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Solarize Ventura Offers Local Homeowners Solar Education and Discounts

Solarize Group-Purchase Program Returns to Ventura

Ventura, CA, – Solarize Ventura is back for the third year, featuring discounted prices on solar systems from vetted, family-owned solar businesses.

For the third consecutive year, the non-profit Community Environmental Council (CEC), in partnership with the City of Ventura, is offering the Solarize Ventura program to city residents. Solarize Ventura's 2014 and 2015 programs helped 94 Ventura homeowners go solar and begin saving on utility bills. Given the success and positive reception of the prior programs, CEC and the City are offering Solarize Ventura again in 2016.

Solarize Ventura will be available to homeowners April 20 through July 19. The program is designed to make going solar simpler and more affordable, and to increase the amount of renewable energy within the city. "With discounted, fixed pricing from vetted installers and free solar education through workshops and consults, we are looking to make the whole process streamlined and easier on the customer," explained Jefferson Litten, CEC's Director of Energy Programs.

Solarize Ventura features two local solar installers, California Solar Electric and Coastal Solar, who are both offering special discounted pricing for Ventura homeowners. The firms were selected for Solarize Ventura after careful evaluation and vetting by a committee of local experts. Both companies are locally-owned family businesses with years of experience in Ventura. "We are very excited to partner with California Solar Electric and Coastal Solar for this year's program," said Litten. "Not only are both companies local, they are both offering top quality, American-made panels."

Regarding the launch of the Solarize program, Ventura Mayor Erik Nasarenko said, "This program is an opportunity for the City to support community energy efficiency efforts while helping our citizens reduce carbon emissions and save on their utility costs."

Ventura residents Robert Garven and Rose Latourell went solar through the 2015 Solarize Ventura program and cut their electricity bills by 80%. They now pay just \$10 per month for their electricity. Garven was particularly grateful for the solar education he received through Solarize, "I went to a homeowner workshop, and when I left an hour later I felt like I knew everything that I needed to know about going solar. The workshops saved me hours of research and the Solarize installers I worked with were fantastic. The panels look great."

As in years past, CEC will host free educational workshops throughout the City. The workshops will cover solar technologies, energy efficiency, financing options and the Solarize program. "The workshops are a great opportunity to learn the ins and outs of going solar - from technical aspects, to the effects on home values, to how your electric bills will shrink," said Litten.

Anyone interested in learning about solar is encouraged to attend one of these upcoming workshops:

April 27, 2016, 6:00 – 7:30pm Ventura City Hall, Community Meeting Room,
501 Poli St, Ventura

May 18, 2016 6:00 – 7:30pm Sacred Heart Church
10800 Henderson Rd, Ventura

June 1, 2016, 6:00 – 7:30pm Poinsettia Pavilion
3451 Foothill Road, Ventura

Solarize Ventura participants will also help support the CEC's mission in the community. For each homeowner who goes solar through the program, the solar installers will pay, at no additional cost to the homeowner, a small fee which will help CEC continue to offer Solarize program in local communities.

To learn more or apply for Solarize Ventura, homeowners can go to www.SolarizeVentura.org or call (805) 963-0583 x 101.

About the Community Environmental Council

Since 1970, the Community Environmental Council (CEC) has led the Central Coast region – and at times California and the nation – in creative solutions to some of the toughest environmental problems. Today CEC is focused on the climate, encouraging global change through local action with five initiatives: Drive Less, Choose Electric, Go Solar, Ditch Plastic, and Eat Local. ###

