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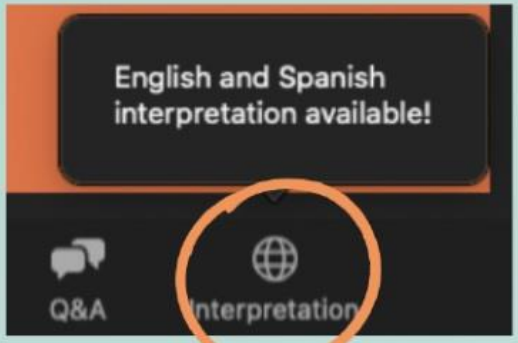
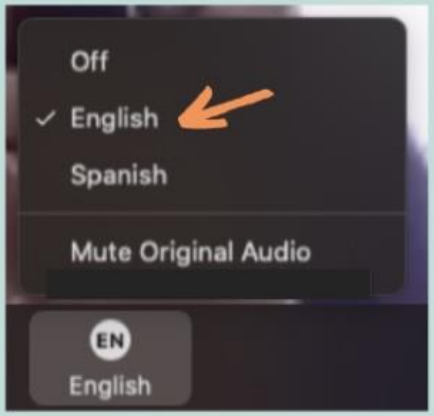
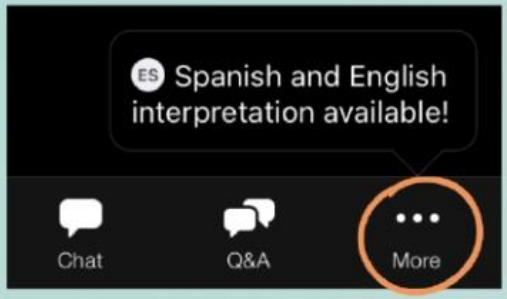
What Solar Owner's Need to Know

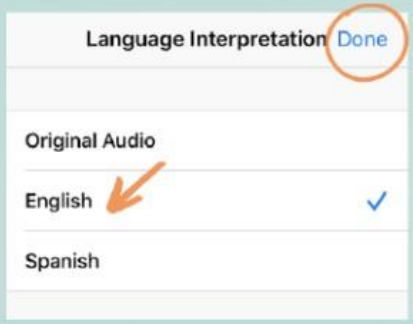
Computer





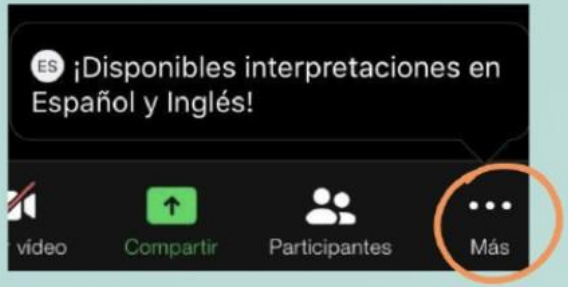
Smartphone

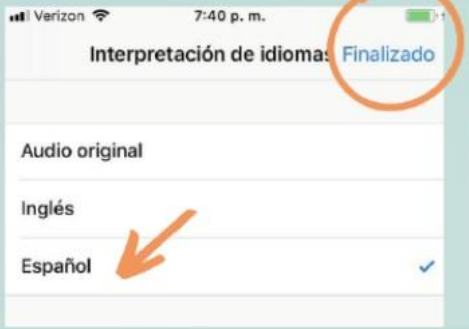




Computador

Teléfono inteligente





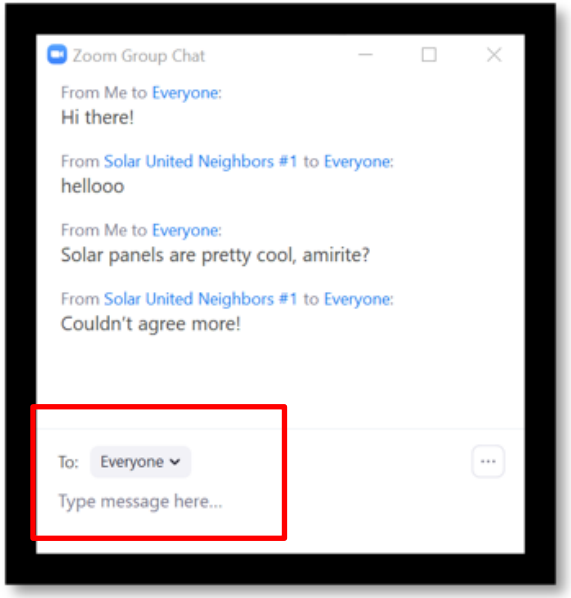
Logistics

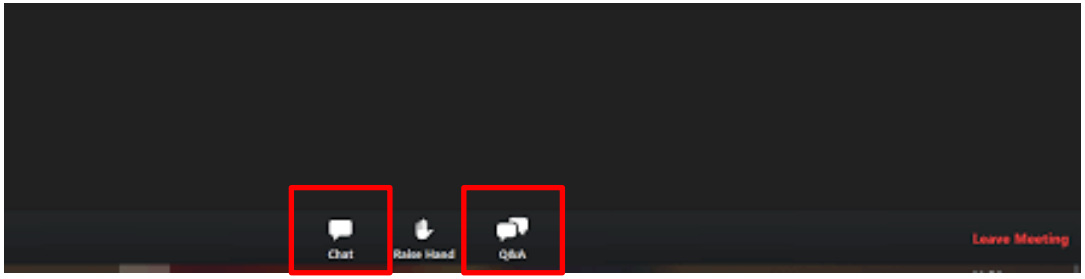
We welcome questions!

How to ask: Type your questions in the Q&A. We'll get to as many as possible.

Use the chat for conversation with other attendees.

You'll get an email with the materials and recording.





