

Co-op Coalition Survey: Composting & Wind/Solar

Thanks to the 12 members who responded (below). You provided some very helpful information about both composting and wind/solar power!

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 In a message dated Tue, May 21, 2019 12:53 pm

Does your co-op compost? Does your co-op get any part of its electricity via wind/solar companies that partner with PEPCO? If yes to either question, you can help a Coalition co-op member. Their questions are below. Please "Reply" by Friday, May 31. And again, thanks for helping out one another!
 DC Cooperative Housing Coalition
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1. Our co-op is interested in building-wide composting programs. Has any co-op partnered with a local composting program/company and what has the experience been? Specifically, we are interested in logistics, such as if each unit gets a composting bin that is then entered into a central location, how often the composting is picked up, and costs.
 2. Have any fellow co-ops switched their building power to one of the new wind/solar energy companies that can be partnered with through Pepco? I've seen offers for individuals to switch 50% of their energy usage to renewables with no increase in cost, but I'm not sure if similar programs exist for buildings. If your building has switched to renewable energy at any percentage, I would be interested in hearing about your experience and if you experienced any increase in cost.

<50 units	<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. We are signing a contract for solar energy reducing our costs for the common areas of the building from the current \$0.11 per kWh to \$0.02 per kWh for the next 15 years with no escalation when energy costs go up. At the end of the 15 years, our cost for energy goes to \$0.00 per kWh.</p> <p>We do not have enough space on our roof to offer energy at this rate for each unit. We are working with Revolution Solar. They are obtaining permits, obtaining approval and coordinating with PEPCO, installing the panels, monitoring the energy output (we will have also access to the web site to monitor energy output) and be responsible for any maintenance. It is our understanding that maintenance work is minimal because there are no moving parts in the system.</p> <p>Revolution Solar found the Power Provider for us. We did have options. We are working with a Power Provider rather than paying to have the system installed because we are nonprofit and cannot take advantage of the DC tax benefits offered for solar installation. The Power Provider makes money from the tax incentives and our small payments. Our only cost to implement this project is the legal review of the contract.</p> <p>We are waiting for minor roof repairs to be completed and then we'll be ready to install the panels. We hope to be up and running by mid-July, we want to catch those summer rays!</p>
<50 units	We have a composting bin in our yard.

<50 units	<p>We implemented a composting program just this past year. We used Veteran's Compost. They cost 50\$ per month for a smallish container that is emptied once a week. It's about the size of a five-gallon bucket, maybe a little bigger. It wasn't quite enough for our 30-unit building so we added another container. Logistically, these just sit down in our trash room with the garbage and recycling cans. Individual units store compost on their own in-unit and drop it off in the container downstairs like other trash.</p> <p>We have not done one of those solar/wind partnerships.</p>
<50 units	<p>Our co-op has not implemented any building-wide composting program. Our residents can drop off compostable food scraps at a location only two blocks away.</p> <p>Our building has not looked into wind/solar sources for electricity. Our community electricity usage is low; heat and hot water are natural gas powered and cooling is individually metered.</p>
<50 units	No to both questions
<50 units	<p>Our co-op originally had composting, where we scheduled collection from a communal bin that was near our trash collection. However, after a while this became messy and we felt it was attracting unwelcome visitors... Composting is now done on an individual basis, where residents coordinate the removal of composting on their own.</p> <p>There are a few companies that you could partner with individually or as an organization, such as: https://compostcab.com/</p> <p>Or have resident's drop off compost at a farmer's market: https://dpw.dc.gov/foodwastedropoff</p> <p>We also added solar power to our building. We teamed up with Solar Solutions. They maintain the panels on our roof. We agreed to a contract where we pay a monthly fee for 10 years to own the panels at the end of that time. The contract also includes a set rate with PEPCO for our common area from the use of the panels. The panels installed are anticipated to reduce our common area output by 50%. I have not checked our individual electrical statements on a before / after comparison, but in reviewing the website monitoring our panels, our solar array has produced a little over 19,000 kWh since installing the panels March of 2018.</p>
<50 units	No on both counts from us.
50 - 99 units - NONE	
100+ units	<p>Our co op has signed a contract for a solar project where the provider builds and owns and operates the system (and gets all the tax and energy credits). We invest zero but get all the electricity for free which will lower our Pepco bill for the common areas and allow us to resell the remaining electricity within the building (community solar) to make money. Interconnection is required with Pepco but they don't control the project in any way. We spent a lot of time researching the financial options, modelling, writing an RFP and negotiating the contract terms. A worthwhile project but it does take time and energy. Hope this helps</p>
100+ units	We have not done either. We have looked at both but didn't have enough interest to pursue either at this time.
100+ units	We do composting on our property. There are two compost bins located at two different locations on the property and we move them to one location on our pickup day so we aren't charged for multiple locations. The vendor is Compost Crew and we pay \$185 per month for one pickup per week.
100+ units	Management entered into a contract with <i>The Compost Crew</i> to pick up compost once a week beginning April 1, 2019. The monthly cost of the service is:

	<p>Base Services \$176.34 Tracking and Analytics \$ 8.70 Maintenance of the Bins \$ 20.00 Total \$205.04</p> <p>The base service includes pick-up service for two (2) containers once a week. Management will keep one (1) container out at a time to avoid the need to use two liners unnecessarily. The tracking and analytics service will monitor how much compost is being picked up to determine if we need more/less service; effectively if the program is successful. The maintenance of the bins is for <i>The Compost Crew</i> to change the liners each time there is a pick-up. This is a month-to-month contract. The composting area is on the mall level of the garage at the rear entrance of the building.</p>
100+ units	No to both questions