

## Solarize Albany

Invitation to Kickoff, Thursday July 9, 6:30-8:00 PM

Subject Line: Join other Albany County residents in bringing low cost solar energy into our community

Date: Thursday, July 9

Time: 6:30 - 8pm

Place: The Linda, WAMC Performing Arts Studio, 339 Central Ave, Albany NY 12206

Purpose: Celebrate the start of the 2015 community solar campaign.

Comment: light refreshments to be served

Background: Volunteers from Albany County residents are striving working together to lower the cost of solar. Since the Fall of 2014, your neighbors have been working meeting to select a solar installer that offers a quality solar installation at a bulk purchasing good price. That installer was recently chosen. Now we are gearing up to offer weekly education seminars to educate Albany County residents about solar, as well as to introduce the chosen installer.

The Solarize Albany campaign is Based on an approach developed by the Department of Energy (DOE) in 2007, supported by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and now being adopted by hundreds of communities around the Country, citizens work together to send out 'requests for proposals' to area solar installers, and then select an installer to work with. We do need a commercial installer to install solar, BUT this is not a commercial venture, although a commercial vendor does the installations. Rather it is a cooperative venture. Costs for solar installations come down because the purchasing is done on a bulk basis to bring down costs for the commercial vender/installer and the savings are passed on to the Solarize members who sign up with the installer for solar. In addition, volunteers help people to understand solar energy. Public presentations are being scheduled, where questions about solar energy are answered. At these presentations, the specifics of how to request a solar proposal for your home are shared.

Solarize campaigns also encourage neighbors to get to know one another. As individual homeowners install solar power, neighbors are inspired by their example. People talk together and learn from each other. Neighborhoods are strengthened.

Agenda for the Kickoff Celebration:

6:30 pm: Welcome: Dave Hochfelder, Director of Solarize Albany

6:35 pm: Opening words: Representative Pat Fahy, \_\_\_\_\_

6:45 pm: Introduction to the Program: Steve Andersen, the Johnny Appleseed of Solar in the Capital Region

7:30 pm: Questions & Answers

7:45 pm: signups to receive free solar proposals

8:00 pm: Closing words: Dave Hochfelder, Director of Solarize Albany

Note: light refreshments to be served

### **Solarize Albany County contact information:**

website: [www.SolarizeAlbany.org](http://www.SolarizeAlbany.org)

email: [solarizealbany@gmail.com](mailto:solarizealbany@gmail.com)

contact person: Dave Hochfelder

phone: 518 309-2786 (at Apex Solar)

selected installer: Apex Solar (<http://www.apexsolarpower.com/>)

General status:

Solarize Albany installer has been selected, and the Team is focused on getting the word out about the program across Albany County. Volunteers are holding public presentations. If you or your organization would like to schedule a presentation from Solarize Albany, please let them know. If you want to help Solarize Albany spread the word about solar in Albany County, contact Dave or come to the weekly Solarize meeting (Thursday, 6 to 8pm) at the Honest Weight Food Co-op, 100 Watervliet Avenue in Albany.