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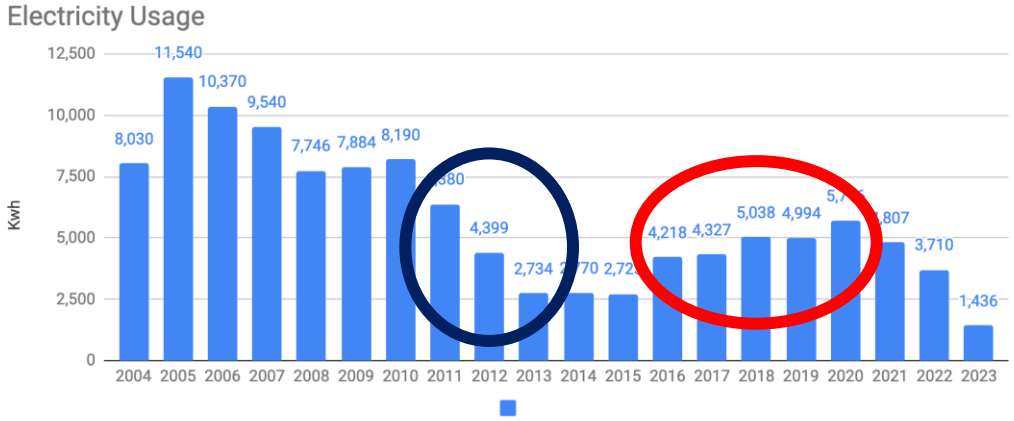
Hi! I'm Corey Ramsden.

- VP, Go Solar Programs
- Live in Washington, D.C.
- Solar owner since 2012
- Tracking electricity usage since 2004



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WHAT IS SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS?

We’re a vendor neutral, national 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

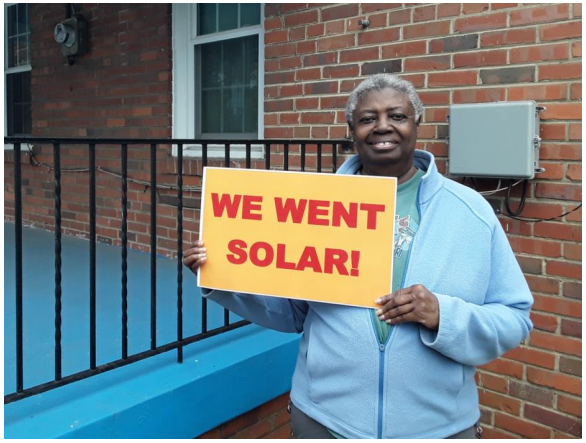
WHAT IS SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS?

We help people go solar, join together, & fight for their energy rights.

Our National Impact

7,900+ families with solar
67 Megawatts of solar
885,500 Tons of CO2 Saved

Working for Equity



We're working toward a new energy system — one that is fair and equitable.

How SUN got started

2007

- 50 homes in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood of Washington, DC

2023

- Supporters in 50 states
- 390 solar co-ops run
- National Solar Help Desk

SUN founder, Anya!

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Quick Review

How do solar panels work?

Solar photovoltaic (PV) converts solar energy to electricity.

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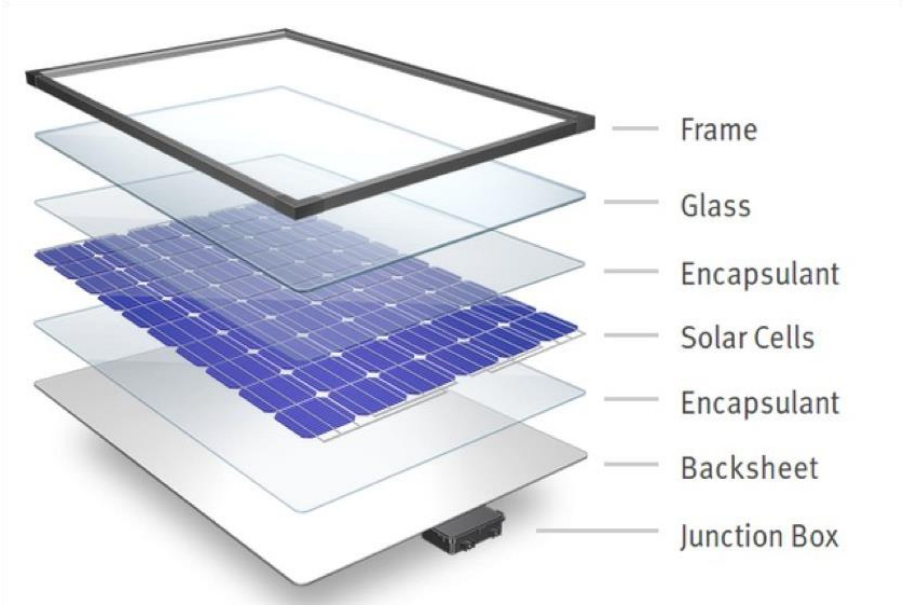
System Components: Panels



Panel / Module

Image Source: DuPont

Solar Array

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System Components: Racking

System Components: Inverters

String Inverter

String inverter & DC optimizers

Microinverters

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Congratulations!

What we'll cover:

- Write a review
- Tax credit
- Warranties
- Homeowners' insurance
- Maintenance
- Reading your utility bill
- Power outages
- Selling your solar home
- Recycling

Write a Review

- Share your experience
- Help others
- Be honest and fair

Pick one and go for it!

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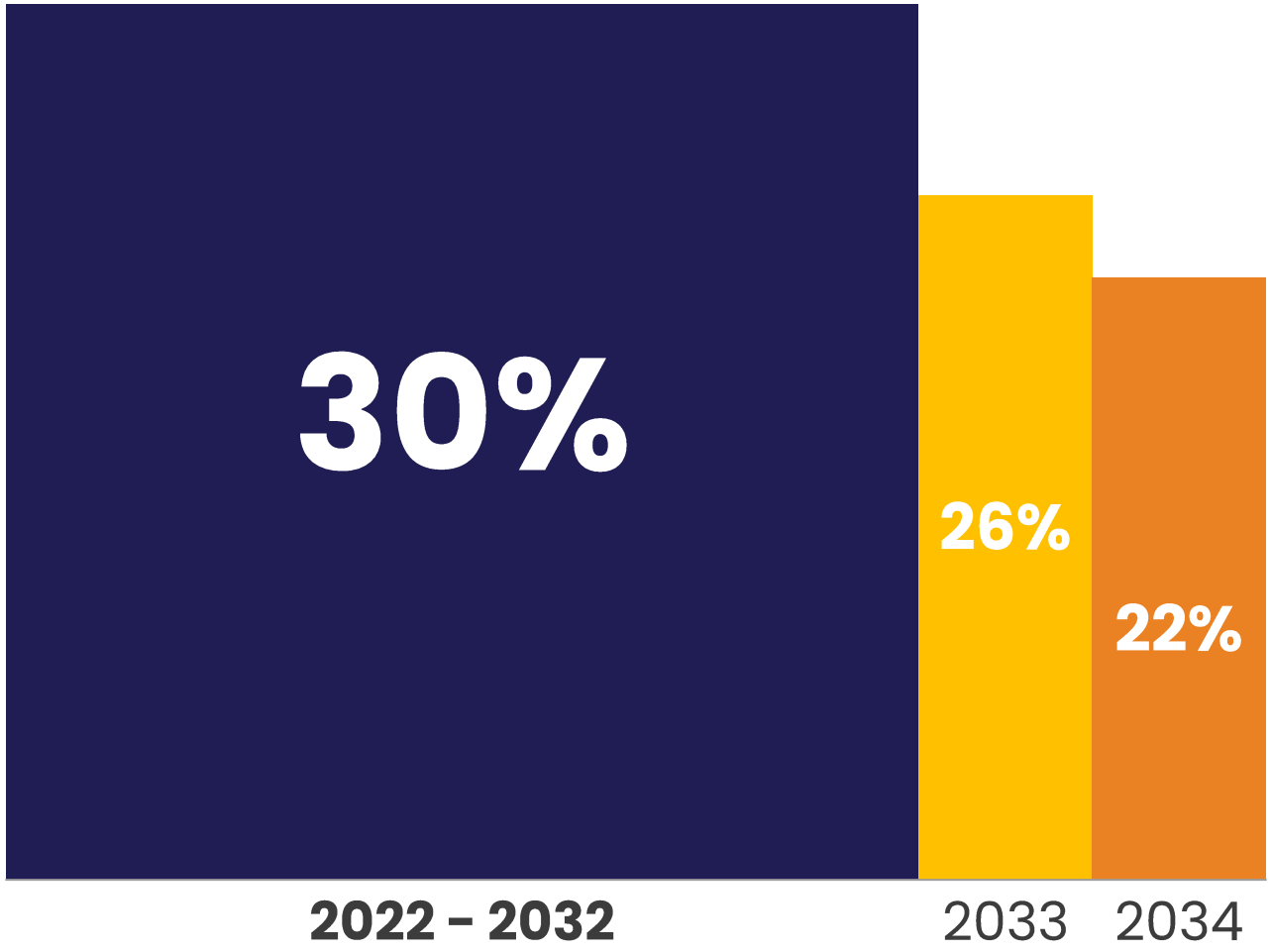
Federal tax credit



- *Not inclusive of state and local incentives*

Taking the Tax Credit

- 30% of installed system cost
- Doesn't cover roof replacements
- Who gets the incentive? (cash & Loan vs. third party ownership)

Form **5695**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Residential Energy Credits

▶ Go to *www.irs.gov/Form5695* for instructions and the latest information.

▶ Attach to Form 1040, 1040-SR, or 1040-NR.

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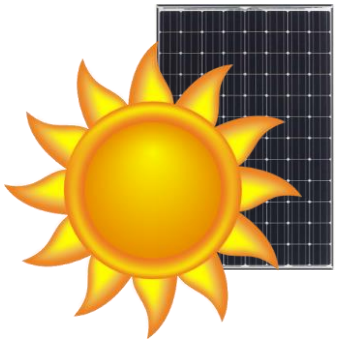
Warranties

- Product
- Power production
- Installation/workmanship

+



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Homeowner's Insurance

- Let your insurance company know!
- **Tip:** Ask which deductible your solar is under

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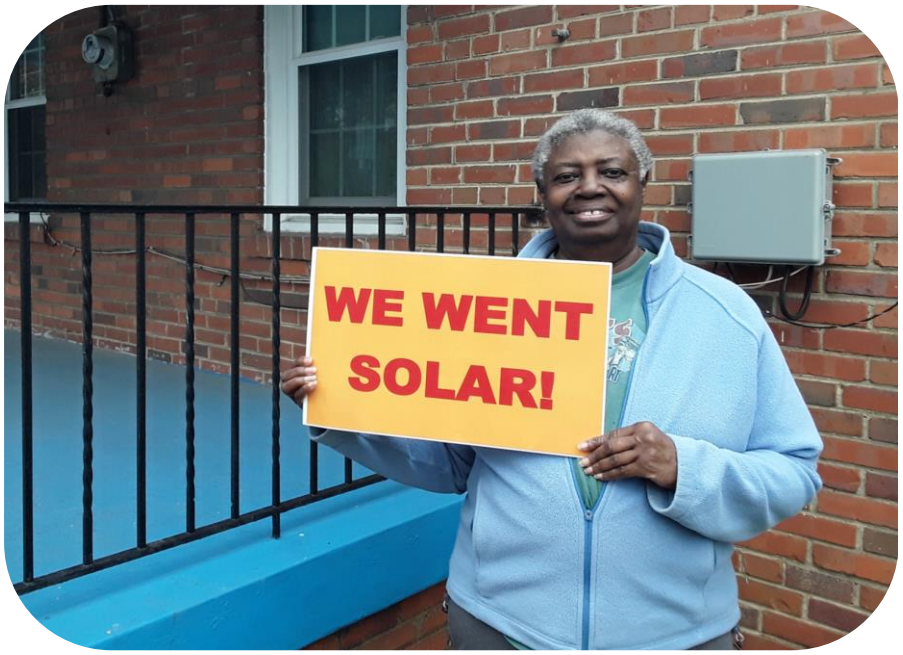
Maintenance

- Monitoring
- Washing panels
- Check-ups
- Roof repairs
- Solar repairs



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Real Talk: Squirrels!

Source: PBS

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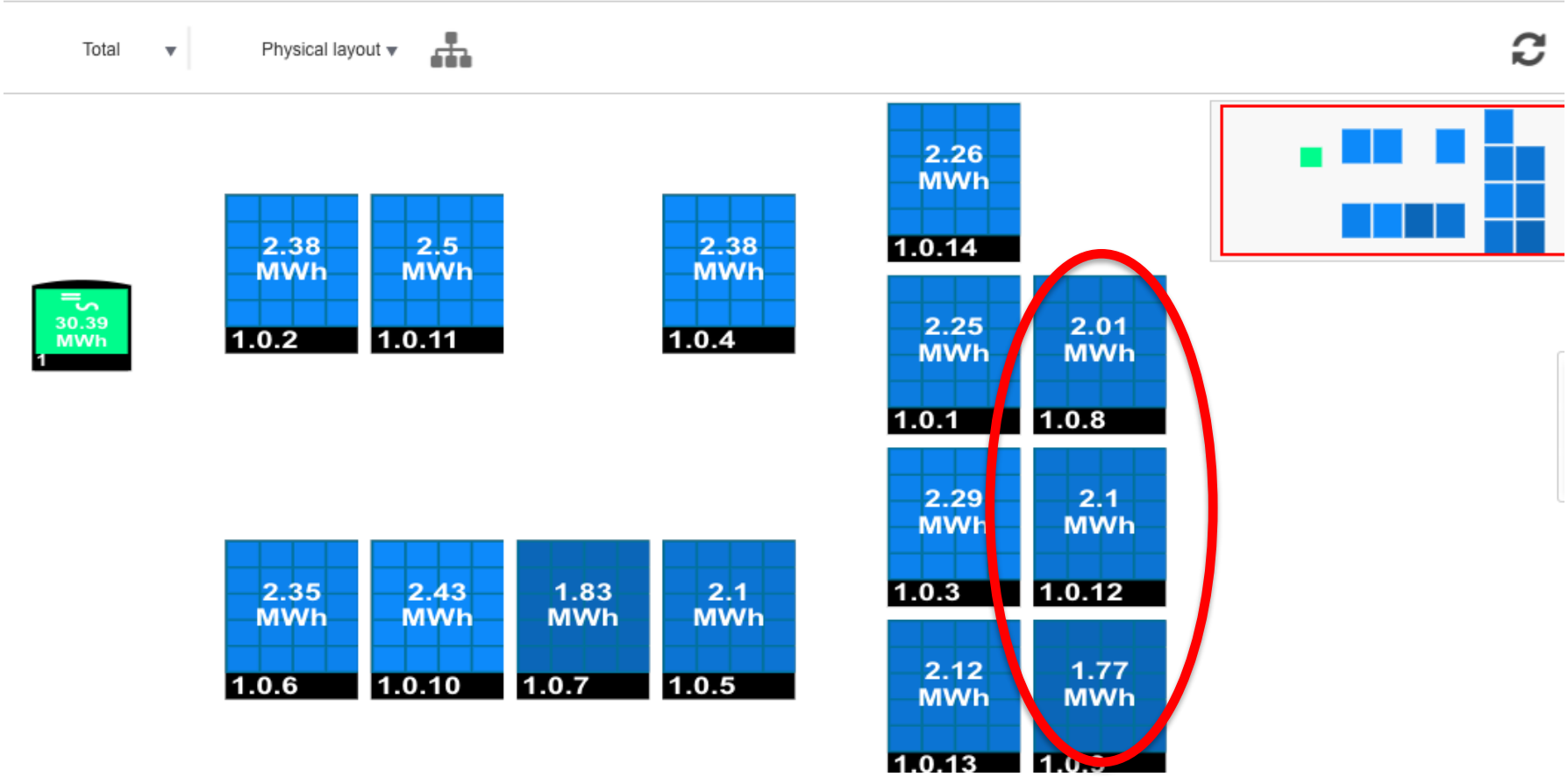
Maintenance



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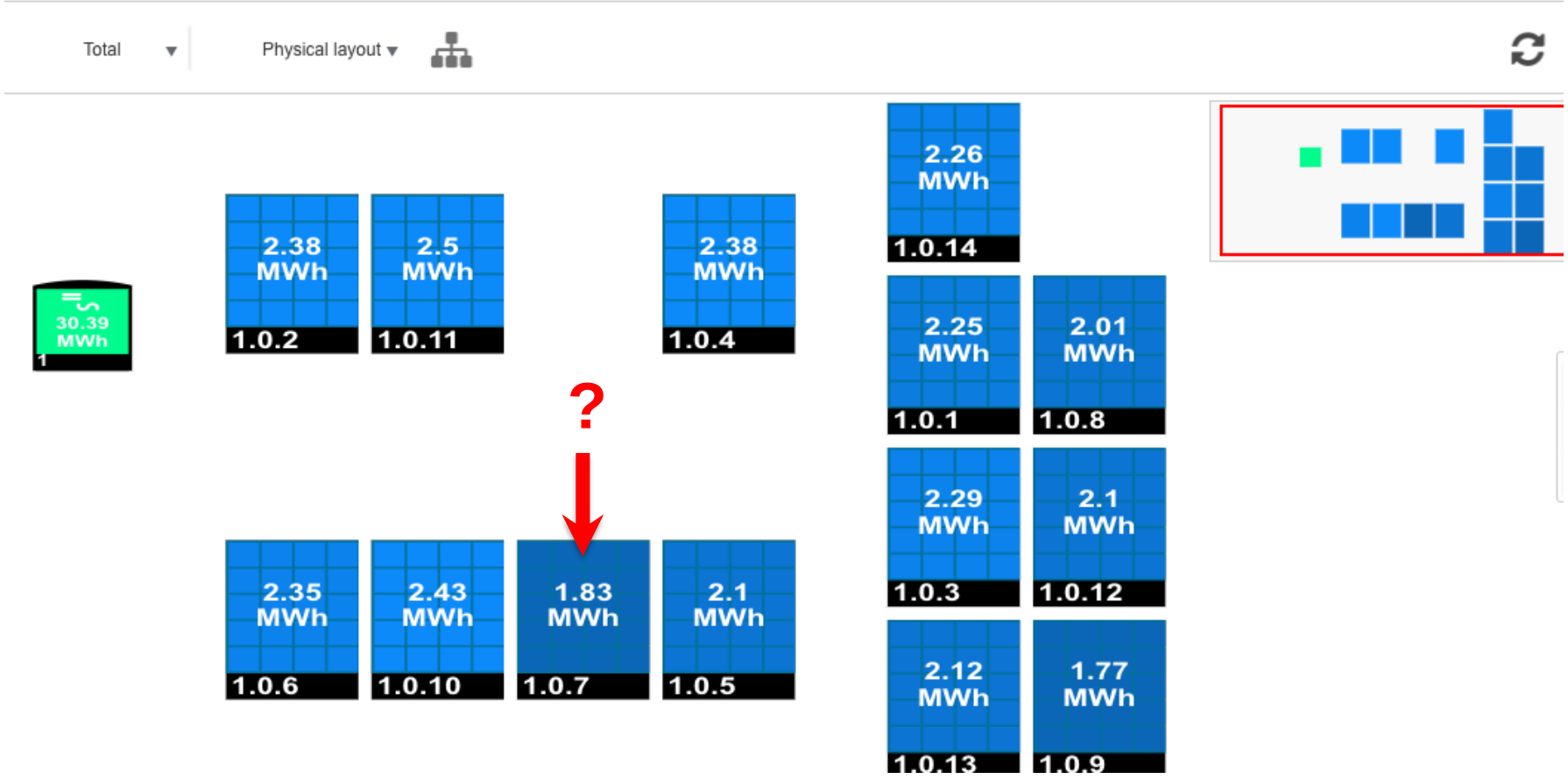
Maintenance



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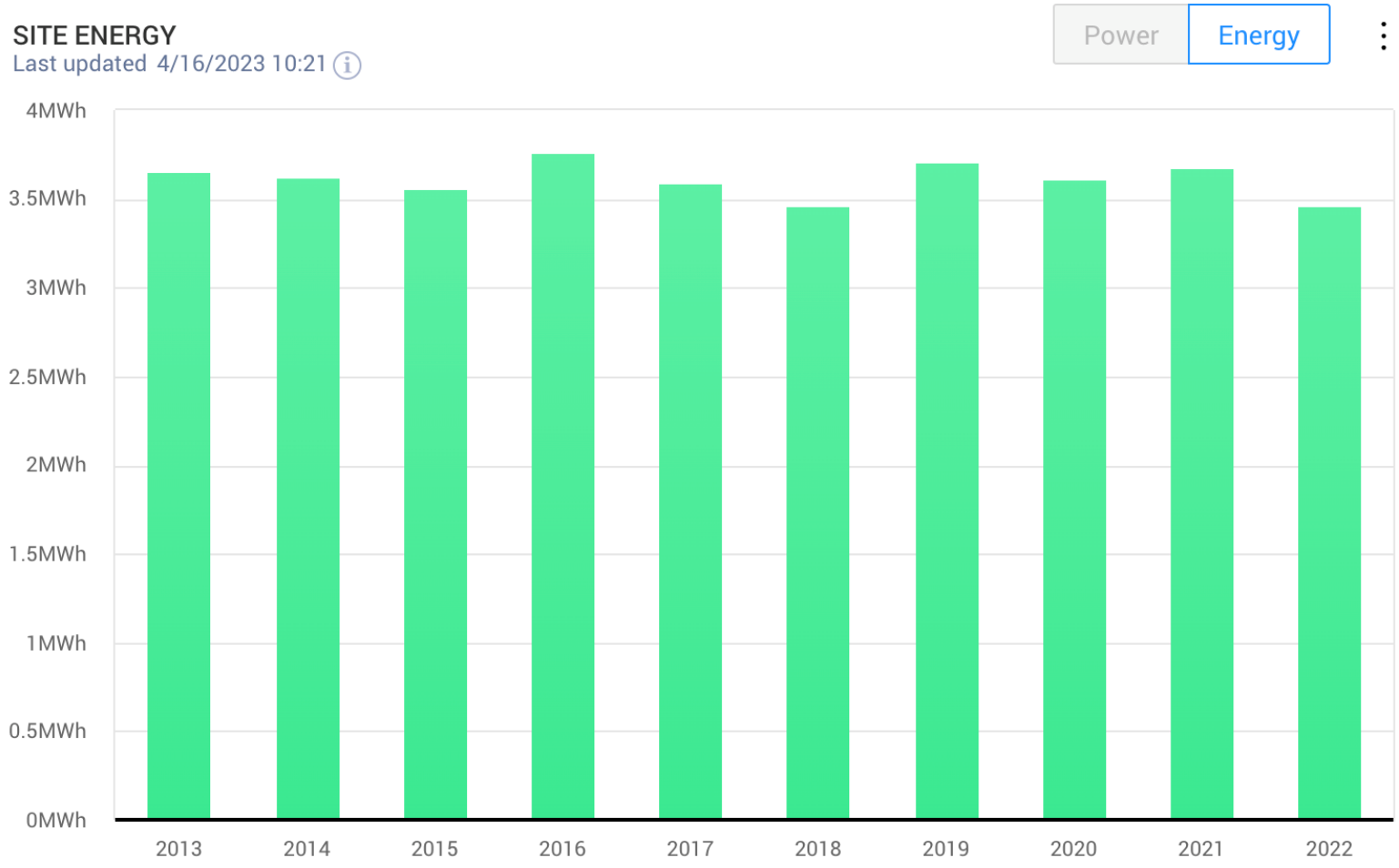
Maintenance

