

# HIGHLAND PARK OVERLEE KNOLLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION WINTER GENERAL MEETING

25 FEBRUARY 2023, WESTOVER LIBRARY (and zoom)

## Agenda

**Guest Speakers:** HPOK neighbors Chris Palo, Mitch Wallin, Susie Wallin, Rudy Barnes, and Kelly Barnes share their experiences with residential solar panels.

1:30 - 1:50    Presentation  
1:50 - 2:10    Q&A

## Business:

2:10 - 2:15    Treasury, Proposed civfed resolution, Water main cleaning, Stormwater vault, Greater Westover celebration

2:15 - 2:30    Arlington Neighborhood's program (ANC Rep Cliff McCreedy)



# Ask your neighbors about solar

Susan Wallin, Mitchell Wallin, Kelly Barnes, Rudy Barnes, and Chris Palo

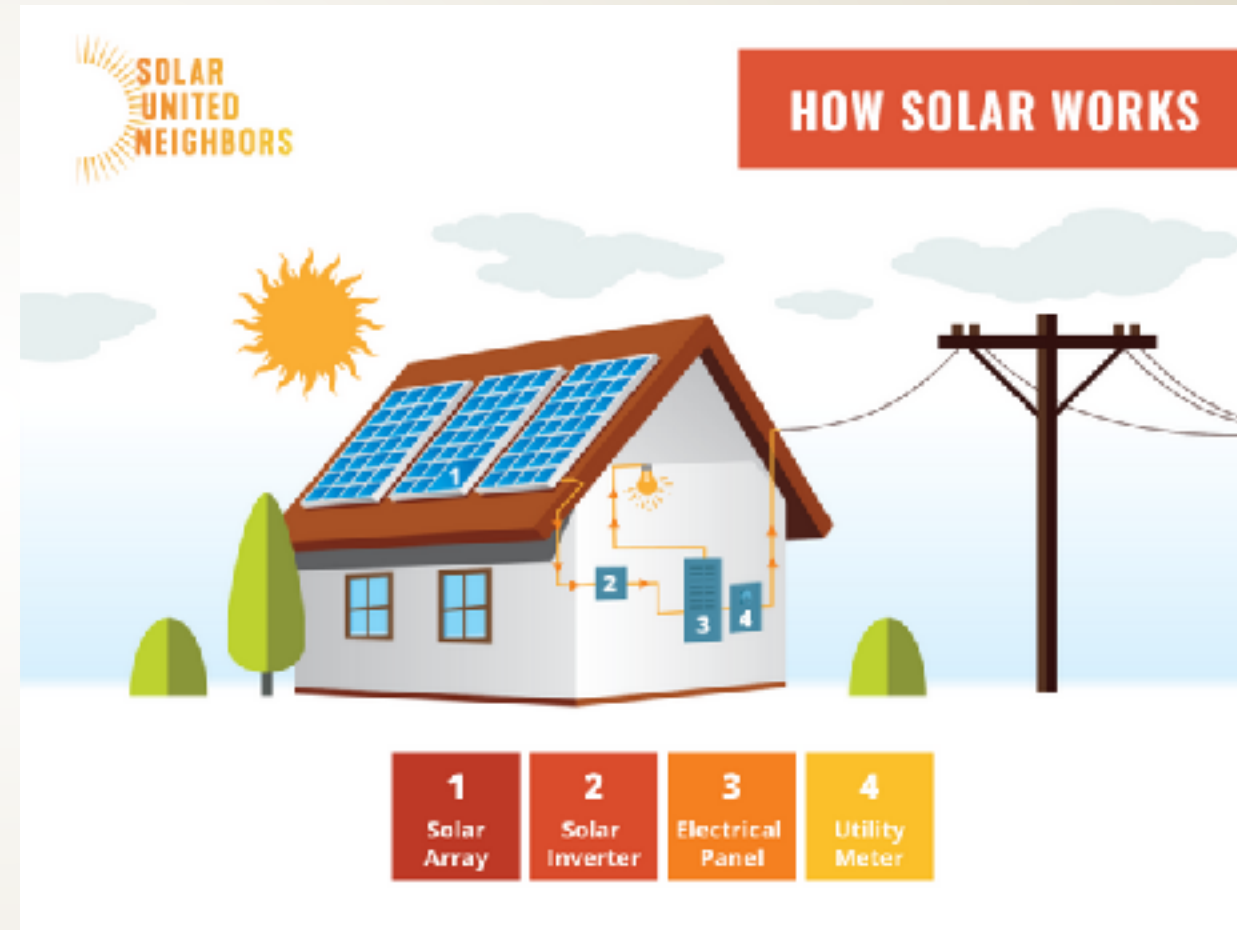


# Going solar

How it works, pros and cons, and purchasing the system

# How solar works

- Solar panels convert the sun's rays to energy
- This energy can be used to power appliances within the home, stored in a battery, or sold back to the utility company
- Once installed solar panels typically last 25 years



