

WCGW

WINDSOR CUMMINGTON GOSHEN WORTHINGTON

On June 3rd it was announced that the towns of Windsor, Cummington, Goshen and Worthington (WCGW) are among 12 communities selected to participate in the 2016 Solarize Massachusetts (Solarize Mass) Program, which helps residents and business owners to adopt solar photovoltaic (PV) technology for power generation. To encourage participation in the program, discounted pricing in varying levels is offered by a Solarize Mass approved PV installer, with the discount increasing for everyone as more homes and businesses sign up to join the program and go solar.

Solarize Mass is part of an effort initiated by former Governor Patrick to reach a goal of 250 megawatts (MW) installed solar panels by 2017. It is a partnership among the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) and the Green Communities Division of the Department of Energy Resources (DOER). Solarize Mass encourages the adoption of small scale solar via PV by deploying a coordinated education, marketing and outreach effort, combined with a tiered pricing structure that provides increased savings as more people in the community go solar. MassCEC provides free technical support and hosts free educational meetings in the participating communities to educate people about the benefits of installing solar and to encourage interest in implementing the technology.

The team of WCGW will be working with the MassCEC to inform residents/businesses about the solar program, "We are thrilled to have been selected and to be able to pass these discounts to our town residents. We anticipate as people learn about this program and take advantage, it will provide a wonderful opportunity to go solar, " said WCGW project leader and Windsor's municipal contact Jan Bradley.

Since its launch in 2011, 51 cities and towns have participated in Solarize Mass, which has led to the contracting of more than 2,600 new small-scale installations at homes and businesses resulting in 18 megawatts of contracted solar capacity. To date, systems installed under Solarize Mass have reduced greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to removing 1,500 cars from the road annually.

The outreach effort and sign up period will begin in late summer 2016. To take advantage of the discounts, commitments must be made prior to April 1st , 2017.

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