

Renewable Energy in the Community

How a Green Team can drive demand for
clean, renewable energy sources

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ENVIRONMENTAL
FINANCE CENTER



Presenter

Armando Gaetaniello

Director of Strategy

Neighborhood Sun Benefit Corp

<https://neighborhoodsun.solar/>



Agenda

- Why is Renewable Energy in the Community Important?
- Taking Action/Getting Started/Getting It Done
- Submission Requirements
- Community Spotlight
- Resources and Tools



Why is Renewable Energy in the Community Important?

- Securing a clean energy future is vital to fight against climate change. Municipalities play a huge role in driving policies and market changes.
- Adoption of renewables provides environmental gains and economic savings for the communities participating.
- Some of the co-benefits: catalyzing renewable energy investments, increasing tax revenues, providing new job opportunities.
- Green Teams are a trusted source to disseminate accurate information in the community.



Taking Action/Getting Started/Getting It Done

- How do you complete this Action?

- 1- Familiarize with all the ways that residents can support or utilize renewable energy as their power source.

Facilitating a solar co-op, looking for community solar options, or looking for clean energy suppliers.

- 2- Weigh all the advantages and disadvantages of each options.

Finding roofs suitable to installation. Economic offers, terms, and commitment can all be different.

- 3- Plan for outreach on renewable energy adoption.

Contacting non-profits and businesses offering these options, organizing community events, educating about pros and cons.

- 4- Keep track of efforts and the results.



Taking Action/Getting Started/Getting It Done

- Who should be involved?
 - The Green Teams, the dept. dealing with permitting (for rooftop solar), a point person to facilitate the solar coop, a point person to coordinate the outreach/education efforts.
- Are there any typical challenges or pitfalls that should be considered?
 - There are potentially many challenges, depending on the route taken.
 - Signing up with a wind supplier is easier and involves less commitment.
 - Greater and more long term impact by installing solar or supporting a local community solar project. Supply is limited though.
 - Above all, people need to know what they're getting into.



Taking Action/Getting Started/Getting It Done

Some questions to consider when evaluating what can be promoted:

For Solar Co-ops / rooftop solar:

- How is the solar deal structured? Loan, PPA, cash purchase? Savings vs. ROI
- Home improvements / modifications required?
- Long term commitment
- Household eligibility (sunny roof, financials, etc.)

For Community Solar:

- Project availability in your utility territory
- Guaranteed discount (or not), guarantee length
- Broader household eligibility (but may have FICO score and/or LMI capacity)
- Terms, cancelation, renewals



Taking Action/Getting Started/Getting It Done

Some questions to consider when evaluating what can be promoted:

For Wind energy Suppliers:

- Regional wind energy supply (PJM) vs. national
 - Compare rates – usually no or little economic savings
 - Any ratepayer can do this, no eligibility
 - What happens after contract expires?
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- A mix and match of all these options is likely the most impactful as ratepayers can choose what works for them.



Submission Requirements

- TBD..... Stay tuned!
- *Quantify/describe/document the outreach done?*
- *Quantify/document the # households adopting renewable energy?*



Community Spotlight

Solar United Neighbors has coordinated coops in:

- Rockville, Takoma Park, Poolesville, Gaithersburg, Bowie
Chestertown, Frederick, Frostburg
- 600+ households went solar!

Neighborhood Sun has worked with

- Mount Rainier and Bowie Green Teams - community events
featuring renewable energy options
- Dozens of households chose community solar



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Resources and Tools

Solar coops / rooftop solar

- <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/co-ops/>
- <https://www.energysage.com/market-intro/>

Community solar

- <https://www.psc.state.md.us/electricity/community-solar-pilot-program/>
- <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/learn-the-issues/community-solar/>
- <https://chesapeakeclimate.org/maryland/community-solar-for-everyone/>



Resources and Tools

Wind energy suppliers

- <https://www.psc.state.md.us/electricchoice/green-options/>
- <https://electricityrates.com/>
- <https://www.mdelectricchoice.com/>

Grants/Funding

- <https://energy.maryland.gov/govt/Pages/incentives.aspx>
- <https://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program/md>
- [https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/Pages/CommunitySolarLMI-PPA.aspx#:~:text=The%20Maryland%20Energy%20Administration%20\(MEA,Moderate%20Income%20\(LMI\)%20community](https://energy.maryland.gov/residential/Pages/CommunitySolarLMI-PPA.aspx#:~:text=The%20Maryland%20Energy%20Administration%20(MEA,Moderate%20Income%20(LMI)%20community)



Questions?

Armando Gaetaniello

armando@neighborhoodsun.solar

301-256-5948

