

SOLARIZE SUCCESS STORY

KINGS PARK WEST HOMEOWNER

SOLARIZE

Solarize campaigns provide free onsite solar assessments, bulk discount pricing, vetted contractors, and community workshops and support. The campaigns are held for a limited time, typically in the spring.

Solarize Fairfax County was made possible by a partnership between Fairfax County, the non-profit Local Energy Alliance Program, and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

To learn more about Solarize or renewable energy in general, visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/energy/energyactionfairfax/renewables>.



Like many participants in the 2017 Solarize Fairfax County campaign, Kings Park West homeowner Neil Billings had been considering solar panels for some time. After attending a Solarize information session about the program and technology, Neil was ready to move forward.

First, Solarize staff assessed Neil's electricity bills and satellite images of his property to determine whether he was a good candidate. After doing so, one of the Solarize contractors performed an onsite assessment of Neil's house, including an evaluation of the roof condition and size, shading from trees and other obstructions, the circuit breaker panel, and the electric meter. Based on this information, plus 12 months of electricity bills, the contractor determined that solar panels could offset 55% of Neil's electricity use over the course of a year.

After signing a contract with the Solarize installer, **“The installation went very smoothly and quickly.”** Solar installations generally last 1-2 days.



Neil's Homeowner Tips

- Ensure that your roof does not need to be replaced within 25 years, since that is often the minimum lifespan of the panels.
- Contact your homeowners' insurance company to make sure the solar system will be covered. Typically, solar panels do not increase premiums.
- If you are part of a Homeowners Association (HOA), contact it about your plans. Unless an HOA adopted a policy prohibiting solar panels before 2014, Virginia law prevents HOA's from prohibiting the installation.