Source: <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/go-solar/faqs/>



# Pros and cons of solar

## Pros

- Decreases use of non-renewable resources
- Reduces power bill
- Energy independence
- Increases property value
- Long-term savings
- Low-maintenance
- Benefits the community
- Diverse Uses
- Power prices are rising
- Tech is improving and prices are decreasing

## Cons

- High upfront costs
- Sunlight dependent
- Space constraints
- Environmental impact of manufacturing
- Difficulty with relocation
- Disposal/recycling options may be limited

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/home-improvement/solar/solar-tax-credit-extension-2023/>  
<https://www.ecowatch.com/solar/solar-panels-increase-home-value>



# Purchasing and tax benefits

- Purchase options include:
  - Full payment at time of purchase
  - Pay over a short period of time (1-3 years)
  - Long-term financing
- Solar Investment Tax Credit
  - With the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, the purchase of solar energy systems installed from 2022 through 2032 will receive a 30% tax credit
    - A tax credit is a one-for-one dollar amount reduction from income tax that you would have paid without the credit. Example: Your system costs **\$20,000 to install**. With the 30% tax credit you will owe **\$6,000 less** in income tax for the year, effectively lowering the system's total cost to **\$14,000**.

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/home-improvement/solar/solar-tax-credit-extension-2023/>



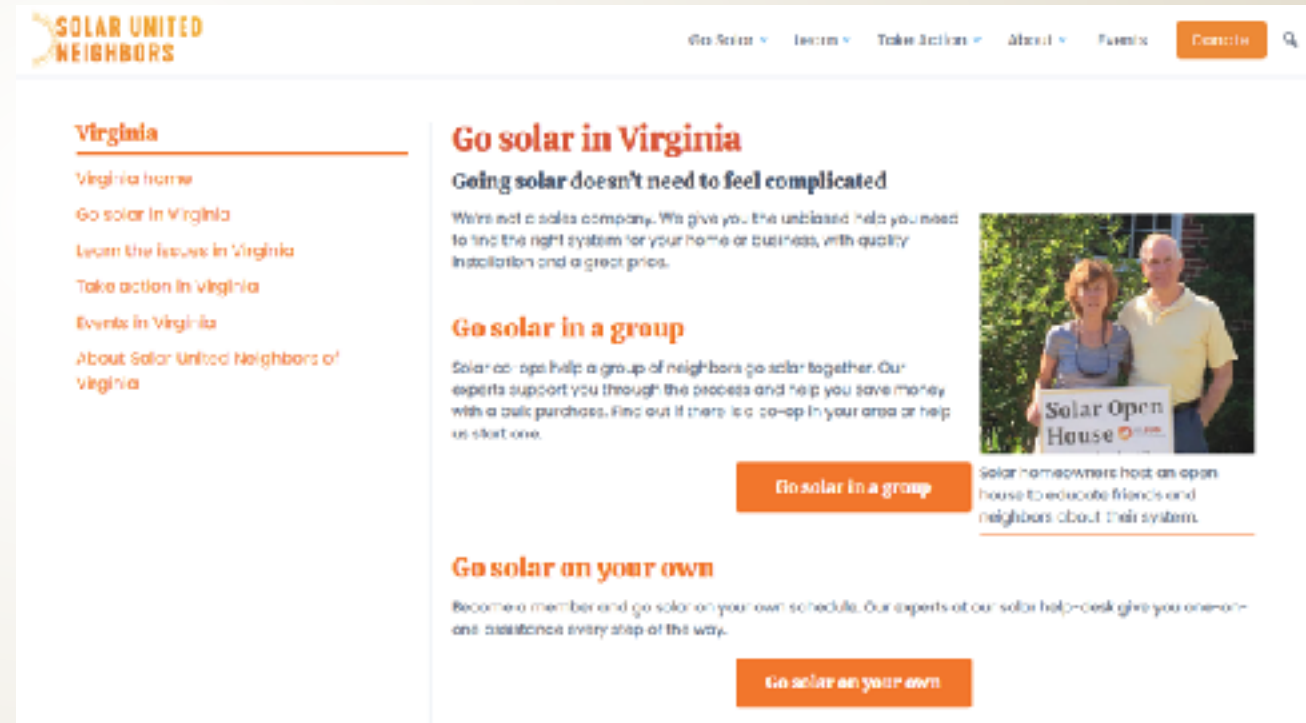
# Purchasing solar options

A co-op, on your own, and should I get a battery?



