

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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July 6, 2020

## Solarize Vienna returns through August 31

Free, satellite remote solar energy assessments to help determine if solar energy is appropriate for specific properties are available through the Solarize Vienna program to Town residents and business owners interested in utilizing clean energy and saving money. Those interested in solar energy systems can learn more at **solarizenova.org** now through August 31.

"Solarize Vienna is an affordable and convenient way program for Vienna homeowners and commercial building owners to go solar," says Vienna Conservation and Sustainability Commission member Sean Casey. "With a streamlined process and discounted pricing, solar is can be a smart choice for your house or commercial property. And, solar energy is renewable which is great for the environment."

Casey notes that the cost of home solar systems is dramatically less then than it was a decade ago, and prices through this year's program are expected to be 10-15% lower than current consumer rates. In additional, a federal tax credit of 26% is available for installation of solar systems.

Solarize Vienna is part of the Solarize NOVA program through which more than 370 solar power systems have been installed since 2014 in the Northern Virginia region. Vienna's 22180 zip code has accounted for more residential solar energy system installations (29 as of last November) over the past five years than any other regional zip code.

This year Solarize Vienna has partnered with installers who also offer Level 2 **electric vehicle (EV) chargers**, which, at 240 volts, charge to a 10-20 mile range per hour, on average. With electric vehicle sales skyrocketing and high solar interest among EV owners, Solarize Vienna participants can now bundle both for additional savings. As a bonus, installing solar panels and an EV charger at the same time reduces electrician fees.

Solarize NOVA is a community-based outreach initiative sponsored by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) and managed by the Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP).