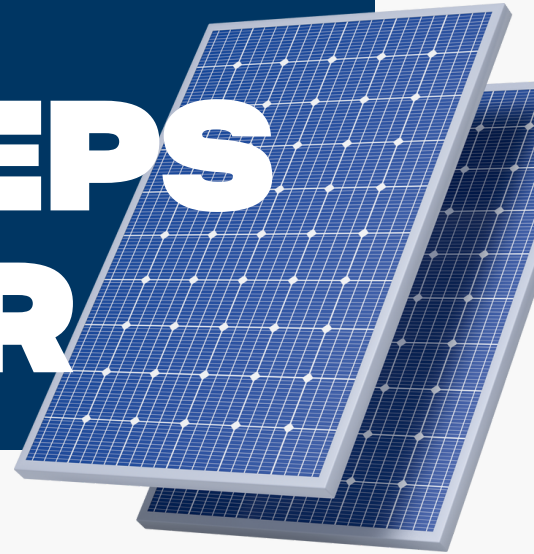




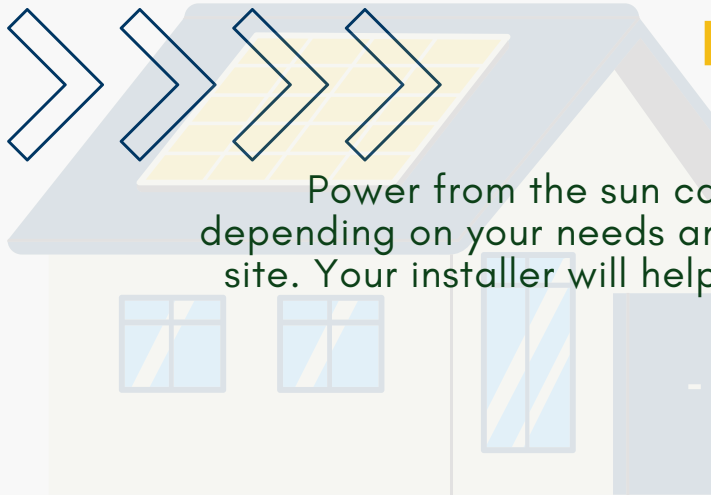
GROW SOLAR

SIMPLE STEPS TO SOLAR



MAKE ENERGY EFFICIENT UPDATES

Before adding solar to your home or business, do an energy assessment of your property and make updates to appliances, windows, lighting, etc. These updates will help limit the size of your array and cut down on the cost of your PV system by reducing your energy load. Most utilities have incentives for efficiency improvements - be sure to ask your utility. Once you choose a qualified solar installation company to go with, they will also perform a thorough assessment of your electrical "loads" and make recommendations for energy efficiency upgrades.



KNOW YOUR SOLAR NEEDS AND GOALS

Power from the sun can be used in a variety of applications, depending on your needs any one, or a combination might fit your site. Your installer will help you identify the options that are best for your site and goals.

Some things to consider include:
Grid-tied vs Off-grid
Electric Vehicle Charging
Solar Thermal Systems

SITE ASSESSMENT

Getting a solar site assessment of your property will help determine whether your site is suitable for solar, and what type of solar system is right for your site. Most installers provide site assessments free of charge! If your site isn't suitable for solar - don't fret, more and more utilities are offering options to purchase renewable energy from them, or you can participate in community solar subscriptions. If you are interested in performing your own solar site assessment, register for our PV 201—Solar Site Assessment course. MREA also rents Solar Pathfinders for a small fee. courses.midwestrenew.org

growsolar.org

KNOW YOUR LOCAL RULES

Check with your local unit of government about any ordinances in place that might impact your solar project. Examples of these ordinances are setbacks and structural assessments for insurance. Your chosen qualified solar installation company will have a good handle on this process, but it's worth knowing in advance

BUDGET

Financing your solar project is an important piece of the puzzle. MREA offers members access to the Clean Energy Credit Union, making it easier for our members to afford clean energy products and services. Incentives and grants are available for financing your project. Your Installer will help you navigate the financing process and calculate your ROI. Visit the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE) to see incentives in your location: dsireusa.org.

INSTALL SOLAR

Select a company, sign a contract, and install your system. It usually takes from four to six months from the time you sign an agreement to the time a project is completed and operational, depending on the type of solar technology and the incentive process. If installing PV, your contractor will facilitate an interconnection agreement with your utility that will allow you to track your production and get paid for excess production with net metering

SOLAR IS CONTAGIOUS

Installing solar often means your neighbors will too! You could be an inspiration for others. Don't be afraid to tell your solar story, and share it with neighbors, family, friends, colleagues, even local media outlets. Let them know about the process you went through. More solar = cleaner air, water, and a happier environment (not to mention big savings on your energy bill)! Your installer may offer a referral bonus, so make sure to ask if they do. Help educate others and showcase your site on the National Solar Tour: nationalsolartour.org