# Arlington co-op

- Solar United Neighbors has led an annual sign-up (typically in summer) with info sessions
- Includes options for solar panels, batteries, and EV chargers
- Co-op members select a vendor each year based on proposals and gain a volume discount
- For example, in 2021, over 322 signed up for the co-op



Source: <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/>





# Purchasing on your own

- Do your homework!
- There are many good companies who have been installing solar for years, but there are also new players and less reputable firms
- Consider the costs and compare apples to apples
- Ask a lot of questions
  - How long have you been in business?
  - Licensed and insured?
  - Secure all permits?
  - What is the warranty?
  - What is the wattage of the panel?
  - Is financing available, if so, what are the rates?

# Batteries and EV chargers

## ■ Batteries

- Store energy for emergencies, to sell back during peak times to the utility company, or to have peace of mind
- Can be purchased at the time of solar panel installation or added at a later date
- Typically last 10-12 years
- Eligible for a tax credit

## ■ EV chargers

- It may be cheaper to install at the same time as purchasing a battery or solar panels
- Can be purchased at the time of solar panel installation or added at a later date
- Eligible for a tax credit



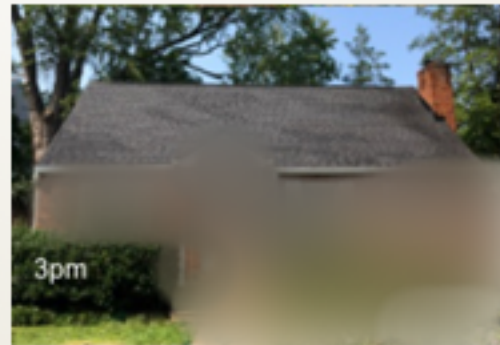
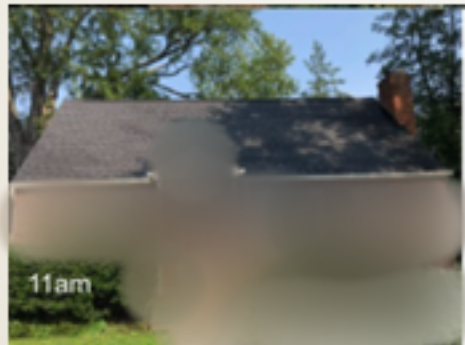
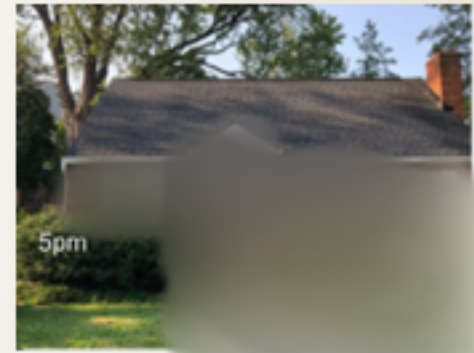


