

# Solar FAQs

## How do solar panels work?

Photovoltaic (PV) cells in your solar panels convert light energy from the sun into direct current (DC) electricity. Inverters then convert this DC electricity generated by your panels into alternating current (AC) that is used for your home and appliances.

## What's the life expectancy of this system?

The life expectancy of a solar panel is 25 years or more. Most solar systems come with warranties for panel production, parts, and labor.

## What are the operations and maintenance needs for solar?

Solar systems have no moving parts, so they will not need much maintenance. You will not need to clean your panels - they are cleaned by rainfall.

## How am I credited for the electricity my system produces?

Net metering allows you to offset your energy consumption with your energy production. When your solar panel produces more electricity than you use, your electric meter runs backwards. When you use more electricity than your system generates, it runs forward.

Your monthly electric bill reflects your total usage minus the electricity your solar panels produced.

## Who installs the systems?

Co-op members select an installer through an open and competitive bidding process. Once the group is large enough, Solar United Neighbors of Florida (FL SUN) helps the co-op solicit bids from area installers. Co-op members form a Selection Committee to choose the bid that best serves the group.

## What is a solar co-op?

A co-op allows a community to use group buying power to save on a PV system. Co-op members' percent savings differ, but it is always a significant savings.

## Why should I participate in a solar co-op?

Going solar with a co-op saves you money and makes going solar easier, while helping build a community of solar supporters. Working with the co-op gives you the technical expertise and the support of nonprofit FL SUN throughout the process with educational seminars, standard requests for proposals, technical advice and reference checks. FL SUN monitors and talks regularly to the chosen installer during the customer contact and installation process.

## How does the co-op purchase work?

At the information session, we will explain how solar works and answer questions you may have. You may also join then or on the co-op's web page. Joining the group is not a commitment to purchase panels.

## Is there a cost to participate in the co-op?

There is no cost to participate in the bulk purchase program beyond the cost of purchasing your solar system should you decide to go solar. FL SUN charges the selected installer a \$600 development fee per completed installation. This fee allows FL SUN to manage the co-op and grow solar across Florida.



## Sponsored by :

Solar United Neighbors of FL,  
The League of Women Voters of  
Manatee County, F.I.S.H.,  
Sierra Club of Manatee-Sarasota,  
Manatee Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship, South Florida Museum,  
Manatee County Audubon Society

The average cost of a residential solar system has dropped 60% in 7 years. Solar energy is now cheaper than fossil fuels!

You can claim a 30% tax credit against tax liability for your installed solar investment in 2018 and 2019.

The open period for joining is January 8, 2018 to April 30, 2018.  
Register at [Flsun.org](http://Flsun.org)

**Informational meetings:**

**Wednesday, January 24, 6:00**  
**Central Library**  
**1301 Barcorrota Boulevard West**

**Tuesday, February 20, 6:00**  
**YMCA Lakewood Ranch**  
**5100 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard**

**Thursday, March 22, 6:00**  
**Braden River Library**  
**4915 53rd Avenue East**

For more information or to schedule a presentation contact Alice Newlon at [ManateeSolar@gmail.com](mailto:ManateeSolar@gmail.com)

Or visit website  
[Solarunitedneighbors.org/manatee](http://Solarunitedneighbors.org/manatee)



## Solar Supports You With...

### 1. Financial Security

Solar can pay for itself in the first 5-10 years. After that, all electricity generated is **FREE!**

### 2. American Jobs

In 2016, the Solar Industry created more American jobs than coal, oil and natural gas combined. **These jobs are not exportable.**

### 3. A Declaration of Independence

Why use limited fossil fuels with uncertain prices? Use what Florida produces, year after year — Sun!

### 4. Distribution of Energy Supply

Our centralized electric grid is inefficient outdated and susceptible to outages. Solar distributes energy production thereby taking strain off of the grid and making it more efficient and resilient.

### Did You Know?

- Florida gets less than 1/2 of 1% of its electric power from solar.
- Florida population is growing more than 1,000 people per day. Solar can support this growth.
- **US solar power employs more people than oil, coal and gas combined.**

# Save on Your Electric Bill!



## Go Solar

[www.solarunitedneighbors.org/Manatee](http://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/Manatee)