

October 2019 Update on Solar Projects

Greater Woodlands Area Solar Co-op

Throughout the spring and summer of 2019, the co-op actively sought area residents interested in installing rooftop solar arrays on their homes/businesses/places of worship. Co-op sponsors were [Solar United Neighbors of Texas](#), [Houston Renewable Energy Group](#), and The Woodlands GREEN. Co-op members participated in a competitive bid process, and TriSMART was the chosen installer. Several dozen residents had their homes evaluated. While tremendous interest was evident, many of us have less than ideal roofs and/or too many trees to make rooftop solar feasible. Nevertheless, 10 contracts were signed (approximately 70kW total), and all are expected to have completed installation this fall. Four of the ten new solar owners are Woodlands GREEN members!



Community Solar

If you don't want a rooftop array but still want to buy renewable electricity, The Woodlands GREEN and [Solar United Neighbors of Texas](#) will be advocating with Entergy and the Public Utility Commission of Texas to allow Community Solar options in this area, whereby you can buy a "share" of a large local array. It may take a couple years to work our way through the PUC process, and we plan to engage community stakeholders such as residents, local governance, electricity providers, etc. This project is not limited to The Woodlands; in fact, one idea is to design the project to benefit an underprivileged area of Montgomery County such as Tamina. We have a plan and a template pretty well defined, but are just now getting organized.

If you would like to help or learn more about our advocacy efforts, please email me at carolyn.newman.TWG@gmail.com. Some legal background would be helpful, but not required.



Reinventing Cities

Woodlands GREEN members may remember meeting Dori Wolfe of [Wolfe Energy](#); she is the local representative for Solar United Neighbors, and presented at a Going Green lecture in January 2019 on the topic of going solar. Dori has recently been awarded a major project by the city of Houston, part of the global Reinventing Cities initiative. The project will repurpose a 240-acre landfill to build a 70MW solar array in the Sunnyside community of southeast Houston. Woodlands GREEN business member [MP2 Energy](#) will be the retail partner on the project which is expected to be online in 2021. More details on the Sunnyside project are available at www.greenhoustontx.gov and <https://www.c40reinventingcities.org>

