

# The Streamlining Home Installation of New Energies Act of 2023 (SHINE Act)

## 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 home energy (or “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, only 62 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 the permitting process 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 prizes 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.