

Co-op Coalition Survey: Solar Survey

Thanks to the members who took the time to respond to this survey. The original e-mail request containing the question follows along with the table containing the individual responses.

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In a message dated 12/9/2015 2:23:43 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, CooperativesDC@aol.com writes:

The results of the following short survey will be used by the Coalition's Board to plan for our 2016 Spring Seminar-- **Solar Power Installations: Issues for Cooperatives in DC**. We need your help in determining how many CHC members currently have some type of solar system at their building, or have explored installing a system and decided not to for some reason. Because of the holidays, please respond by Friday, January 7.

Have you installed a solar system at your building site?

YES If you have a solar system:

1. Is it a thermal/hot water system, or one that uses photovoltaic (PV) cells and a converter to create electricity?
2. Who (what company) installed the system for you?
3. When was it installed?
4. What has your experience been to date? (Savings as expected? Problems?)
5. How did you finance the system? (Purchase? Lease? Other?)

NO If you do not have a solar system:

1. Did you explore installing a solar system, but decide against it?
2. If so, why did you decide not to go ahead?

Thank you very much for your assistance.

You are receiving this blind-copied to protect your privacy.

<50 units	No, and no talk of doing so.
<50 units	Electric only, Nextility, 2015, awesome, Nextility paid
<50 units	[Our co-op] does not have any solar power system and has not explored solar power
<50 units	We do not have any solar energy, nor have we explored the possibility.
<50 units	At [our co-op], we have no solar systems, nor have we looked into the matter.
<50 units	<p>We have explored installing a solar system, both for solar hot water and solar pv. Solar PV we explored over the course of the first half of 2013. At that time, the company that we were going to do business with measured our water usage and determined that we did not consume enough hot water for the system to be worthwhile for them to pay for.</p> <p>We then explored leasing a Solar PV system. We faced a similar situation. Because we were a co-op as opposed to a single family home, we found that most companies were not interested in doing business with us. Only one company was even willing to provide a price quote. We weren't satisfied and so we decided to wait and try again later on.</p> <p>Perhaps 2016 will be the year! Looking forward to hearing what others say. Perhaps we could form a buying group.</p>
50-99 units	We are exploring installing a solar system. The system is still under review.

50-99 units	[Our co-op] has neither investigated nor pursued solar.
50-99 units	<p>NO – [Our co-op] has not installed a solar system.</p> <p>In 2013 [our co-op] explored installing PV panels on the roof of our building through a 10 year lease with no installation cost to the building. The provider was Skyline Innovations, now Nextility, and the same firm that did [another co-op's installation]. The [co-op's] board determined that the savings (approximately \$1000/year to current electricity costs), did not justify going ahead. There was concern that if roof work was necessary in the future, the energy savings would be outweighed by having to remove and reinstall the panels. There continues to be considerable interest by [our] members. The economics need to improve before it is practical.</p>
50-99 units	No, [our] Cooperative does not have a solar system at this time. We have not decided one way or the other to install one. We will, at some point, look into this, but not at this time.
100-199 units	[Our co-op] has not considered solar power but may do so in the future.
100-199 units	No, we do not have one and not sure if they have researched this in the past.
200+ units	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is it a thermal/hot water system, or one that uses photovoltaic (PV) cells and a converter to create electricity? Hot water (gas operated) 2. Who (what company) installed the system for you? Skyline Innovations put the solar panels on the North Tower. Skyline Innovations is now Nextility. 3. When was it installed? Approximately four (4) years ago. 4. What has your experience been to date? (Savings as expected? Problems?) Uneventful. Had to chase Nextility to reconcile the account. They did. 5. How did you finance the system? (Purchase? Lease? Other?) No cost to property – 10 year lease.
200+ units	No.
200+ units	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did you explore installing a solar system, but decide against it? Yes. 2. If so, why did you decide not to go ahead? Board of Directors at the time believed new technology may emerge and were cautious about panels installed on relatively new roof membrane. Current Board is reconsidering and appear to favor consideration of a 100% PV system on our large roof that is estimated to off-set our electrical consumption by 8%.
200+ units	No, but we are looking into solar.
200+ units	We have not decided and have looked into this but need to further.