

Dear Westport resident,

Whether you own or rent your house, apartment or condo, there may be an opportunity to benefit from solar photovoltaics (PV). Solar PV systems, either on your property, or remotely located, generate electricity, which may lower your electricity costs. And you don't necessarily have to buy a solar PV system outright to benefit from these cost savings. There are leases, loans and power purchase agreements (PPAs). (See links, below, for more information)

The Town of Westport is benefitting from a program called Virtual Net Metering, in which electricity is generated in a remote location, and municipal buildings use the credits from such generation to purchase electricity at a discounted rate. Efforts are being made to provide such a Shared Solar program to all Westporters. If you are interested in being contacted about this program at a later date, please send an email to gtf@westportct.gov, with SHARED SOLAR in the subject heading.

The Green Task Force, a Town committee, cannot sanction any one vendor, but encourages you to visit this website: <http://www.gosolarct.com>. This CT Green Bank* supported website provides an objective overview of solar PV in CT, from financing, incentives and rebates to installation and maintenance (of which there is little for a solar PV system). And here is the link to CT certified solar contractors, from this website: <http://www.gosolarct.com/review-qualified-solar-contractors>.

There is also the Energize CT website, <https://www.energizect.com/your-home/solutions-list/residential-solar-investment-program>. Energize CT is an initiative of the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund, the Connecticut Green Bank, the State, and your local electric and gas utilities. This website also provides information about solar incentives, rebates and contractors.

The Green Task Force (GTF) recommends that you contact several vendors, not just one if you are considering installing solar PV. And consider wrapping the cost of a new roof into the solar PV financing, battery storage, and the pros and cons to going off the grid.

*About the Connecticut Green Bank: The Connecticut Green Bank (formerly the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority) was established by the Connecticut General Assembly on July 1, 2011 as a part of Public Act 11-80. As the nation's first full-scale green bank, it is leading the clean energy finance movement by leveraging public and private funds to scale-up renewable energy deployment and energy efficiency projects across Connecticut. The Green Bank's success in accelerating private investment in clean energy is helping Connecticut create jobs, increase economic prosperity, promote energy security and address climate change. For more information about the Connecticut Green Bank, please visit ctgreenbank.com.