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# City Partners with Nonprofit to Help Residents Go Solar

## Solar Co-Op Launches Second Series

**El Paso, Texas** – The City of El Paso along with the nonprofit group [Solar United Neighbors \(SUN\)](#) announced the launch of the second series for the El Paso Solar co-op partnership aimed at helping El Pasoans go solar and install battery storage systems.

After a successful first round, this year's co-op expects to attract even more members as interest in solar grows and new federal incentives bring costs down.

"Helping El Pasoans access rooftop solar will benefit our economy, build local resiliency, and ensure El Paso is investing in the grid of the future," said Nicole Ferrini, Climate and Sustainability Officer. "This co-op also helps further the City's Strategic Plan that includes the City's Regional Renewable Energy Advisory Council mission to include increasing access to affordable renewable energy and reinforce grid reliability while driving renewable industry development."

The FREE solar co-op will allow homeowners and business owners in El Paso to collectively learn about solar energy and leverage their combined buying power to save money. Co-ops solicit competitive bids from installers, so the co-op can obtain a competitive price and top quality.

The partnership with SUN provides an opportunity for El Pasoans to join a solar co-op and learn about solar technology, costs, financing options and considerations.

SUN will host several free information sessions to educate interested community members about solar energy and the co-op. Individuals interested in going solar can sign up for the co-op or one of the upcoming information sessions at the co-op web page: [www.solarunitedneighbors.org/elpaso](http://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/elpaso).

Online information meetings are planned for:

**El Paso Solar Co-op 101 info session**

September 27, 2023 at 6 p.m. MDT

[Register here](#)

Virtual via Zoom

**El Paso Solar Co-op 101 info session**

October 4, 2023 at 6 p.m. MDT

[Register here](#)

Virtual via Zoom

The first co-op group included more than 110 members and more than 25 signed contracts, translating to 203kW of new solar installed.

"We were thrilled to discover the El Paso Solar Co-op as a way to go solar," said Tyler Dominguez, a 2022 co-op member who installed solar last summer. "The co-op provided resources and solar experts that helped us feel confident in our decision. Now, I'm excited to be saving money on my electric bills."

—more—



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**Media contact:** Soraya Ayub Palacios  
Strategic Communications Office  
(915) 212-1040 or (915) 781-4386



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After a competitive bidding process facilitated by SUN, which remains vendor neutral, co-op members will select a single solar company to complete the installations. Joining the co-op does not obligate members to purchase solar. Instead, members will have the option to individually purchase panels, batteries, and electric vehicle chargers based on the installer's group rate.

Thanks to the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in 2022, homeowners may be able to use [the solar Investment Tax Credit](#) (ITC). The tax credit can reduce the total costs of installing solar by 30 percent. The IRA also expanded other clean energy incentives, like home battery storage. By joining the solar co-op, members will learn more about how to use the ITC and other tax credits.

"More and more Texans are interested in solar, but often don't know where to start or whether they can afford it," **said America Garcia, Texas program director for Solar United Neighbors.** "That's where the co-op comes in – we help homeowners figure out the costs, learn about the available incentives, and decide if solar is right for them."

Also partnering on the co-op are [Eco El Paso](#) and [Amanecer People's Project](#).

**About Solar United Neighbors**

*Solar United Neighbors is a nonprofit organization that works in Texas and nationwide to represent the needs and interests of solar owners and supporters. Solar co-ops are part of the organization's mission to create a new energy system with rooftop solar at the cornerstone. Solar United Neighbors holds events and education programs to help people become informed solar consumers, maximize the value of their solar investment, and advocate for fair solar policies.*

For more information visit, [www.elpasotexas.gov](http://www.elpasotexas.gov) under the [Community and Human Development](#) tab.

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