# The details

Power generation, return on investment, and other considerations

# Power generation can vary

- ▶ Power generation varies by hour, day, and season





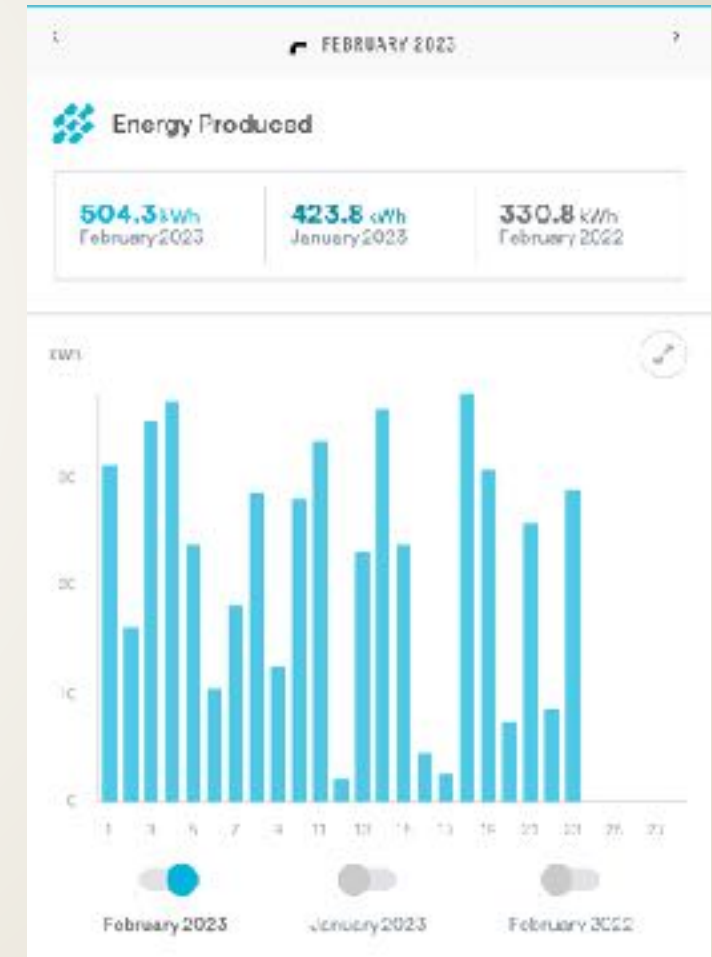
# How much power generation do you need?

- ▶ How much power generation do you need?
  - ▶ Based on tree cover, the type of roof and a variety of other factors, you may be limited on the number of panels
  - ▶ Do you want to cover a portion of your utility bill, your entire utility bill or more than your bill?
  - ▶ The more power generation the more panels needed and more upfront costs
  - ▶ How will your needs change over the coming years



# Gain a better understanding of your energy usage

- Once in place it is easy to use with little maintenance required
- Apps and software allow you to track your energy usage and energy produced





# Can I use solar during a grid outage?

- What happens when the power goes out?
  - When the power grid goes down, the solar panels automatically stop producing electricity. This is due to a safety feature to prevent injury to utility workers.
- To allow for your solar panels to continue to operate during a power outage, a battery storage option is one solution
  - Your solar electricity will be stored in the batteries and can be consumed by your home when the grid is down

Source: <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/go-solar/faqs/>





# Return on investment

- After tax credits, the average system takes six to 10 years to pay for itself through lower energy costs
- Energy payback
  - The amount of time it takes a solar panel to produce more energy than was used to produce it.
  - This time varies by panel and by technology, but generally it takes less than four years for a standard solar panel to generate more energy than was used in making it and they typically last 25 years

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/home-improvement/solar/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/>  
<https://www.solaruniteneighbors.org/go-solar/faqs/>



# Other things to consider

- Including solar panels may increase in the cost to home owner's insurance
- Possibility that you may need a new roof
  - Most reputable companies will ensure you have a relatively new roof before installing
- Where to place the panels
- Solar panels are built to withstand hurricane winds
- While solar panels can be moved, it can be expensive



Open Q&A

# Arlington Neighborhoods Program

## Project type & funding

### **Other or New CIP project types?**

- placemaking
- Art
- Biophilia

### **Explore new projects through an “Equity Lens”**

### **Short term & Temporary?**

- Street and intersection painting
- Pop up parks
- Community Building
- Neighborhood Activities or events
- Tactical Urbanism for transportation and safety

### **Grant funded projects**

- Mini grants – County funded
- Private organizations
- Federal Government



# Beautification

Walter Reed Community Center  
Sensory Garden  
Columbia Heights





# Environmental— Educational Signs

Dominion Hills

Ballston-Virginia Square





# Tactical Urbanism

New Haven, CT





# Bloomberg Philanthropies



## Asphalt Art Guide

How to Reclaim City Roadways  
and Public Infrastructure with Art



WHY COMMUNITY  
THIRD PLACES ARE

**IMPORTANT**

*Gathering place* other than  
home or work that provides  
respite from isolation  
(pandemic), sense of community,  
relaxation, village-like feeling,  
etc.

PLACE EQUITY

# THIRD PLACES

FLEXIBLE

EXPERIENCES

SENSE OF PLACE

MAIN STREET

FARMERS MARKETS

PARKS

INSTAGRAMMABLE MOMENTS

OUTDOOR PLAZAS

MIX OF USES

AUTHENTIC



# Placemaking

McCoy Park-North Highlands



HOW YOU MAKE

# THIRD PLACES

(HINT: THINK SMALL)

## Engage: Workshops with Arlington Kids

Making Arlington for Children  
means making Arlington for People!





# Next Steps

- Respond to survey of neighborhood interests
- Letter(s) of support to Arlington Neighborhoods Program?



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