New Solar Co-ops Plans Second Meeting

Neighbors in Rockbridge County are forming a solar co-op to save money and make going solar easier, while building a network of solar supporters. The co-op is to be called the Rockbridge Area Solar Co-op, in sponsoring with VA SUN, a non-profit organization that helps Virginia communities adopt solar energy. VA SUN has successful programs underway throughout the state, including one in Augusta County.

An informational meeting about the co-op will be held Thursday, Nov. 5, at 6:30 p.m. at the old courthouse in Lexington.

The “Escalation Workshop” is sponsored by the One Love Foundation, created in 2010 in memory of Yeardley Love, who was beaten to death by her ex-boyfriend just weeks before her graduation from the University of Virginia.

Three in one and four in the U.S. will be in a violent relationship with their or her lifetime and young men ages 16-24 are at three times greater risk.

The goal of the workshop is to end relationship violence by educating, empowering, and activating young people in a movement for social change. Participants will learn how to recognize an abusive relationship and how to intervene, for themselves or a friend.

The workshop includes the screening of a film, “Escalation,” and a guided discussion. Training for on-campus facilitators will take place from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in Room 509 on the DSLCC Clifton Forge Campus. Designed primarily for students, faculty and staff may also attend, and registration for the training will occur each fall. Lunch will be served for all workshop participants at 11:45 a.m. For more information, contact DSLCC Student Services at (540) 863-2282 or chbrown@dslcc.edu.

FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO ALL HOUSEHOLDS

Now through Friday, Nov. 13, fuel assistance applications are being accepted at all local departments of social services and online.

The Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) are being accepted at all local departments of social services and online. The Energy Assistance Program assists eligible households with the costs of home energy sources, including electricity, natural and liquid fuels, including heating, cooking, and cooling.

The LEAP block grant, which provides funds to states to assist low-income households in meeting their home energy needs, was expanded in 2010.

“LEAP households are among the most vulnerable in the country,” said Margaret Schultz, Virginia Department of Social Services Commissioner. “Without the ability to heat their homes, many seniors and low-income families could face months of uncomfortable temperatures.”

To qualify for fuel assistance, the maximum gross monthly income for a one-person household cannot exceed $1,215. For a household of four, the maximum gross monthly income is $2,628. Last year, nearly 128,000 households received assistance.

Families and individuals can apply through their local department of social services office. To apply online or to check eligibility for services, visit the CommonHelp website at https://commonhelp.virginia.gov/access/.

The concept of a local solar co-op is fairly simple, explaining Chris Wieg, with the support of the Rockbridge Area Conservation Council. Main Street Lexington, the Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund and the local chamber of commerce have also signed on as co-sponsors. An initial meeting about the new co-op was held Sept. 9, with about 80 people expressing interest so far.

“We’re forming this co-op to make saving money with solar as simple as possible,” explained Brian Fox.

“Working with the group helps members learn about the technology so they feel confident in their decision to go solar.”

The goal of the workshop is to end relationship violence by educating, empowering, and activating young people in a movement for social change.

Participants will learn how to recognize an abusive relationship and how to intervene, for themselves or a friend.

The workshop includes the screening of a film, “Escalation,” and a guided discussion. Training for on-campus facilitators will take place from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in Room 509 on the DSLCC Clifton Forge Campus. Designed primarily for students, faculty and staff may also attend, and registration for the training will occur each fall. Lunch will be served for all workshop participants at 11:45 a.m. For more information, contact DSLCC Student Services at (540) 863-2282 or chbrown@dslcc.edu.