Maintenance



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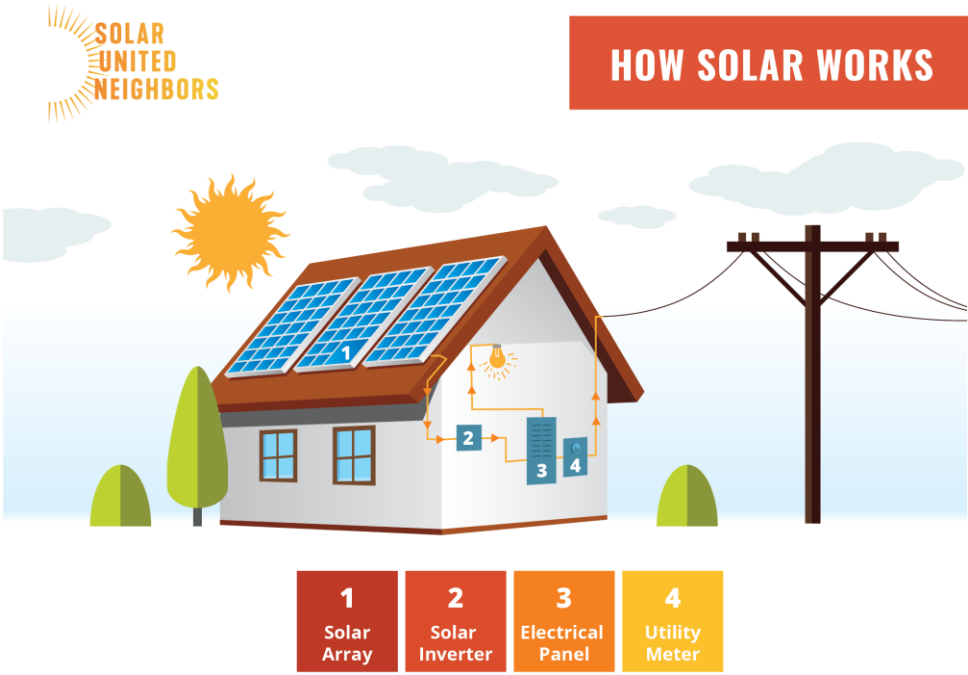
Reading you Utility Bill

- Solar Energy Crediting
  - Net energy metering (NEM)
  - Other types
- What gets measured
- Terminology
- Billing issues



Reading you Utility Bill

Details of your Electric Charges

Residential Service - service number [redacted]
Electricity you used this period

Meter Number	Energy Type	End Date	Start Date	Number Of Days	Total Use
~~NXA112092645~~	~~Use (kWh)~~	~~Sep 28~~	~~Aug 26~~	~~34~~	~~906~~
	Generation (kWh)	Sep 28	Aug 26	34	378

Your meter records hourly use. Total use is the sum of this hourly data.
Please visit My Account at pepco.com to view your energy use data.

Your next bill period is scheduled to end on October 27, 2016

Peak Energy Savings Credit - Summary of your use and credit eligibility during Peak Energy Savings Days. If you are an Energy Wise Rewards Customer, your Peak Energy Savings Credit may be offset by your Energy Wise Rewards Credit. Please visit My Account at pepco.com for more details.

Excess Generation Summary

	Total
Credit kWh Balance from your last bill	0
Adiustments	0
Current month usage KWH	906
Current month generation KWH	-378
Total kWh balance	**528**
Credit kWh Expired on Anniversary	0
Credit kWh Balance	**0**

1
2
3

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Reading you Utility Bill

Details of your Electric Charges

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Credit kWh Balance	**0**

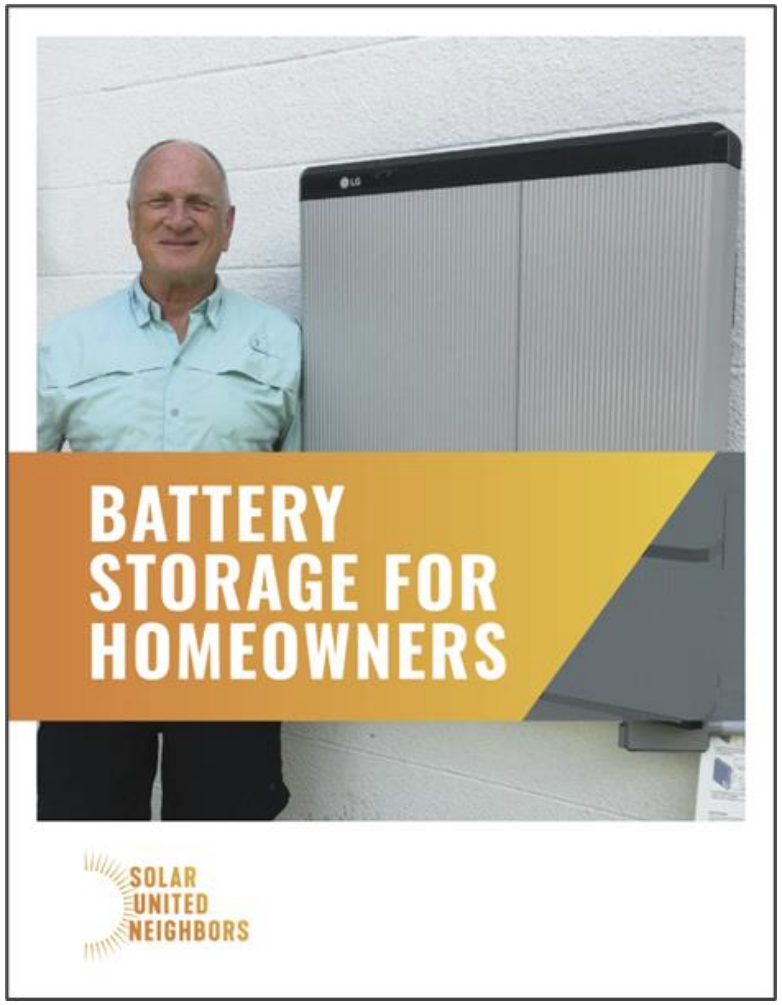
1
2
3

Bonus question:

