

HOW TO:

PLAN A VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR



WHY SHOULD YOU HOST A VIRTUAL SOLAR HAPPY HOUR?

We are all looking for ways to make meaningful connections during this time of social distancing. Let's raise a glass (soda, beer, wine, coffee, or drink of your choice), share a laugh or two and see each other's faces during this challenging time!

Use your virtual happy hour to do something good for your community during these tough times. Solar United Neighbors recently joined a large coalition of nonprofit organizations in a campaign to help make stopping power shut offs during this time mandatory during the COVID-19 epidemic. In addition, we are asking for commitments from utilities to build more distributed, equitable and resilient energy systems. [Read the full letter here](#). Happy hour hosts and attendees can color one of [these signs](#), take a selfie and then post it on social media to show your support for #NoShutOffs.



HOW TO PLAN A VIRTUAL SOLAR HAPPY HOUR?

DECIDE what platform to use (Ideas blow!)

PLAN your virtual solar happy hour event

ENJOY the virtual happy hour

SHARE your support for #NoShutOffs and an equitable and resilient energy system

PLATFORMS TO USE:

SOME IDEAS OF PLATFORMS TO USE:

Skype

FaceTime

Google Hangouts

Zoom (40 minute time limit for the free version of this software)

VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR TIP: We recommend using the grid view in any teleconferencing software, as it will let you see everyone at once in equal-size boxes. This makes the happy hour more fun and interactive!

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BEFORE THE HAPPY HOUR:

- **SCHEDULE** | Pick a date and set a time frame, usually 40 minutes to an hour is good.
- **KEEP US IN THE LOOP** | Let us know when your happy hour is scheduled by emailing getinvolved@solarunitedneighbors.org
- **ASAP** | Invite folks to the happy hour! Consider texting, email, social media, creating an evite or a Facebook event. Encourage folks to have a drink on hand to enjoy during the happy hour!
- **1 WEEK OUT** | Send a reminder email and make sure they have the proper software downloaded (if needed) and email them the [coloring pages](#)! If folks are not able to print them out, offer to print and mail them or drop them off at their doorstep.
- **1 WEEK OUT** | Make sure you have your drinks!
- **2 DAYS OUT** | Plan the conversation - There would be no need to do this at a real happy hour but since people generally start out a bit uncomfortable and shy at a video chat get-together, you should plan to break the ice by leading the discussion if needed. Consider starting with introductions and have people say who they are (if they do not already know each other), what they do, and why they support solar! You can always get people talking by asking how they are coping with staying home during this time.

Some solar powered topic ideas:

- Do you have solar? What has been the impact of installing solar?
- How would the world be different if everything was solar powered?
- What do you see as the future for solar power in your area?
- How are you helping to build the solar movement in your community? How can other attendees join you?
- Would you be prepared to take a job in renewable energy so that you could help to save the planet even though it paid less than a job in a polluting industry?
- How do you envision the solar industry in 5 years? 10 years? 25 years?

DRINK TIP:

CHECK OUT SOLAR POWERED OPTIONS: See if any solar powered breweries that have participated in our Brews from the Sun competition are located near you. Get your drinks for the happy hour from a [local brewery powered by solar](#)! Encourage your guests to get a pick up order from them as well. (Please follow state guidelines about COVID 19, etc.)

DURING THE HAPPY HOUR:

- As the host of the happy hour, you set the tone of the event. Welcome people and have a central theme or agenda of how you want the event to run. Guide your guests through the event.
- At the start of the happy hour:
 - Make sure everyone has their [coloring pages](#)
 - Review any standards you want to set for the event. For example:
 - Mute your mic when you are not speaking.

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- If you are going to play music in the background, make sure you're the one to choose it and play it, otherwise you get a lot of people playing music at the same time which will create chaos.
 - o Kick off the conversation!
- Gently guide the conversation throughout the Happy Hour, if needed.
- **REMINDER:** While your group is enjoying their drinks and good conversation, make sure everyone is working on their coloring pages!
- At the end of the evening - be sure to encourage everyone to take a selfie with the sign they colored and post it on social media using the hashtags #SolarUnitedNeighbors #NoShutOffs.



- o Consider taking a photo or screenshot of all of your happy hour attendees holding up their signs on the video call and posting it on social media.
- Relax, enjoy hanging out with all your friends, and have fun! As an added bonus, there won't be any glasses to pick up or a bar tab to pay when you're done.

WANT TO GET CREATIVE?

PLAY SOLAR TRIVIA: Compete with your friends in a Solar Trivia game.

PLAY SOLAR BINGO: Play a classic BINGO game with your friends and family.

Reach out to getinvolved@solarunitedneighbors.org for more information if you would like to do either of these activities.

AFTER THE HAPPY HOUR:

- Post your photos on social media with the hashtags #SolarUnitedNeighbors #NoShutOffs
- Let us know how your event went and send any pictures you want to share getinvolved@solarunitedneighbors.org

CHEERS!