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For Immediate Release



Community members join to learn more about solar and what it can do for them at a recent in-person Solar Power Hour at Triptych Brewery in Savoy, IL. Photo courtesy of GRNE Solar.

Solar Urbana Champaign 2022 Continues to Promote Affordable Solar *Solar Group Buy Program Provides Additional Discounts for Program Participants*

Urbana, IL - October 7, 2022 -

As the summer heat recedes, many people across the East Central Illinois area are opening their energy bills with dismay. Rising energy prices are causing many people to consider ways to lower their energy costs, and going solar is a great option. The Solar Urbana Champaign (www.SolarUrbanaChampaign.com) group buy program is helping property owners take the first steps

toward lower electricity bills, and with the final program benchmark surpassed, those participants can go solar with even larger discounts.

“Now is a perfect time to consider going solar,” says Taylor Ball of the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA). “Adding solar panels can lower your energy bills right away, and unlike utility companies, those panels will never raise their rates.”

In addition to cheaper energy, this year’s participants will see the benefits of the group buy model, in which the rebate for a new solar system gets larger as more participants join and benchmarks are passed. This year’s solar group buy program has surpassed all four benchmarks triggering the highest rebate possible for participants. This means every resident who joins the program will get a larger rebate in addition to the already-discounted price on solar panels. The program is structured to encourage more folks to join to trigger even higher rebates together: this means that word-of-mouth promotion of the program between neighbors and friends makes going solar more affordable for everyone.

With the recent passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, there are even more reasons to consider going solar. “This new legislation has many great provisions to help homeowners lower their energy costs,” says Marta Monti, Grow Solar Program Manager at the MREA. “The federal tax credit for new solar arrays has been extended and raised to 30%. By combining that tax credit with our group buy rebates and Illinois’ Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs), property owners can save up to 70% on the cost of a new solar system!”

Because going solar is a big investment and can be complicated, Solar Urbana Champaign focuses on educating potential participants through free “Solar Power Hours.” These no-obligation presentations ensure that all participants know the basics of solar and how the group-buy program works, and also provide details on installation, incentives and financing options. The goal of the Power Hours is to give attendees a good understanding of solar energy, whether they join the program this year or go solar on their own in the future.

“We’re definitely interested in helping the environment and saving on energy bills,” says Laura Lyon of Urbana, a participant in this year’s group buy. “We realized that this was a good time to buy with all the energy incentives from the state and federal government. We’re looking forward to having the panels installed soon!”

While the group buy program is still open to new participants, the final day to start the process by requesting a site assessment is October 31, 2022. Learn more about the program at www.SolarUrbanaChampaign.com and watch a recorded Solar Power Hour at www.facebook.com/solarurbanachampaign.

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For more information about the City of Urbana, please visit www.urbanainillinois.us

The MREA was incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit shortly after the first Energy Fair (www.TheEnergyFair.org) in 1990. The MREA's mission is to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable living through education and demonstration. To learn more, call 715 - 592 - 6595 or visit www.midwestrenew.org.

GRNE Solar is one of the Midwest's foremost solar energy companies, with offices in 4 states and a presence across the region. With expertise in both commercial and residential projects, GRNE offers installation, operations and maintenance services, as well as EV charging and battery storage solutions. To learn more, visit www.grnesolar.com.

Additional Resources: [Solar Urbana Champaign 2022 Media Kit](#)