Is 378 kilowatt-hours (#2 above) the total amount of solar energy this array made during the billing period?

Power Outages

- What happens?
- Why?
- What can you do?



solarunitedneighbors.org/storage

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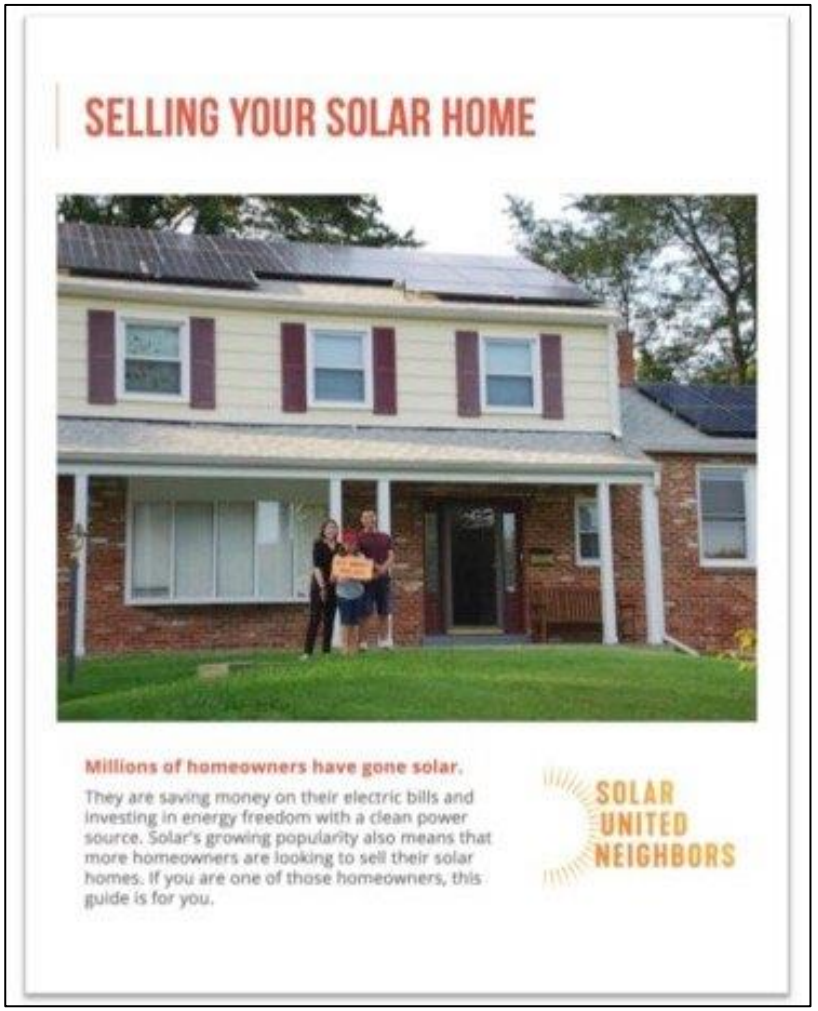
Selling your solar home

- Get prepared
- Bill savings!
- Lease or PPA?
- Real estate agents
- Green appraisal



solarunitedneighbors.org/sellingsolarhomes

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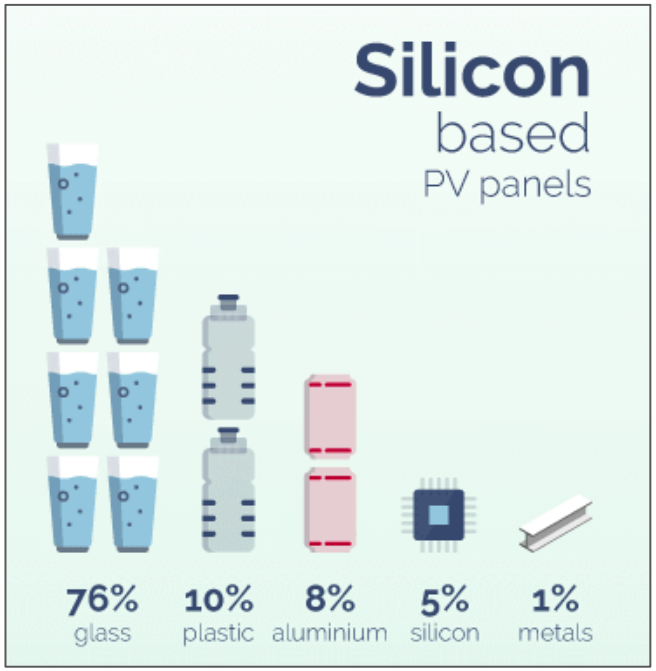
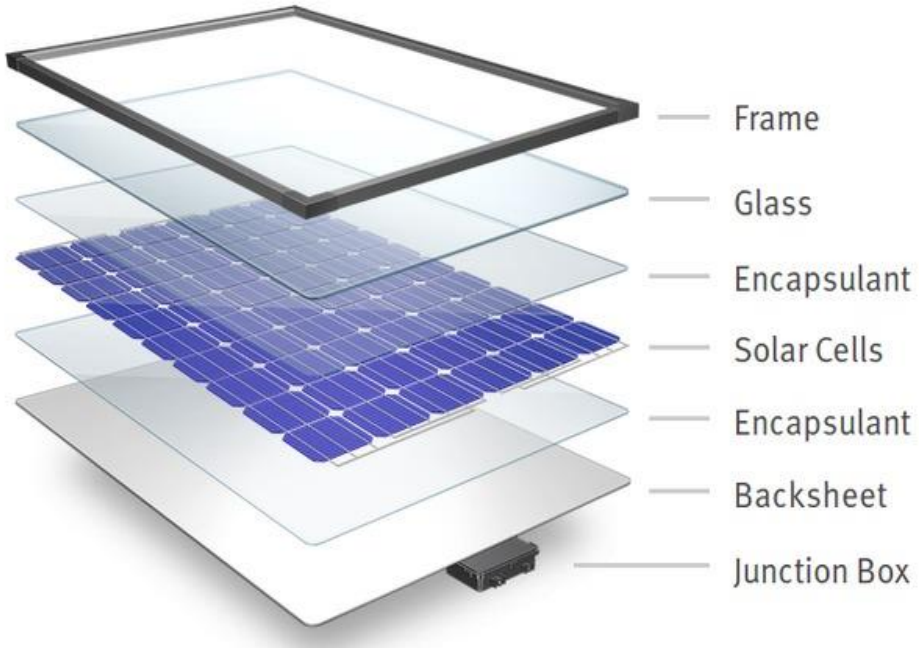
Recycling

