

# MT . PLEASANT SOLAR COOP

## Mt. Pleasant is going solar. You can too...in 8 easy steps!

**STEP 1: Become a member of the Mt. Pleasant Solar Cooperative.** Send your address, phone, and email to Cindy Fox: at [INFOonSolarCoop@yahoo.com](mailto:INFOonSolarCoop@yahoo.com) and we will put you on our mailing list. It's free!



installation on your home.

**STEP 2: Read our website.** <http://www.mtpleasantsolarcoop.org>. You will learn about dozens of your neighbors who have already gone solar. Join our list serve at [solarcoop@yahogroups.com](mailto:solarcoop@yahogroups.com) to keep up with the latest developments. You should look at the DC Department of Energy website <http://green.dc.gov/green/cwp/view,a,1244,q,461562.asp> to learn about the city's generous rebate for going solar and regulations governing solar

**Step 3: Educate yourself about solar technology.** Learn why solar technology is a sound investment in your home—and the planet. Learn what Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) are and how they can put money in your pocket. Meet with members who have gone solar. Go see their installations. Contact us for information on members willing to show and discuss their solar systems.

**Step 4: Attend a Mt. Pleasant Solar Coop workshop.** Mt Pleasant Solar Coop can put you in contact with Sam Robfogel to participate in a Coop workshop. He will answer your questions about the DC rebate program, about RECs, and how and why solar is now affordable.

**Step 5: Complete the 2010 DC rebate pre-application form online as soon as possible.** It is available at <http://green.dc.gov/green/cwp/view,a,1244,q,461667.asp>. This will ensure you get on the waiting list for the 2010 DC solar rebate. It is worth thousands of dollars. Write in Mt Pleasant Solar Coop as your installer. Fill out the size of the system as **4kw** (or 4 Kilowatts). You probably will not need that much solar power, but you can reduce it later. Send an email to Cindy Fox at [INFOonSolarCoop@yahoo.com](mailto:INFOonSolarCoop@yahoo.com) telling her the date you submitted your Pre-application form.

**Step 6: Get three estimates for your solar installation.** A list of contractors is on our website. You can talk to members and get their recommendations. Read our members page about the right installation for your roof. Some installers offer discounts for MTP Coop members. Ask them about these savings.

**Step 7: Select an installer and sign a contract.** The installer will guide you through the rebate application process, and the permit process. Make sure the installer is taking responsibility for all communications with DDOE, DCRA, and Pepco as part of the contract.

**Step 8: Keep Mt. Pleasant Solar Coop informed about each step in the process.** We can provide timely advice about common pitfalls and potential problems. Let us know when your pre-application is approved. Let us know when you are choosing a contractor. Let us know when installation is completed. Let us know when your system is connected by Pepco. We will use this information to help you- we will be tracking progress from the DC Energy office, with installers, with Pepco etc. and we can help make sure that the process is smooth and effective.

**ENJOY YOUR NEW SOLAR SYSTEM!**

## FINANCIAL ESTIMATES FOR MT. PLEASANT SOLAR PROJECT

### September 2009

The numbers presented in the table below are projections only and are intended to demonstrate the potential positive returns of investing in a rooftop solar system. They represent the best estimates of the Mt. Pleasant Solar Co-op given current information. The values shown are subject to change, and in all likelihood will change. The values are in no way guaranteed.

<b>Cost to install 3.0 kW system</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>\$27,000</b>
<b>LESS DC incentive grant (\$3,000/kW)</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>-\$9,000</b>
<b>Total to be financed or paid in cash at installation</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>
<b>Savings and Credits</b>	
<i>One time</i>	
Federal tax credit (30% of system cost) <sup>3</sup>	\$8,100
<i>Annual</i>	
Energy savings – increases as energy costs increase <sup>4</sup>	\$400-\$1,000+ / year
Sale of Renewable Energy Credit <sup>5</sup>	\$1,000 / year
<i>Lifetime</i>	
30-year energy savings, assuming ~7% annual increase	\$30,000+
<b><i>Inspiring change for sustainable energy...</i></b>	<b><i>PRICELESS</i></b>

#### Financing option: 15-year mortgage at 7% for \$18,000

Monthly principal and interest payment	\$162
Annual principal and interest payments	\$1,941

*Talk with your financial and tax professionals about possible closing costs on a mortgage loan as well as potential tax savings.*

<sup>1</sup> Actual cost will depend on specific system; some homes require roof work prior to installation.

<sup>2</sup> DC Incentive plan provides cash to homeowner prior to payment to installer.

<sup>3</sup> Tax savings/credits estimates should be discussed with your individual tax advisor. Federal Tax credit would be sought when filing tax returns for the year of the installation: for installation in 2009, tax credit would not be received until 2009 return is filed in 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Energy savings are based on current Pepco rates, and 7.17% annual increases. The previous 17-year average annual increase has been 3%, while over the previous 5-years the average annual increase has been 13%. If the Pepco rate increases are less than 7% estimate, then energy cost savings will be less; if rates rise more than 7%, then energy cost savings will be greater.

<sup>5</sup> Rate for *first* 5 years locked; additional years to be negotiated.