*CLEA-N News*

***Countywide Solar Survey***

**Add Your Information to the Baseline of Iowa County Solar Use**

Homegrown solar electrical generation is one of the best ways to retain energy dollars in local communities.  CLEA-N aspires to make small-scale home and business solar arrays a common site in Iowa County.  To measure our level of success in doing so, we are creating a baseline of the current level of solar use in the county.

**How to help** - Solar array owners in Iowa County can take 3-5 minutes to fill out our Solar Survey.

Go to - tinyurl.com/CLEANSolarInstalls

Please add your information to the solar survey by May 31, 2021. Solar use results will published on this page in June 2021.  THANK YOU!

**Solar is Contagious!**

As folks watch neighbors’ arrays soak in the sun, more and more will come to understand the economic and environmental benefits of generating their own solar energy and will want to join the energy revolution sweeping the county. With this baseline we’ll be well equipped to track its growth.

***Efficiency – Cleanest, Least Costly Path Forward***

*“Energy efficiency has become the nation’s third-largest electricity resource. With increased support it could become the largest—and one of the world’s core strategies to tackle climate change.”* American Council for Energy Efficient Economy, ACEEE

**Every $1 Invested in Efficiency Generates $4.80 in Benefits\***

CLEA-N is actively investigating options for our next energy efficiency outreach project. We’re discussing some intriguing opportunities with Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program (SWCAP) whereby CLEA-N may be able to help cover some energy efficiency gaps that are not addressed by energy assistance programs for low-income families.

**Interested in Helping?**

 If you’d like to help lower energy use costs for some appreciative families, please consider working with us on this campaign. Contact Chuck T. and let’s have a chat about your interest in helping this project build a better world.

**Efficiency Resources**

Don’t miss out on Wisconsin’s **Focus on Energy** 2021 Free Energy-Saving Packs as well as their Incentives Program in Heating and Cooling, Insulation and Air Sealing, and Renewable Energy (available to households, businesses, farms, schools, and government). Visit: [www.focusonenergy.com](http://www.focusonenergy.com)

Farms can benefit additionally with **Organic Valley**’s recently established low-interest loan fund for farmers seeking to adopt renewable energy. <https://www.wisfarmer.com/story/news/2021/03/24/organic-valley-launches-loan-program-clean-energy-projects-farms/6987689002/>

**\*Wisconsin’s Focus on Energy Program**

***Potential Community Solar Project***

 CLEA-N continues to monitor the discussions and planning for a potential 1-3 MW, utility-owned “community solar” project adjacent to the Spring St. electrical substation in Dodgeville. We continue to dialogue with the landowner, the likely developer - One Energy Renewables, and Alliant Energy.

**Making a Truly COMMUNITY Project**

 If this project goes forward, CLEA-N will lobby for it to include as many community-friendly characteristics as possible. These would include:

* **Agrivoltaics** – At the very least, the acreage should grow a pollinator-friendly ground cover. More preferable would be some type of active agriculture operation such as grazing or specialty crop farming.
* **Equitable Access** – The project should be available to and financially beneficial for households of all income levels. Additional discounts for low-income households would be especially attractive.
* **Promote Wider Solar Use** – The project should enhance rather than inhibit wider use of net-metered residential and business solar in the county.

**Alliant Customer Survey – Coming this May**

Alliant Energy is developing a customer survey to gage the interest for this type of project by their area customers. CLEA-N has helped craft a few of the survey prompts / questions.

If Alliant Energy is your electrical provider, be watching for a survey coming your way by surface mail and or email.

Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts!

***This & That***

 CLEA-N continues to educate local non-profits and businesses about the terrific programs available to them for adding solar or maximizing efficiencies. These include:

* Focus on Energy - Wisconsin'senergy efficiency and renewable energy resources program [www.focusonenergy.com](http://www.focusonenergy.com)
* Legacy Solar – The Wisconsin-based, member-owned cooperative providing solar and energy efficiency products and services [www.legacysolarpower.com](http://www.legacysolarpower.com)
* Solar on Schools – Midwest Renewable Energy’s program to assist with and partially subsidize school solar projects [www.midwestrenew.org/solar-on-schools/](http://www.midwestrenew.org/solar-on-schools/)
* Solar for Good - RENEW Wisconsin’s initiative fosters the expansion of solar power among mission-based nonprofits and houses of worship [www.renewwisconsin.org/solarforgood/](http://www.renewwisconsin.org/solarforgood/)
* PACE - Property Assessed Clean Energy(PACE) is an innovative mechanism for financing energyefficiency andrenewable energyimprovements on privateproperty [www.pacewi.org](http://www.pacewi.org)

***Not a CLEA-N Member Yet?***

1. A donation of any amount makes you a member of CLEA-N. (Your donation is tax-deductible.)
2. Make your check out to **DALC**. Write **CLEA-N** in the memo. Mail to DALC, P.O. Box 323, Dodgeville, WI 53533.
3. Membership benefits:
* Receive updates on projects and activities
* Eligibility to serve on committees and as officers in CLEA-N
* Invitations to member-only events
* Feel great for supporting a clean energy future!

***Let’s build a better energy future together right here in Iowa County.***

**For more information contact:**

**Chuck Tennessen**

**Iowa County CLEA-N - Chairperson**

**IowaCountyClean@gmail.com**

**Or**

**Charles@driftlessconservancy.org**

**P.O Box 323**

**Dodgeville, WI 53533**

**608-930-3252 (Office)**

**608-341-0641 (Cell)**