TOOL C:
SAMPLE PLANNING LANGUAGE

The character of planning documents varies among jurisdictions. The text below provides local governments with sample language that each jurisdiction can tailor to suit local needs. Additional language can also be drawn from the main body of this text (see Introduction). Please consult your local legal counsel for advice on the appropriateness and applicability to your jurisdiction's Master Plan.

SAMPLE REASONING AND BACKGROUND LANGUAGE

1 Secure Energy Supply:
A solar-electric infrastructure helps protect the power supply during brownouts, blackouts, power interruptions and price fluxuations.

2 Stimulate Jobs and Industries:
Support for and adoption of solar infrastructure will create economic opportunities for Michigan-based manufacturers and suppliers.

3 Save Our Fresh Water Resources:
In contrast to other forms of energy, solar installations use no water in the generation of clean, renewable electricity.

4 Reduce Operating and Maintenance Costs: Many rooftop solar-electric installations actually act to insulate the building below. In addition, large photovoltaic installations can shade and protect a rooftop from damaging ultraviolet radiation, slowing the need for rooftop maintenance or replacement.

5 Reduce Emissions: Solar energy does not contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and will help reduce emissions by replacing polluting sources of power.

SAMPLE GOAL LANGUAGE

1 Demonstrate Leadership in Public Buildings by holding building public facilities to a higher energy efficient standard and by using on-site renewable energy in new buildings and facilities where technically and economically practical.

2 Protect Unobstructed Sunlight in planning and development processes to promote the use of solar energy.

3 Work with Developers to consider renewable energy resources in the layout and construction of new development.

4 Provide Information and Education to help property owners easily navigate permitting processes as they relate to solar.

5 Update Regulations to help support solar adoption and keep current with technologies.

6 Share Information to help other local governments interested in supporting solar successfully prepare for future demand.

7 Become a Solar Ready Community to send the message to developers, homeowners, and businesses that they can rely on us to help them through a successful, cost-effective installation process.