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## 'Go solar' meeting scheduled this Saturday in Frostburg

by Renée Shreve STAFF WRITER Oct 19, 2017



Submitted illustration

FROSTBURG — The city of Frostburg, FrostburgFirst and Solar United Neighbors will host a meeting at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, at City Place, 14 South Water Street, Frostburg to provide information about solar energy and how to join a local solar cooperative.

The sponsors are encouraging Garrett and Allegany County homeowners to attend the event to learn how they can join the Mountain Maryland Solar Co-op to save money, make going solar easier and help build a network of solar supporters.

Saturday's meeting is the second local event organized by Solar United Neighbors (formerly known as MD SUN), which works to help community members "go solar." The first meeting was held in August.



"We're launching the second round of the Mountain Maryland Solar Co-op to make saving money with solar energy as simple as possible," said Woody Getz of Frostburg. "Working with the group helps members learn about the technology so they feel confident in their decision to go solar."

Solar United Neighbors expands access to solar by educating Mountain Maryland residents about the benefits of distributed solar energy, helping them organize group solar installations and "strengthening" Maryland's solar policies and its community of solar supporters, according to spokesperson Zach Schalk.

He noted that Solar United has worked with more than a dozen solar co-ops, helping nearly 500 Maryland homes go solar and saving Maryland residents more than \$1.7 million.

"I am excited to work with Mountain Maryland residents again to educate them about the benefits of solar energy," said Corey Ramsden, Solar United Neighbors Maryland program director. "If you've ever thought about going solar before, this is the perfect opportunity to do so."

Mountain Maryland residents interested in joining the co-op can sign up at the co-op website.



"Joining the co-op is not a commitment to purchase panels," Schalk said. "Once a group is large enough, about 25 members, co-op members will solicit a request for proposals from local installers and then select the bid that works best for the group."

He added that the members will select a single company to complete all the installations. They leverage bulk-purchasing power to get discounted pricing and a quality installation, while still signing individual contracts that ensure the right system for their homes.

"Solar United Neighbors is there to educate members and provide support along the way," Schalk said.

More information can be obtained at [solarunitedneighbors.org](http://solarunitedneighbors.org).



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