

## Solar Co-op Set Up to Help Homeowners Save Money

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CHARLESTON, W.Va. (WSAZ) -- Neighbors in Kanawha County are joining forces to form the Charleston Solar Co-op.

Co-op leaders hosted an informational meeting on Tuesday night, at the West Virginia State University Economic Development Center, to educate the public about solar energy and how a co-op can benefit someone.

Homeowners were able to learn about the cost of installing a solar power system and how a co-op can save them money during that process.

Emily Stiever with the WV SUN told WSAZ.com, "People are really excited about solar. They want to be able to produce their own energy and reduce their electricity bills and so we're helping them learn about solar and find out how to make it happen on their house."

Once the co-op is large enough, WV SUN helps the co-op solicit competitive bids from solar installers. By doing everything as a group, each person can typically save about 25 percent off the cost of a new solar system. That's in addition to the 30 percent Federal Tax Credit that is available to homeowners through 2016.

