Supporting communities to go solar together and fight for their energy rights
Overview

• About Solar United Neighbors
• Solar co-ops
• Community Solar pilot
• Sun Patch program
• Advocacy
We’re a community of people building a new energy system with rooftop solar at the cornerstone.
How We Got Started

Started in 2007 and it wasn’t easy!

Mount Pleasant Solar Cooperative
Solar United Neighbors today

- Arizona
- Colorado
- D.C.
- Florida
- Indiana
- Maryland
- Minnesota
- New Jersey
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Texas
- Virginia
- West Virginia
We help people go solar, join together, and fight for their energy rights.

**TX IMPACT**

- **6** Co-ops across and growing!
- **500** People educated
- **255 kW** installed by our members
- **1/3** Hear from a partner org
- **$653K+** invested in economy
- **8 M** lbs carbon offset
Why people (and businesses) go solar

Regardless of reason for deployment, Solar United Neighbors can help with how to go solar.
Resources for solar owners & advocates

- Guides for people who want to go solar or have already installed a system
- Solar Help Desk
- Listserv
Two of the ways we help people go solar

Co-op Membership
• Group process
• 50 – 100 neighbors
• 6 - 8 month process
• Group selects single installer
• Bulk negotiation for best pricing
• Sign individual contract
• Free 1-year membership!

Individual Membership
• Individual process
• Get help reviewing up to 3 proposals
• Negotiate your own deal
• Faster timeline
• Ongoing advice & assistance (post install)
• $85 annual membership
Deeper Dive: Solar Co-ops
What’s a solar co-op?

- Group of neighbors go solar together
- Group selects single solar company to install for group
- Leverage power of bulk purchasing to get a discount on a quality system
- Get support from Solar United Neighbors throughout the process
Co-op process

1. LEARN about the co-op
   Attend an info session, visit our website

2. SIGN UP online to participate in the co-op
   There is a sign-up deadline usually in month 5 or 6

3. GROW THE CO-OP tell your friends and neighbors!

4. SELECT an installer once co-op reaches 30 members
   Solar United Neighbors:
   • Issues a competitive RFP on behalf of the co-op – open to all installers!
   • Review bids, call references and check licensing, equipment and warranties

5. SIGN UP DEADLINE
   Last chance to join the co-op

6. SCHEDULE
   Installer site visit, receive customized proposal based on co-op pricing

7. SIGN A CONTRACT with the installer

8. INSTALL solar system

9. PARTY!
   Meet your fellow solar neighbors and celebrate your successes
How are co-ops formed?

- We partner with non-profits, community groups, and other entities to organize co-ops.
- Solar United Neighbors facilitates the co-op, local partners spread the word and recruit participants.
Partners
Additional Programs:

1. Community Solar Pilot
2. Sun Patch
3. Advocacy
Community Solar Pilot

- Collaboration with Sunnyside Energy LLC
- Redevelopment of a former landfill for a 2MW community solar array
- Learn more: solarunitedneighbors.org/sunnyside
Sun Patch Program

- Badge program for scouts to learn about solar energy
- 8 troops in TX and counting have earned their Sun Patches
Objectives:
1. Improve access to solar options
2. Remove undue barriers to going solar

We do this through:
1. Supporting community-led initiatives
2. Action alerts
3. Postcards
4. Policy development & advocacy
ACES + SUN National Solar Tour

EXPERIENCE SOLAR IN YOUR COMMUNITY

NATIONAL SOLAR TOUR

OCTOBER 5 & 6, 2019
AND THE SURROUNDING WEEKENDS

The National Solar Tour is the largest grassroots renewable energy event in the nation.
Let’s work together!

- Spread the word about open co-ops!
- Visit our website: www.solarunitedneighbors.org/Texas
- Join the listserv: https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/stay-informed/
- Partner for new co-ops
- Get in touch: TXteam@solarunitedneighbors.org
Thank You!

Hanna Mitchell, Program Director
Solar United Neighbors of Texas
Hmitchell@solarunitedneighbors.org