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Solar Twin Cities Reaches First Goal, Lowering Solar Pricing

Bulk Purchase Program Helps Twin Cities Area Businesses and Homeowners Go Solar

St. Paul - The Solar Twin Cities 2.0 group buy program is gaining momentum as it surpasses its first goal of 50kW with ten properties going solar. The cities of Eden Prairie, Edina, Oakdale, Maplewood, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Plymouth, St. Louis Park, White Bear Lake, Woodbury and the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) launched this solar group buy program in June to help home and business owners in the Twin Cities Metro go solar more affordably. This grassroots program combines volume purchasing with community education to make solar more accessible and affordable for area property owners.

“It’s great to do solar on an individual basis but going through this program makes you feel like you’re making an even bigger impact because you are doing it with a group of other people. It gives you a greater feeling of community and that you’re making a larger contribution to renewable implementation” says program participant Jim Hasnik of Minneapolis.

Since June, the Solar Twin Cities program has been hosting a series of informational “Solar Power Hour” sessions. During these free, hour-long presentations, Solar Twin Cities representatives give a brief explanation of the program, discuss the projected costs of installing solar and highlight the benefits of going solar. Solar Power Hours run through September 9 and interested property owners have until September 30 to decide whether to participate in the program. A complete schedule of the Solar Power Hours can be found at SolarTwinCities.org.

The MREA issued a competitive Request for Proposals with the assistance of a local Advisory Committee to select a single installer TruNorth Solar, based in Arden Hills to help carry out the program. Customers get the simplicity of a single installer, plus the confidence that the selection was made from a number of competitive choices. TruNorth was selected because of their diverse staff of trusted, licensed, NABCEP certified solar installers and their longstanding experience and reputation in the state.

“It’s been a very rewarding opportunity to partner with so many Twin Cities Metro communities over the past two years educating homeowners and businesses about the many benefits of going solar” says Eric Rehm, MREA Solar Finance Manager.

“Each rooftop solar panel is a billboard for the future we could have,” said Minneapolis Councilmember Jeremy Schroeder. “This is about saving our neighbors money and doing our part to promote sustainability in (and on) our homes and businesses. I’m grateful our community has the opportunity to participate in a program like this and look forward to seeing more solar in Minneapolis and beyond as a result.”

The MREA was incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit shortly after the first [Energy Fair](#) in 1990. 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.

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