- Materials
- Limited options
- What you can do



Source: Greenmatch UK



Panel / Module

Image Source: DuPont

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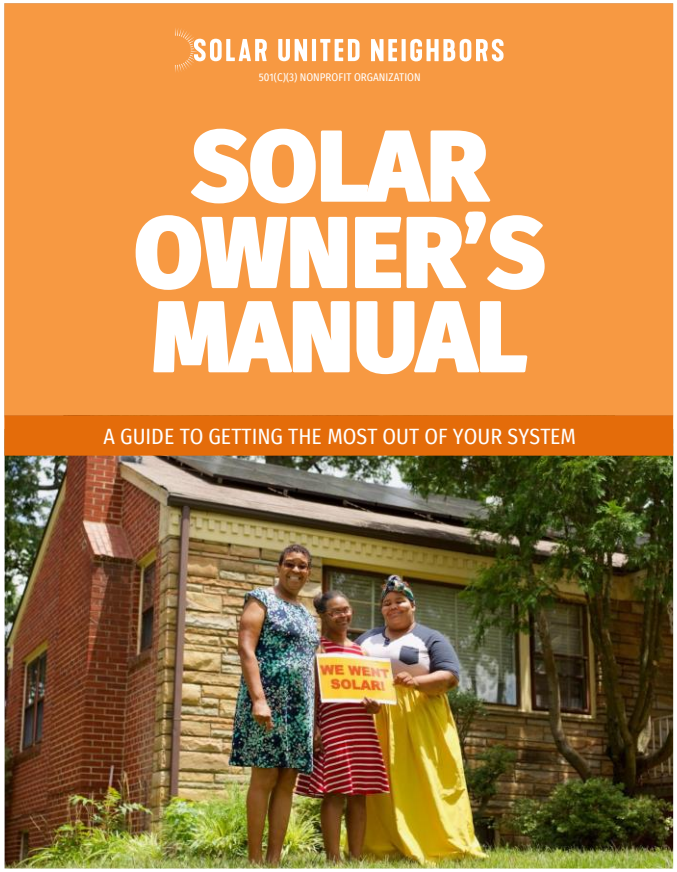
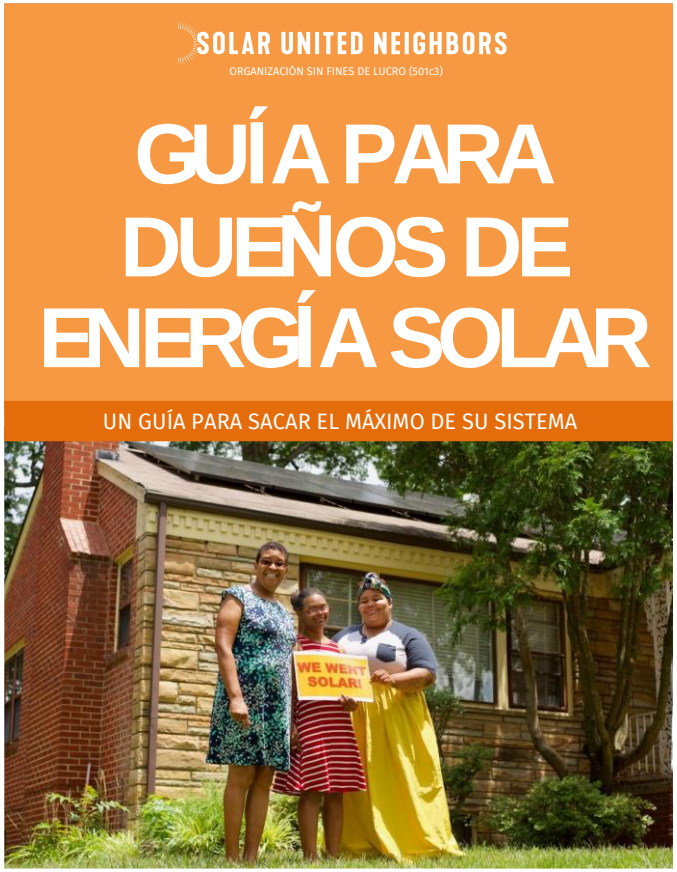
Solar Owner's Manual





Looking for more?

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Join us!

- Volunteer with SUN
- Share your solar story
- Advocate for solar friendly policies

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Questions?

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Thank You!

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