

solarize northwest

Powered by Spark Northwest

What is Solarize?

Solarize is a group purchase program designed to **simplify investing in solar energy**. The campaign organizes a volunteer committee of residents to competitively select a solar installer who agrees to fixed pricing. At a series of free educational workshops participants can learn about the technology, incentives, and financing options. If interested, participants can then sign up for a free site assessment and are guaranteed the Solarize price, if they sign a contract within the campaign timeline.

Essential Elements

Every campaign features:

- Community-led outreach & education
- Competitively-selected contractors
- A deadline to participate in the group purchase



A Simplified Process

For participants, it couldn't be easier to go solar:



Attend a workshop



Get a free site assesment



Sign your contract



Go Solar!

"Being part of a program with a community-vetted contractor helped tip me to take action."

-Solarize Participant

Impact

29 green jobs created because of Solarize

21 million dollars invested in local clean energy

21 communities that Solarized with us

4504 people educated about solar

4.9 megawatts of local clean energy

964 Solarized families and business owners

Solar in Washington

Yes, solar works in Washington! Solar provides clean, carbon-free, and local power, helping residents to save money and build wealth. Solarize works best for homeowners and business owners who have a sunny roof and pay federal taxes. In most locations in Washington participants who qualify for all incentives can expect solar systems “pay back” the upfront cost within 10 years. In some locations, a financed solar investment will save money every year after installation.

Solar Facts	
Average energy use offset	50-75%
Average solar installation costs	\$12,000-30,000
Cost offset by incentives	Up to 80%
Average Payback Time	Under 10 years

Incentives & Financing

Participants in Washington may be eligible for:

- Federal tax credit worth 30% of the installed cost
- State production incentive of \$.14-.18 per kWh produced for 8 years
- Solar loans from partnering financial institutions

Businesses may also be eligible for:

- Modified cost recovery program (accelerated depreciation)
- USDA REAP grants for rural small businesses



Clean Greens Farm & Market received a donated solar installation in Solarize Seattle: Central/Southeast.

Seeking Community Partners

Solarize is powered by local communities. Our community partners lead grassroots outreach and educational efforts, and recruit volunteers to identify community priorities and select a solar installer through a competitive process. Plus, if the community reaches installation targets, the installer may donate a solar installation for a community building. Community partners can be a local government, non-profit organization, or an alliance of groups with a lead partner. Spark Northwest provides templates, technical assistance, and experience.

Roles

Community Partner provides	Spark Northwest provides
Local campaign manager	Training
Community volunteers	Curriculum & outreach templates
Outreach to promote workshops	Website and participant registration
Workshop hosting or co-hosting	Technical assistance & expertise

Timeline

Solarize is typically a 9 month program:

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Plan	x	x	x						
Launch			x	x					
Outreach & Workshops				x	x	x	x	x	
Wrap up & Celebrate								x	x

Contact us today to learn more about organizing a campaign for your community:
(206) 328-2441 | connect@sparknorthwest.org