



TEXAS
SOLAR
ENERGY
— SOCIETY —

West Texas Chapter of TXSES 2023 Update



eco
EL PASO

SUSTAINABILITY

in the hot desert climate



www.EcoElPaso.org

About Us

Eco El Paso

Eco El Paso is a 501(c)3 nonprofit focused on sustainability in the hot-arid climate of El Paso and the surrounding region.

WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?

Sustainability is the ability to exist constantly and refers to the capacity for the biosphere and human civilization to coexist. Sustainable Development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It's the process of people maintaining change in a homeostasis balanced environment, in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development, and institutional change are all in harmony and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations. In short, it is defined through the following interconnected domains or pillars: environment, economic, and social.

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- The El Paso Climate Charter is city charter amendment that would shift local policy through a city charter amendment to pursue climate goals and sustainability.
- Language within the amendment would establish a Climate Dept. with a Climate Director and supporting staff to develop policies to achieve clean energy, clean air and clean water locally within the City of El Paso's municipality.



proudly endorses



(coming MAY 2023)

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Learn more &
support:
ggtx.org/elpaso



Solar Energy

Solar Energy

Eco El Paso supports the use of solar energy in all facets of our lives: Residential, Commercial, Industrial, City Facilities, and Schools. Higher energy bills, power outages, and air pollution are all problems we would like to avoid. Investing in solar power is a great choice for homeowners and business-owners that want to do their part in providing a solution to these climate change-related issues, while providing high paying jobs to our region.

Solar cells are made of semiconductive materials that are specially treated so that the sun's rays help create a flow of electrons, which can be used to power your home. A photovoltaic cell is a specially treated wafer of silicon, sandwiched between two thin contact plates. The top contact is positively charged and the back contact is negatively charged, making it a semiconductor.

Solar panels harness energy from the sun. The sun sends photons toward earth and they collide with the silicon in your solar cells. Photons excite the electrons in the silicon and creates electricity. Solar panels use conductive wiring built into each solar cell so it can collect those excited electrons and move them like a highway of electricity. Each solar cell connects to make up a solar panel. Each solar panel connects to the next panel and as you build up more and more electrons, you send that electricity through the wiring in the system, acting like an electricity highway and that goes directly into your homes breaker box to use in your home as needed or pushes it back to the grid if you have excess solar power giving you a credit on your bill, typically used up at night when there is no solar power.



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Local Solar Education

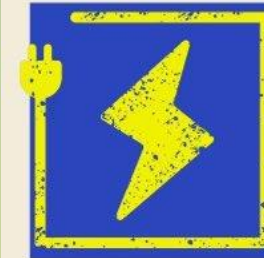
Eco El Paso in June 2022 launched a local solar education summer camp that was geared towards El Paso youth.

This program was increasing popular and the limited spaces in the classes filled quickly.

In 2023, this effort will continue with a wider year around availability to allow all interested youth to learn more about solar as a renewable energy source and the benefits of the technology.



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SUMMER CAMP

**GRADES
6th-8th**



**JUNE
27-29
10 AM-1 PM**

EXPLORING SOLAR ENERGY

Riverside Middle School
7615 Mimosa El Paso TX 79915



SCAN ME

The background image shows a large array of blue solar panels installed on a flat roof. In the background, a cityscape with various buildings and hills is visible under a clear sky. The text 'Nonprofit Solar Giveaway Program' is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, bold, sans-serif font with a black outline.

Nonprofit Solar Giveaway Program

fronterasolar.ecoelpaso.org

Frontera Solar Energy Program



Eco El Paso is proud to present our **Frontera Solar Energy Program!**

Our Frontera Solar Energy Program will focus on giving away FREE solar energy systems to nonprofits in need across the El Paso Region. Later we will expand this program to residential and commercial customers but it will be focused on local nonprofits as a starting point. We will provide the funding to install free solar energy systems, which will assist nonprofits so they can apply those monthly savings toward their core mission and projects. Solar energy starts to save you money on your electricity bills on day one!

NONPROFIT SOLAR ENERGY GIVEAWAY PROGRAM

Our focus at first will be to work with local nonprofits in need within the El Paso region that own their building / property. These solar energy systems will save the nonprofits money on their electric bill for decades to come so they can put that money towards their core operations and mission focus. Nonprofits do so much great work in our region by serving others, and this is our chance to serve them and give back clean sustainable energy for their local operations.

Although going solar is easier than ever for residential and commercial customers with numerous financing options available nationwide, nonprofits tend to have a harder time finding financing options for solar, raising the money to buy solar, and usually can't take advantage of the Federal Tax Credit for solar energy customers.

Eco El Paso wants to help our local nonprofits GO GREEN! We will raise the money, partner with local solar installation companies to provide the labor and labor warranty, work with manufacturers and distributors on product donations for the system, and we'll get the system fully installed, inspected, and turned on so you can start producing your own clean electricity for your nonprofit.



Pathways to Clean Energy Careers

Finding a Clean Energy Job in the El Paso Area

PATHWAYS TO CLEAN ENERGY CAREERS

Eco El Paso is tackling the industry's diversity challenge head-on by launching a structured internship matching program to place women and students of color at solar and other clean energy companies.

Through our grant-funded program, Eco El Paso will recruit clean energy companies to engage to hire and mentor paid interns and students interested in accessing jobs in the solar and clean energy fields.

The goal of Eco El Paso's Pathways to Clean Energy Careers program is to help facilitate avenues for underrepresented students into Texas' clean energy sector and to develop a set of best practices for clean energy companies that want to improve diversity and inclusivity in their recruitment, hiring, and retention of staff.

Careers in clean energy involve much more than project construction. These businesses employ individuals in sales, marketing, finance, administration, design, engineering, and other areas. With the Pathways program, Eco El Paso will expose students from diverse backgrounds to a wide array of sustainability-focused job opportunities. These internships will provide students with access to jobs that pay at least a living wage and provide ample opportunity for advancement and professional mentorship. In the end, the Pathways program will foster more resilient and diverse organizations, as well as a more inclusive green jobs ecosystem.



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El Paso Solar Co-Op

120 participants



**28 solar systems
installed**



JOIN THE SOLAR CO-OP



Join us to learn more!



El Paso Solar Co-Op

- About 300 attended community info sessions
- 3 earned media stories





MEMBERSHIP

Eco El Paso is a volunteer based local 501(c)3 non-profit of El Paso, TX that operates on membership from supporters and fellow volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a member please explore how you can further enable our efforts.

Visit: membership.ecoelpaso.org to learn how you or you organization can become a member.

DONATE





**Visit Eco El Paso's website:
ecoelpaso.org**

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