



NEWS RELEASE

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Let the sunshine in – and save yourself some money

Town of Vienna residents and business owners interested in utilizing clean energy and saving money on monthly utility bills are invited to an informational meeting about solar energy at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, at Town Hall, 127 Center Street S. The meeting is hosted by the Town's Conservation and Sustainability Commission (CSC) as part of the Solarize NOVA program.

Solarize NOVA, a cooperative partnership between the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Local Energy Alliance Program, Town of Vienna, and other area localities, provides vetted contractors and pre-negotiated contract terms and prices to those interested in solar energy, leveraging the power of group purchasing to provide great prices, says CSC Chairperson Susan Stillman.

According to the program's website, since 2014, Solarize NOVA has facilitated installation of 263 solar energy systems, saving 1,969 tons of carbon dioxide from being emitted and 1,954,180 pounds of coal from being burned.

In addition to helping to preserve the environment, "generating your own energy is a hedge against future increases in the cost of electricity provided by utilities," Stillman says.

Solar energy system prices have dropped in recent years, and those who install solar are eligible for a federal tax credit as well as a Fairfax County real estate tax exemption for five years. Also, Virginia residents can "net meter" excess energy generated by solar systems, receiving a credit at full retail rate that can be utilized during times when the sun isn't shining.

The Solarize informational meeting is free and open to the public.

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