

Cut Your Electricity Bill With Clean Energy

Grassroots Program Makes Rooftop Solar Power Cheaper and Easier Than Ever

Climate and energy nonprofit NC WARN, in collaboration with two local, family-owned solar installation companies, used the popular **Solarize** model to help at least 80 North Carolina homeowners add solar power to their rooftops in 2014.



Solarize programs help build the entire local solar industry, creating good jobs, reducing utility bills and replacing climate-damaging fossil fuels. They help all customers by undercutting Duke Energy's case for continually raising rates to build giant power plants.

The 3-month registration period in Durham attracted 380 homeowners, who were offered free assessments by the installer, Yes! Solar Solutions of Cary. Of these, 33 households installed a total of 161 kilowatts of solar – an amount that will generate the energy equivalent of 88 tons of coal every year.

In Chatham County, Yes was joined by Southern Energy Management of Morrisville. The two companies fielded 460 requests for free assessments. By the time this flyer was printed, 47 Chatham families had signed contracts to install a whopping 270 kilowatts of solar.

NC WARN is not the only North Carolina organization using the **Solarize** model, which was pioneered in Portland, Oregon in 2009. Other groups have offered **Solarize** programs in Asheville, Charlotte, Orange County and Raleigh. Collectively, we have added over a megawatt of clean energy to the North Carolina mix. In 2015, we expect to team up with a stellar group of partners to continue Solarizing the state. Check our website for opportunities in your area.

For more information:

www.solarize-nc.org

info@solarize-nc.org

How it Works

Solarize helps customers generate most of their own electricity. Power bill savings start the day the system is installed, locking in low-cost clean energy for 25 years or more. The Solarize model is endorsed by the U.S. Department of Energy and the N.C. Solar Center. **The first step is a free home assessment** to determine if your house is suitable for solar. If it is, you will receive a proposal tailored to your needs.

Through bulk purchasing and neighbor-to-neighbor outreach, **Solarize cuts pricing by up to 24%** from solar prices that have already fallen 80% in recent years. Since organizations like NC WARN and their volunteers are doing the marketing, the installers can afford to discount their regular pricing, and the Solarize price keeps dropping as more people make the decision to go solar.

The Solarize program makes solar easier by pre-selecting the installers and by offering a website and **free public information sessions** to educate the community about solar tax credits, utility incentives, and financing options. All this makes solar accessible and affordable for a wider range of homeowners than ever before.

Since NC WARN strongly believes that solar energy is for everyone, we are also working on models that would put rooftop solar within reach of low- and fixed-income homeowners and renters.

Pricing Example

Everyone's situation is different and Solarize prices are negotiated individually for each area. But here's a pricing example for a moderate-sized system in one of the NC WARN Solarize programs:

if your system is	the average market price would be	Solarize price	approximate cost after Federal & NC tax credits
4 kilowatts	\$19,000	\$16,080	\$6,866

The Solarize price drops as much as 10% as more people participate!

Ask your tax advisor to make sure you can use the tax credits. Need financing? See our website for options: solarize-nc.org.

About NC WARN

Now in its 26th year, member-supported NC WARN has a successful track record and a strong team of staff, lawyers, volunteers and nonprofit allies.

Our mission urgency is to induce Charlotte-based Duke Energy – now the world's largest corporate utility – to make a strong shift to clean, affordable energy in order to help avert climate tipping points and ongoing rate hikes.



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