



Solarize Corvallis

Contact

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Description

Solarize Corvallis is a new initiative that will use community investment to significantly increase the number and/or size of solar and battery systems installed at facilities in our community, such as schools, city and county buildings, nonprofit agencies, and low-income housing complexes. In addition to reducing our collective carbon footprint, Solarize Corvallis will allow community members to directly invest in our infrastructure to better prepare for the future, both in terms of disaster preparedness and the impacts of climate change.

Timeframe

The Solarize Corvallis Initiative is being launched this month (September 2019). Funds are currently being raised for our initial project (150 kW ground-mounted solar + battery system at the Corvallis School District Office), which will be completed in 2019. The Solarize Corvallis Initiative is expected to be ongoing.

Funding

Each project will have its own funding mix, which will typically include community investment through OCPC, solar incentives from Energy Trust of Oregon, and, depending on the specific project, tax credit investment, donations through the Sustainability Coalition, other grants such as Pacific Power's Blue Sky grants, and matching contributions from the host organizations. The Sustainability Coalition has committed to investing up to \$50,000 of its earned income toward Solarize Corvallis projects. Operating expenses will eventually be covered by fees (for OCPC) and donations (for the Sustainability Coalition) but we would like to request \$5,000 in funding from CAAB for startup costs.

Equity and Accessibility

The Solarize Corvallis Initiative directly addresses intergenerational equity, as it is helping our community make the transition to renewable energy, thus assuring a livable future for young people and for future generations. In addition, solar energy installed on low-income housing will significantly lower the energy bills of residents. Finally, solar battery backup will increase community access to services and shelter in case a natural disaster shuts down the power grid.

Approvals

Each project will require building permits from the city or county. For well-designed projects, these are typically obtained easily. Partnership agreements with host organizations

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will also be obtained on a project-by-project basis, using templates already developed by OCPC.

Objectives

Ss3: Community Resiliency

Ss6: Renewable Energy

IP2: Nurturing Small-to-Medium Sized Business

LT8: Community Partnership for Human Service

Partners

Oregon Clean Power Co-op and the Sustainability Coalition are the lead organizations. They will be joined by other partners for specific projects. For the first project, we are partnering with the Corvallis School District.

Climate Action Sections

Buildings and Energy

Health, Social Services and Community Well-Being

Type

Mitigation and Adaptation

What direct impact will your project have on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or preparing community members to adapt to the impacts of climate change (drought, wildfires, flooding, etc.)?

Pacific Power, which serves most of Corvallis, gets over half of its electricity from burning coal. Every solar panel we install will reduce the amount of coal that Pacific Power burns and will have a direct impact on lowering greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, solar battery backup will provide emergency backup power in case of grid blackouts caused by natural or human-caused disasters.

Does your project have any co-benefits?

All of the projects implemented through Solarize Corvallis will generate green jobs, help keep dollars circulating in the local economy, and help host organizations and our community as a whole become more independent from fossil fuels.

Organizations that receive solar panels will see lower electric bills, allowing them to use more of their operating budgets to benefit the community.

We expect many of our projects to include batteries, which will provide emergency backup power in case of grid blackouts caused by natural or human-caused disasters.

We expect a number of projects to benefit low-income or disadvantaged homeowners directly or agencies serving that group.

What type of help, if any, do you need from the members of the Climate Action Advisory Board?

Suggested partners and startup funding

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