

Solarize Shirley Hits Several Milestones

First Contracts Signed - Tier One Completed

The Shirley Energy Committee along with their chosen provider, New England Clean Energy, were excited to announce the first three contracts signed in Shirley.

Other contracts soon followed. Shirley Energy Committee Chairman Bryan Dumont said, "We have pushed through tier one, and are into tier two. This means on top of all the incentives provided by the Federal, State and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, all the people that have signed or will sign, just received on average another \$1,200 discount."

"Every time we reach another tier, the pricing for all participants drops by approximately \$1,200. We are hopeful to achieve tier five, meaning a savings of almost \$6,000 on each installed system, be it outright ownership, lease, PPA or a solar hot water system. It is the total installed kilowatts that is reflected in the tiered pricing."

The first to sign a contract was David Posluszny of Catacunemaug Road. He is in the process of designing and constructing a zero energy use home and stated, "I'm thrilled to have the town and state on board with solar. From the beginning of design with my home, I knew I wanted solar, but now I can purchase them at a huge savings thanks to this program. Once my system is installed it will cover 100 percent of my energy needs for the next 30 years."

On the same afternoon, Stewart Cady of Little Turnpike Road signed a contract and stated, "Six years ago it would have taken nearly 25 years for a solar system to have paid for itself. With the incentives in place today and the package that Shirley has put together with New England Clean Energy, our payback is roughly eight years - even less as more residents sign up for the program. We now look forward to transforming the project plan from a set of documents into the generation of

electricity on our roof."

A third contract was completed by Edward Geraghty of Center Road. His installation will be unique in that he resides in one of the oldest homes in Shirley, once the home of Lura A. White.

Mark Durrenberger, President of New England Clean Energy, stated, "The Solarize program is only as successful as the buzz that Shirley residents create around it. More people talking about it means more people will sign up and everyone will save more. It's that simple. This is a great start. We hope Tier 5 can be achieved by the September 30 deadline."

"Since Massachusetts spends \$18 billion annually on imported sources of energy from outside of the state, region and country, it's important that communities like Shirley are investing in home-grown clean energy sources, like solar," said Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) CEO and Executive Director Alicia Barton McDevitt.

"We congratulate Shirley on its first Solarize Mass contract and look forward to seeing many more residents sign up to maximize their savings," Solarize Mass Project Coordinator Elizabeth Youngblood said.

Shirley residents have until September 30 to sign a contract as part of the program, which is running in a total of 17 communities across the state. The four communities that participated in the program last year contracted for a total of 162 solar PV systems, totaling 829 kilowatts of capacity. During their lifetimes, these PV systems will save over 13,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide, equivalent to the annual emissions of more than 2,500 cars.

As you drive through Shirley you may notice signs promoting Solarize Shirley, these are your friends and neighbors who have taken advantage of the steep discounted pricing in Solar and have signed contracts.



Solarizing in Shirley are, from top: a new home on Catacunemaug Road, a home on Little Turnpike Road and the former home of Lura A. White on Center Road.

The Shirley Energy Committee reminds all residents, and in particular those that have received proposals and those who should have received an e-mail or phone call from New England Clean Energy, that the program deadline is September 30. The more residents that sign a contract the lower the cost is for all. If you have any questions or are interested in having your home surveyed at no cost or obligation, contact the Energy Committee at 978-425-2726 or Shirleysolar@yahoo.com.

