

Northwest Philadelphia Solar Coop

We invite you to join a neighborhood solar energy coop that is being formed in Northwest Philadelphia. Our coop is open to all individuals, businesses and neighborhood institutions. We will use our power as a coop to involve ever-greater numbers of Philadelphians in solarizing.

How will the Northwest Philly Solar Coop be structured?

Individuals can become members for \$25. Institutions and businesses can join for \$100. Membership fees will be used to promote the initiative and to educate neighbors about solar energy.

Membership in the co-op will enable building owners in northwest Philadelphia to negotiate a lower price for solar installation as a group than if they had done so individually.

Members of the co-op whose buildings qualify for solar panels can begin to form buyer groups in the summer of 2016, with installation to occur by Fall, 2016. Our goal is to solarize 30 homes.

How do I know if I can install solar?

Solar PV (Photo-Voltaic) panels work most efficiently on a south-facing or flat roof that is relatively new and in good repair and has little to no shade. Other technologies may be available, such as ground installation. The solar installation company hired by the group will conduct an on-site inspection to verify that installation is practical.

What else will the Solar Coop do?

Even if you are not a candidate for solarizing, we invite you to join and support our coop's broader goals. We will advocate for changes in Pennsylvania regulations that will allow us eventually to become an energy-producing and energy-sharing coop, committed to renewable sources. Members will also be invited to invest some of their energy savings in a fund to enable people with low incomes to solarize.

What are the advantages to joining the Solar Coop?

- Solar power saves a substantial amount of money in electric bills over time. Estimates range from 10 – 30%, depending on how much sun your property gets.
- Use of solar energy will decrease emission of CO2 into the Earth's atmosphere, help put a brake on the climate crisis and reduce public health threats, such as asthma.
- Our coop will promote the ethical, moral, and religious standards for protecting the environment that we value.
- Increased use of solar power will reduce the market and political power of the fossil fuel and nuclear industry, while increasing the market and political power of the solar industry and creating new green jobs in neighborhoods with few jobs.
- We will create a political base rooted in our community to support changes in local, state, and national energy policy, which aim toward justice for people and the planet.

Who organized The Northwest Solar Coop?

Three organizations have banded together to initiate this project: The New Economy Incubator Committee of Weavers Way, the Philadelphia chapter of PA Interfaith Power and Light and The Shalom Center.

For more information, please contact: Barbara Bloomfield (215) 247-9204 or barbbloomfield2@aol.com.

