



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ground mount solar array, photo provided by the Midwest Renewable Energy association

Grow Solar Twin Cities Returns for 2022, Reducing Cost of Renewable Energy

MINNEAPOLIS - Along with warmer temperatures and longer days, this spring will bring the return of the [Grow Solar Twin Cities](#) group buy program. Building on the tremendous success of previous programs, the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) is partnering with local organizations to once again offer the solar group purchasing program to property owners throughout the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area.

The Grow Solar program will help residential and commercial property owners go solar through community outreach and education, and will give access to competitive prices for solar installations through the power of volume purchasing, including a limited time rebate that will grow larger as more people participate. This year the program will be joining forces with MN Solar, which was solicited by a competitive request for proposals and chosen by an advisory committee of local organizations and municipal representatives.

Group purchase programs provide residents and businesses with the opportunity to invest in high-quality, renewable energy solar installations and realize savings, while also helping reach sustainability

goals. Estimated first-year savings on utility bills have ranged from \$690 to more than \$1,000, depending on the size of the array.

Over the next few months, the MREA and their program partners will provide free, public, one-hour long educational sessions called Solar Power Hours. After two years of virtual presentations, this year's Power Hours will be a mixture of webinars and in-person gatherings across the program area. Prospective participants will learn how solar energy works, how much a typical solar system costs, what incentives are available and can have their questions about solar answered. These presentations will give attendees the opportunity to sign up for free quotes and site assessments.

The MREA has run over 50 solar group buy programs across the Midwest, including 3 previous programs in the Twin Cities. The previous programs in the Twin Cities resulted in solar installations on 167 properties for a total of 1239 kW of solar -- enough annual electricity production to power 133 average US homes for a year*!

"We're really excited to support MREA in the Grow Solar Twin Cities program again for a third year. From our experience, one of the greatest opportunities of this program is the opportunity for people in the Metro to learn how solar energy works as well as the opportunity to purchase clean energy at competitive rates," said Ted Redmond of paleBLUEdot. Partner organizations include paleBLUEdot, Center for Energy and Environment, and Resilient Cities and Communities, with further support from the cities of Minneapolis, Burnsville, Edina, Coon Rapids, Inver Grove Heights, Maplewood, Minnetonka, New Brighton, Oakdale, Roseville, Stillwater, White Bear Lake, and Woodbury.

For more information about the program including a sign-up form and the full calendar of Solar Power Hours, visit growsolar.org/twin-cities. You can also follow the program's progress at facebook.com/GrowSolarTwinCities.

Get ready to go solar!

*Source: [EPA Greenhouse Gas Equivalency Calculator](#)

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The MREA was incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit shortly after the first [Energy Fair](#) in 1990. MREA's mission is to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable living through education and demonstration. To learn more, call 715-592-6595 or visit www.midwestrenew.org.

paleBLUEdot is a leading provider of thoughtful and comprehensive carbon, climate change, sustainability, and renewable energy planning and services. Based in Maplewood and working in the Twin Cities metro area and beyond, paleBLUEdot aims to hasten the transition to an authentically sustainable, no carbon economy and to elevate the public discourse. To learn more, visit palebluedot.llc

Additional resources including photos and program logos are available for download from the [Grow Solar Twin Cities Images and Graphics Folder](#).