



I own a house. How do I go solar?

1. Fill out the brief site assessment form on our website. This will tell you if your property is a good fit for a solar system.
 - a. If you rent or your property is not a good fit, you can still go solar! We're working to pass Community Solar Legislation in DC that would allow anyone to go solar. Email solarcoop@yahoo.com to get involved.
2. If your site is a good fit for solar, contact local installers to solicit bids.
 - a. The District Department of the Environment provides a list of local installers at:
http://rrc.dc.gov/green/lib/green/pdfs/Contractors_and_Installers_02.10.pdf.
 - b. We recommend you get at least three different bids from installers. This will help you better understand your needs and what you're looking for in an installer.
3. Once you have three bids, compare your options.
 - a. If you have questions about your bids, we can meet with you and help you compare each bid. We have lots of experience helping people go solar in DC and understand how solar contracts work. (We're also a 100% volunteer organization that's not affiliated with any local installers, so we can make sure you get a deal that works for you.)
4. Select a solar installer.
 - a. Once you've selected a solar installer, contact them and let them know you'd like to move forward. They'll have you sign a final contract and schedule an installation date. If you have any questions about the contract, don't hesitate to contact the coop!
 - b. When you're signing your final contract, make sure to tell your installer you're a member of DC SUN or a neighborhood solar coop. Many installers will make a donation to DC SUN's Community EmPOWERment Fund if their customers are affiliated with DC SUN or a neighborhood coop. This money funds grants to help community groups and nonprofits go solar.
5. Have your system installed.
 - a. Your contractor will install your system, usually in about two days.
 - b. They should handle all rebate applications, permits with the city, and contacting Pepco to interconnect your system to the grid.
6. Arrange to sell your system's SRECs.
 - a. SRECS are Solar Renewable Energy Credits that are produced by your solar system. You can either sell your system's SRECs yourself or arrange for your installer to do so. More information about SRECs and how to sell them is located on our DC SUN website.
7. Have a party to celebrate your new solar system!
 - a. At the party you should show everyone your new, lower electricity bills and tell them about DC SUN!



How can I help a nonprofit, a small business, or my church go solar?

1. Nominate your organization for a grant from DC SUN's Community EmPOWERment Fund at <http://tiny.cc/bczbo>.
 - a. The Community EmPOWERment Fund is currently providing grants for solar projects for non-profits, faith organizations, and other community groups. Our goal is to help organizations reduce their electricity bills and channel more resources to mission-based activities.
2. We will contact you and arrange a time to meet. During the meeting we'll explain the process for going solar and how the financials work.
 - a. We'll also perform a brief pre-assessment of your site to make sure it is a good fit for a solar panel.
3. If your site is a good candidate for solar, we'll help you solicit three bids from local installers.
 - a. District Department of the Environment provides a list of local installers at:
http://rrc.dc.gov/green/lib/green/pdfs/Contractors_and_Installers_02.10.pdf
 - b. We recommend you get at least three different bids from installers. This will help you better understand your needs and what you're looking for in an installer.
4. Once you've received three bids, we'll meet with you and help review each bid to select a contractor. We'll also work with you to determine if support from the Community EmPOWERment Fund is needed to make the project financially viable for your organization.
 - a. If funding is needed, we'll help you complete a formal grant request that will be reviewed by the Community EmPOWERment Funding Committee. We'll also help you initiate any fundraising or other efforts to make the project happen.
5. Once financing plans have been finalized, you'll sign a contract with your solar installer and they will begin installation.
6. We'll work with you to publicize your new solar system and the benefits you've reaped by going solar.
7. Have a party to celebrate your new solar system!
 - a. At the party you show everyone your new, lower electricity bills and tell them about DC SUN!