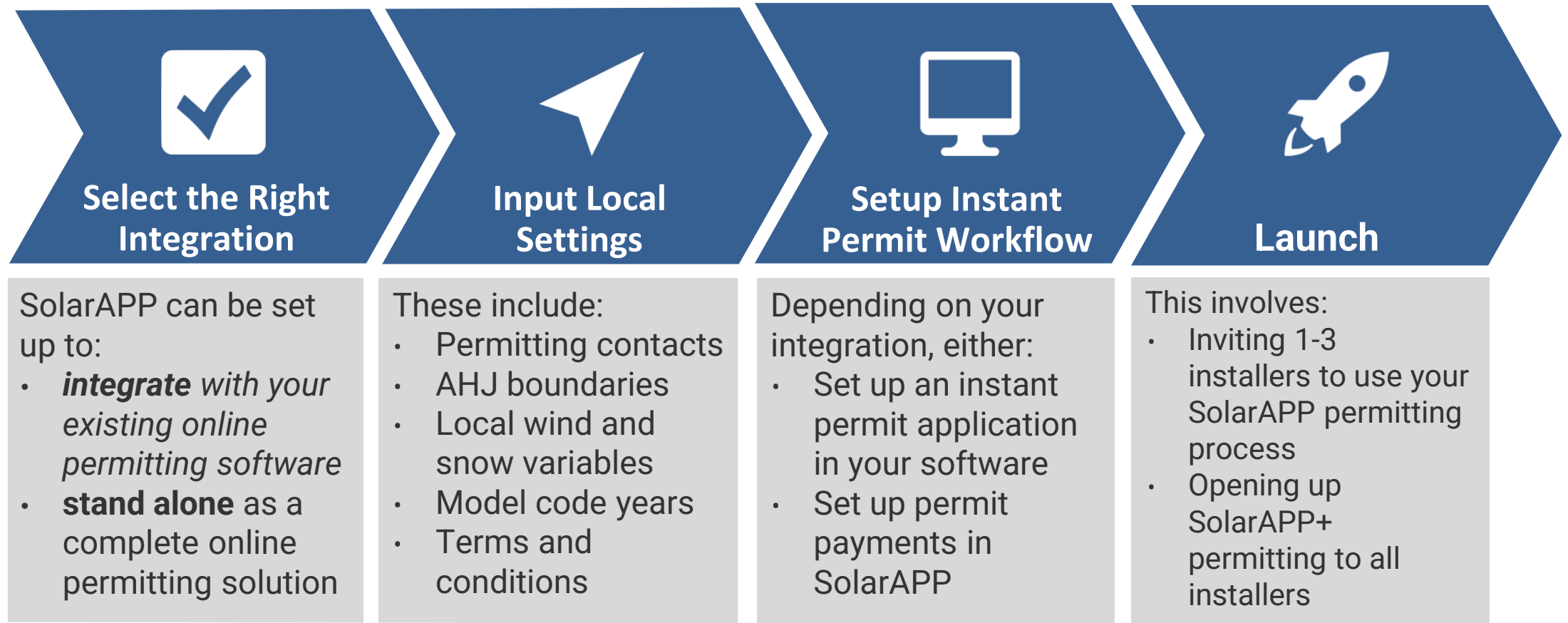
SolarAPP+ also reduces overall installation timelines

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESULTS: DO NOT CITE

How can you
participate in the
program?

Are you a local government?

There are four steps to adopting SolarAPP+



Next Steps

- Register to learn more at:
<https://solarapp.nrel.gov/register>.
- Join us for a follow up webinar on 7/28 hosted by the National League of Cities:
 - bit.ly/solarapp-nlc
- Are you an inspector? Take IREC's SolarAPP+ inspection training:
 - <https://cleanenergytraining.org/products/inspecting-a-solarapp-system>.

The screenshot displays the SolarAPP+ Onboarding interface. At the top, the SolarAPP+ and NREL logos are visible, along with navigation links for Jurisdictions, Installers, About SolarAPP+, and Solar TRACE. The user is identified as Ken P. The main navigation bar shows the progress: 1. Choose Your Integration (COMPLETE), 2. Local Settings (CURRENT), 3. Integration Setup, 4. Terms & Conditions, and 5. Launch Your Pilot. Below this, a progress bar for Local Settings shows 18% completion. The main content area is titled 'ADDRESS VALIDATION' and contains a form for selecting jurisdictions. It lists 'Pleasant Hill city (CA-0657764)' and 'Contra Costa County (CA-06013)' with 'Include' and 'Exclude' buttons. A 'Save Places' button is at the bottom right. The interface also includes a 'GET HELP' button and a 'Previous' button.

SolarAPP+ | NREL | For Jurisdictions | For Installers | About SolarAPP+ | Solar TRACE | Ken P

> Ahj > Onboarding

Subscribed to SolarAPP+'s newsletter

Choose Your Integration ✓
1 CREATE INSTANT PERMITTING SELECTED
2 Local Settings
3 Integration Setup
4 Terms & Conditions
5 Launch Your Pilot →

Local Settings Completion:
18%

Integration Settings Completion:
0%

Have Questions?
VISIT THE SOLARAPP+ HELP CENTER TO FIND ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS OR CONTACT OUR SUPPORT TEAM.
GET HELP

Fill out the following information so SolarAPP+ can set your local variables.

ADDRESS VALIDATION

Based on your Jurisdiction's address, we've identified that you could service any of these following authorities. Which permitting authority do you serve?

* Places my Jurisdiction services for issuing Solar and Storage Permits:

☐ I do not see one or more of the places that I service

Pleasant Hill city (CA-0657764) | Contra Costa County (CA-06013)

Include | Exclude | Include | Exclude

Currently including 1 locations | Currently excluding 1 locations

NEED HELP VERIFYING THESE PLACES?
VISIT THE REGISTRY

Save Places

Previous | Next

Thank you for attending!

- Sign up and learn about SolarAPP+ at solarapp.nrel.gov
- Find all SETO events & webinars at energy.gov/seto-events
- Register for the National League of Cities (NLC) SolarAPP+ webinar at bit.ly/solarapp-nlc
- Join in on the Summer of Solar at energy.gov/solar



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