

## New Solar Co-Op Getting Started

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HARRISONBURG - A recently formed group of Valley residents interested in solar energy will hold a series of information sessions starting this week.

The sessions are meant to educate the public about solar energy and recruit new members, according to a news release from the group, Massanutten Regional Solar Co-op.

The cooperative, which includes residents of Harrisonburg and the counties of Rockingham, Shenandoah and Page, was launched to build upon the success of Solarize Harrisonburg, the release said.

Solar panels were installed on more than 65 homes in the area earlier this year through the Solarize Harrisonburg program.

Like Solarize Harrisonburg, the cooperative's goal is to save homeowners money on purchasing solar panels, the release says, though joining the group is not a commitment to buy panels.

The Massanutten Regional Solar Co-op will hold its first information session at 6 p.m. Thursday at Massanutten Regional Library's Central Library, 174 S. Main St., Harrisonburg.

Sessions will also be held on Sept. 10 at the Shenandoah County Library, 514 Stoney Creek Road, Edinburg; Oct. 14 in the Plains District Community Center, 233 McCauley Drive, Timberville; and Oct. 15 at the Bridgewater Community Center, 201 Green St. Each session begins at 6 p.m.

The Massanutten Regional Solar Co-op is partnering with VA SUN, a nonprofit that has worked with nearly a dozen Virginia solar cooperatives to make panels more affordable and accessible to homeowners, the release said.

VA SUN helps the groups solicit and review competitive bids from solar installers and select one company to complete installations for members.

By going solar as a group and choosing a single installer, each participant generally saves up to 20 percent off the typical retail cost of the system, the release said.

For more information, visit the Massanutten cooperative's website at [www.vasun.org/massanutten-regional-solar-co-op](http://www.vasun.org/massanutten-regional-solar-co-op).

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