

ENVIRONMENT

Solar Co-op: Affordable Options for Rooftop Panels or Vehicle Chargers



Public Information Office

June 29, 2020 | 4:43 pm

The 4th Rockville Solar Co-op presents an opportunity to harness solar to power your home or business or electricity to charge up your vehicle.

Community members interested in installing solar panels on their home or business, or an electric vehicle charger, can take advantage of group pricing, rebates and tax credits, and receive guidance throughout the process. Participants sign independent contracts with the rooftop solar system installer, but band together with other co-op participants to negotiate a volume discount and reduce the total cost of installation. Leasing options, with no upfront costs, add to the affordability of solar rooftop panels, which pay for themselves in energy savings over time.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/solarhomes to learn more.

ENVIRONMENT

Take Action to Conserve Energy



Public Information Office

September 27, 2018 | 3:05 pm

Energy Action Month Offers Events and Tips for Saving Energy and Money

October is Energy Action Month, which offers events and resources for learning how to conserve energy and save money in your home or office.

Books and Bulbs: Learn ways to save energy and keep money in your pocket, and get up to three Energy Star-certified light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs free when you bring in old incandescent or compact fluorescent (CFL) light bulbs from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2 at Twinbrook Library, 202 Meadow Hall Drive.

Switch to Green Power: Interested in making the switch to green power? Attend a solar open house. Meet homeowners who have gone solar to ask questions and learn about the process. Three Rockville homes will hold open houses on Oct. 6 and 7. RSVP at nationalsolartour.org/tour-locations.

There are also ways to go green without installing solar panels on your home, including purchasing electricity with renewable energy certificates from wind and solar facilities, and supporting the development of solar power in Maryland by being part of a community solar project. Learn more about green power buying options in Montgomery County at mygreemontgomery.org/2018/buying-green-electricity.



Note: This article has been updated, and will continue to be updated, to reflect cancellations due to the COVID-19 emergency.

Following state and federal directives intended to slow the spread of the new coronavirus, COVID-19, Rockville events, classes, programs, rentals and activities are [canceled through April 30](#).

Updated, Friday, April 10:

We may all be stuck at home, but there are so many ways we can protect our environment and celebrate Earth Month without leaving our house, yard or neighborhood!

The city's Environment and Sustainability staff are teaming up with Croydon Creek Nature Center to bring you a green theme for each week in April. We'll update this webpage weekly with fun activities and tips for things to do at home to make every day Earth Day. [Follow Croydon Creek Nature Center on Facebook](#) to see the posts as we share them each day!

Energy

We're all spending a lot more time at home and it's a perfect opportunity to explore how energy works, how much we use and how we can help the environment while saving on our energy bills.

While Croydon Creek Nature Center is closed to public, we've turned off all exterior lights (building lights and parking lot lights) to save energy. Additionally, only the animal enclosure lights are being used during the day. The natural light coming in the windows is a great (and free!) energy source.

Learn more about energy and simple actions to save energy at home:

- [Residential Energy Savings Tips](#).
- [Montgomery Energy Connection](#).
- [Climate Kids: Energy](#).
- [PBS Kids: Green Energy Hunt](#).

Renewable Energy for your Home

Interested in green energy for your home? Check out [MD Electric Choice](#), a new webpage from the Maryland Public Service Commission to help consumers find energy service providers, including a search feature for renewable electricity sources.

ONLINE ENERGY BINGO
LEARN HOW TO PLAY AND ENTER TO WIN PRIZES

Activity of the Week (April 5-11): Make a Solar Oven

Solar energy is the most abundant energy source on Earth. Humans have found a way to harness this renewable energy to create electricity and produce heat. You too can harness the power of the sun using some supplies from home. [Build a basic solar oven](#) and prepare some tasty treats using solar energy!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Doing some spring cleaning while staying at home? Help your neighbors by posting unneeded items for no-contact pickups on Buy Nothing, Nextdoor or neighborhood groups. Be sure to use best practices for disinfecting items.



THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING THESE:



Cans



Aluminum and Steel Cans
empty and rinse



Cartons



Food and Beverage Cartons
empty and replace cap



Glass



Bottles and Jars
empty and rinse



Paper



Cereal Boxes, Newspaper, Magazines and Mail, Flattened Cardboard & Paper Tubes



Plastic



Kitchen, Laundry, Bath: Bottles and Containers
empty and replace cap

NO!



Do not Bag Recyclables
(no garbage)



No Plastic Bags
or Plastic Wrap



No Tangles,
Cords, Hoses
or Chains



No Food or Liquid
(empty all containers)



No Foam

240-314-8568

Rockville, City of Rockville

www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash

You probably knew you can recycle things like bottles, cans and mixed paper. But did you know there are earth-friendly ways to dispose of medications, unneeded chemicals like paint or pesticides, electronics and bulk items? Learn more:

- Environmental Protection Agency: [Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Resources for Students and Educators](#).
- City of Rockville: [Recycling, Trash and Waste](#).

Reduce Food Waste

Did you know that more food waste reaches landfills and incinerators than any other single material in our everyday trash? Food waste is also a huge part of our carbon footprint.

Taking the simple actions like planning meals, using leftovers and keeping a list of perishables on your fridge can help reduce food waste. Many food items can also be recycled through composting.

Activities of the Week (March 29-April 4)

Now is a great time to think about making the most out of what we have on hand, which is a great way to live more sustainably! Here are a few ideas for stay-at-home projects:

- [Make Your Own Paper](#).
- [Visible Mending](#).
- [No-sew Sock Bunny](#).
- [Make a Caterpillar](#).

#