

GREEN ORGANIZING ACTION TEAM:
“GOAT NOAT” FOR JANUARY 2019

From Cathy Hanson & Stephan Rogers: *Community Local Clean Energy through Neighborhood Sun*

For people who are interested in solar power without investing in solar panels, or for people who have solar panels and would like supplementation to their energy supply there is a new option. Community Solar is a program established by the state of Maryland that gives people the chance to get the benefit of solar without having to install panels. As members of Homewood’s Green Organizing Action Team, we learned about the project through Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake/One Water Partnership and signed up for this project through Neighborhood Sun. Neighborhood Sun is a socially minded locally owned company which is offering BGE residents a chance to subscribe to a solar panel field in Westminster, MD (among others). The Westminster project offers subscribers a three-year contract with a guaranteed 5% discount off of BGE rates.

When you sign up you will be assigned a block of solar panels designed to cover the majority of your electricity needs. If you don’t use all of your solar credit for the month, the credit will roll over into the next billing period. As a Certified B Corporation*, this project will benefit low and moderate income people by allowing them to participate in solar projects.

Here’s a short video that does a great job describing this project:
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox?projector=1>

Note: When we were in the process of signing up we became a little confused and after several phone calls and conversations with Gary Skulnik, CEO and founder of Neighborhood Sun, we made sure we signed up for the Westminster project. Gary is easy to talk to and doesn’t mind lots of questions.

This new project is offering referral discounts. If you use this link
<https://neighborhoodsunreferral.referralrock.com/1/STEPHANROGER/>
you will receive an additional discount (beyond the 5% discount).

**Certified B Corporations are a new kind of business that balances purpose and profit. They are legally required to consider the impact of their decisions on their workers, customers, suppliers, community and the environment. This is a community of leaders, driving a global movement of people using business as a force for good. (from bcorporation.net)*

For more information: Join Friends School on **Tuesday, January 8, 6:30 pm**, in the Forbush Atrium and Auditorium for an engaging discussion on energy conservation, sustainable investing, and stewardship. On hand will be representatives from Glenmede, the School’s investment management firm, as well as CleanChoice Energy, Climate Access Fund, Neighborhood Sun, Power 52, and Solar United Neighbors. To find out more about this event, go January 8 in the Homewood calendar.

In early December, GOAT was notified that we were successful in obtaining a \$5,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to enable the Meeting to install a native plant and pollinator friendly garden in spring 2019. In addition, cisterns will be installed in January to collect water coming off the roof, thus enabling the meetinghouse to better manage stormwater runoff. These

improvements have been made possible by Homewood's participation in the One Water Partnership of 30 faith congregations in the Jones Falls watershed.