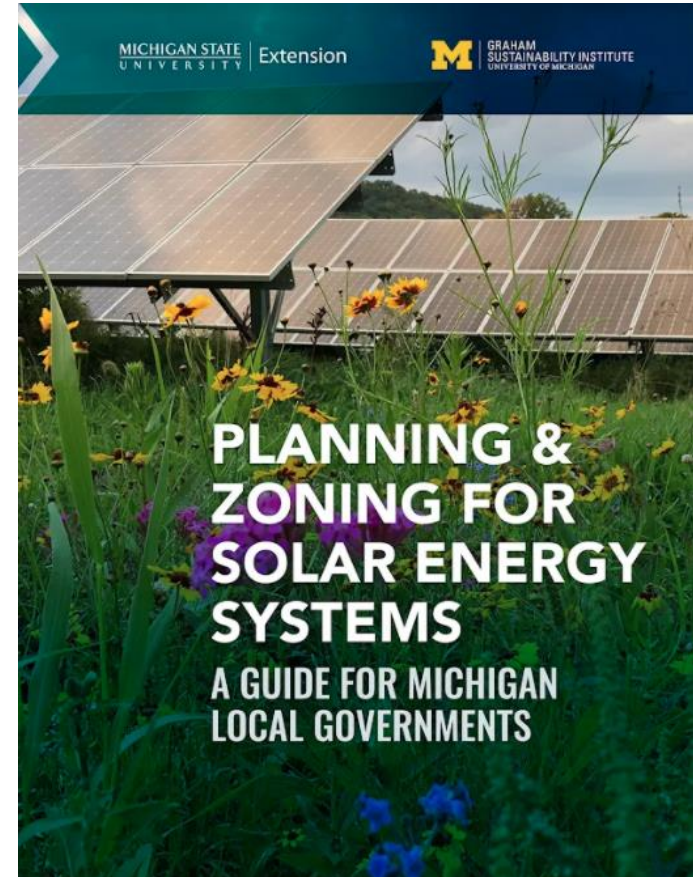


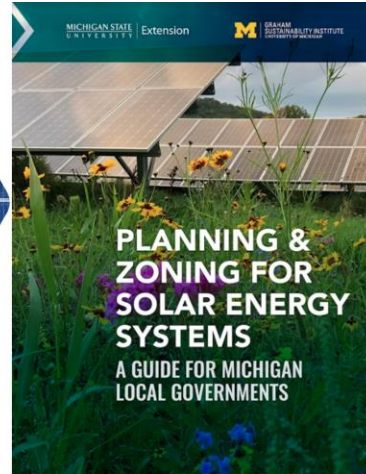
# The Power of Partnerships for Solar Ready Communities: A New Guidebook for Local Governments

NACDEP New Year  
January 12, 2023

**Brad Neumann**  
Senior Extension Educator  
Michigan State University



# 2022 NACDEP Awards



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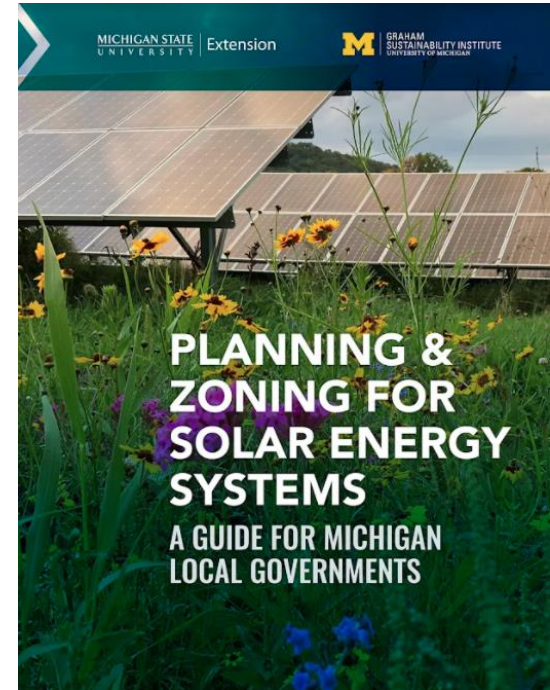
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Funding: Michigan Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, & Energy

[extension.msu.edu/solarzoning](https://extension.msu.edu/solarzoning)



## A. Project Background



# Community Needs

- Shift in the utility sector from centralized power generation to distributed principal use and accessory solar energy systems
  - Michigan communities need to plan renewable energy development within their jurisdictions
  - Fewer than 20% of Michigan communities have zoning regulations in place to address all scales of SES
    - Source: Michigan Office of Climate and Energy. (2019). Michigan Zoning Database. Available at [https://www.michigan.gov/climateandenergy/0,4580,7-364-85453\\_85458-519951--,.00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/climateandenergy/0,4580,7-364-85453_85458-519951--,.00.html)



Credit: Bradley Neumann

# Project Objectives

- The purpose is to help Michigan communities meet the challenges of becoming solar ready by addressing SES within their planning policies and zoning regulations
- Reviewed by content experts from:
  - Local units of government, legal counsel, energy-related no-profits, and members of academia



Credit: Bradley Neumann

## B. Overview of the Guidebook



# Planning & Zoning for Solar Guidebook

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# Solar in the Landscape: Using the Rural-to-Urban Transect



Source: DPZ CoDesign; modified by MSU

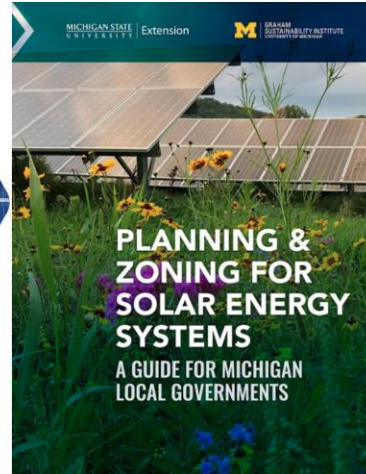
# Solar is Scalable Across all Landscapes

Solar Energy System Type	Natural	Rural	Urban	General Urban
Accessory Roof Mounted				
Accessory Ground Mounted				
Principal Use (Small)				
Principal Use (Large)				

# SES Scale, Type as applied to Example Zoning Districts

Example Zoning District:	Resource Production / Agricultural	Low-Density Residential	Commercial / Office	Industrial	Medium-Density Residential	Mixed Use
Roof-Mounted	P	P	P	P	P	P
Accessory Ground-Mounted	P	P	P	P	P	P
Principal Use (Small)	SPR	SLU	SPR	SPR	SLU	SPR
Principal Use (Large)	SLU	X	SLU	SLU	X	X

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