

### Solar Switch Dallas-Solar United Neighbors Partnership

Environment & Sustainability Committee June 6, 2023

Rosaerlinda Cisneros, Climate Coordinator, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability Hanna Mitchell, Solar United Neighbors America Garcia, Solar United Neighbors Fred Wu, iChoosr

### **Presentation Overview**



- Program Purpose
  - CECAP Implementation
- Benefits of Solar Energy
- Solar Switch Dallas
- How it Works for Residents
- Success Metrics
- Next Steps





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# Program Purpose: CECAP Implementation



| E3: Continue partnership with public utility companies on an intensive program on renewable energy options.                                |      |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|------|--|--|--|--|--|
| E3   | OEQS | Implement a Whole Home Weatherization Program resource HUB to connect residents with existing<br>services                      |  |  |  |  |
| E9: Extend partnership with organizations like PACE and other Public Utility Companies to provide further incentives for renewable energy. |      |  |  |  |  |  |
| E9   | OEQS | Explore feasibility of implementing City program to incentivize solar installation for commercial and<br>residential buildings |  |  |  |  |





# **Benefits of Solar Energy**

- Solar energy is sustainable, renewable and plentiful.
- Generating solar power can lead to less reliance on our power grid.
- Solar panels have become more popular and affordable.
  - As more homeowners choose to install solar power systems and more companies join the market, it can be difficult for residents to determine which option and installer best fits their needs.





### Solar Switch Dallas



- Solar Switch is a group buying program for solar installations.
- This program offers a hassle-free way to install rooftop solar panels and battery storage.
- Dallas residents can come together to secure a discounted price on a rooftop solar installation for their homeowners or small business.



# Solar Switch Dallas - Organizers



# SOLAR UNITED

- 501 (c3) non-profit
- 375+ co-ops with 700+ partners in 13 states since 2007
- Advocate for interests of solar owners in local, state, federal policy
- 385K members nationwide
- Opened office in TX in 2018



- Helping residents go solar with 100+ community partners in EU and Japan since 2012
- Started operations in TX in 2017; Austin and Houston offices
- Work with 20+ TX cities on TX Power Switch for electricity aggregation and purchasing



### How it Works for Residents





2. Auction 3. Personal 4. Decision 5. Install Recommendation

#### Campaign: 4 months

Residents can register right up until the decision deadline

Decision Window: 6 weeks

Installation Window: 6 months



# How it Works: Registration

- Register at SolarSwitch.com/Dallas
- Marketing:
  - Social Media
  - Direct Mailer
  - Flyers

Registration Website





# How it Works: Auction

- iChoosr identifies and vets solar installers for:
  - Licensing/insurance
  - Experience
  - Customer ratings
  - Financial Strength
- iChoosr manages installer auction & selection process through:
  - A reverse auction, typically yielding a 15-25% group discount
  - Two auctions per year to allow installers to scale







### How it Works: Personal Recommendation



rexas

#### Your personal offer, test test

Based on the roof size and electricity usage provided, a system size of **5.5 kW (15 panels)** is recommended. **Note:** You can revisit your offer at any time via the link in your personal offer email.

| •                      | 15           | solar panels                                     | Annual Production <b>O</b><br>Coverage of your annual<br>usage: | 7,391.25 kWh<br>86%           |
|------------------------|--------------|--|---|-------------------------------|
|                        |              |  |   |                               |
|                        |              | is is a personal<br>proceed, the installer       | What you pay:   | \$13,092<br>(incl. sales tax) |
| estimatio<br>will cond | on. If you p | proceed, the installer<br>survey to validate the | What you pay:<br>Possible tax refund: 😡                         | (incl. sales tax)             |

# • Personal offer will include:

- Proposed system size and cost
- Winning installer
- Financing options available.
- Customer deposit
- Call to Action





# How it Works: Residents Review and Decide

- No obligation to proceed
- Solar Switch will offer virtual information sessions and a customer service center.
- Residents that accept are connected with the winning installer.





### How it Works: Installation





- Residents will receive a welcome email & call from installer.
- Installer completes and shares remote site assessment results and design.
- Installations completed by January.



### **Success Metrics**





#### Awareness

- Webpage visits
- Time spent on website



#### Engagement

- Onsite events
- Virtual presentations
- Zip code tracking



#### Sharing

- Social media
- Mentions
- Likes



#### Action

- Click through rates
- Email inquiries
- Registrations

#### **Anticipated Outcomes:**

- Share joint promotional and co-branded materials throughout the annual Solar Switch Dallas program.
- Personal offer will yield participants a discounted rate for solar installation.

#### Next Steps Juno 2022



|  |   | June 2023   |                                  |  |   |  | 1  |   |   |
|--|---|---|----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| Oct 2022 –<br>May 2023<br>SUN &<br>Whole<br>Home Dallas<br>partnership<br>through<br>MOU |   | -Program<br>Launch &<br>Ongoing<br>Community<br>Outreach<br>-Press<br>Release |                                  | <b>July 5, 2023</b><br>Personal<br>offer emails<br>will be sent. |   | Provide an<br>update on<br>the City's<br>first Solar<br>Switch<br>Dallas<br>program to<br>ENVS |  |   |   |
|  |   |   |                                  |  |   |  |  |   |   |
|  | May 2023<br>Soft launch<br>through<br>Whole<br>Home Dallas<br>resource list |   | June 6, 2023<br>ENVS<br>Briefing |  | August 9,<br>2023<br>Decision<br>Deadline &<br>Last Day to<br>Register for<br>2023 Solar<br>Switch<br>Program |  | SUN and City<br>of Dallas will<br>continue to<br>offer at least<br>one Solar<br>Switch<br>Program<br>each<br>calendar<br>year. |   |   |
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