

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR SOLAR

ABOUT

Neighbor to Neighbor Solar launched in 2021 and exists to provide no-cost solar energy systems to income-qualified Buncombe County residents with a focus on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) households. This program is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act.

Installations will be completed by Asheville-based Sugar Hollow Solar.

SEE IF YOU QUALIFY:

In order to qualify for the Neighbor to Neighbor Solar program, a household must meet the following qualifications:

- Be a homeowner within Buncombe County
- Make below 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines based on 2022 income and household size complete including taxable and nontaxable income
- Have a roof 10 years or younger with priority given to roofs 5 years or younger
- Self identify as not having \$50,000 in savings including retirement balance
- Roof orientation and shading must allow solar viability.



WEST ASHEVILLE SOLAR INSTALLATION, 2020.
PHOTO COURTESY OF SUGAR HOLLOW SOLAR.

If selected, Blue Horizons Project staff will need the following information:

- A copy of Homeowner's insurance
- A copy of Utility bill
- Estimate of roof age
- Income verification

Contact Us For More Information:

Summer Winkler, Blue Horizons
Project Coordinator
828-222-0314
summer@greenbuilt.org



NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR SOLAR

What to Expect:

- The design, all components and installation of a solar system at your home will all be at no cost to you (free). They are funded by the ARPA and Buncombe County or City of Asheville.
- The solar professionals at Sugar Hollow Solar are our design, procurement, and install partners for your solar system. A representative from Sugar Hollow Solar will contact you to set a time for a visit to your home.
- At the visit, they will assess your electrical system and roof suitability and answer any questions you may have.
- After analysis, they will let you know if your home is suitable for solar and, if so, will work with you to schedule the installation.
- Installation usually takes 1-2 days and you will need to be present for part of it.
- After installation, there are a series of steps we'll take on behind the scenes including scheduling an inspection of your new solar array and working with Duke Energy to connect your array to the utility grid. Sugar Hollow Solar will do all of this coordination and keep you informed.
- Once your new solar system is turned on, Sugar Hollow Solar will call you to ensure you understand how to get the most out of your solar.
- You will need to set up an app on your phone to monitor solar production and check it at least every 3 months. This ensures any issues are addressed in a timely manner.
- Due to the solar energy being produced on your roof, your electric bill will go down.

Future Considerations:

- Typically, there is no maintenance on solar, the system is "set it and forget it." However, there is a warranty that comes with the system to handle repairs or maintenance needed for 25 years.
- Your homeowners insurance should not go up, but please call your insurance agent before the initial visit with Sugar Hollow Solar to confirm. You can tell them your solar system will be valued at about \$15,000.
- In the years ahead, when your roof needs to be replaced, it will cost an additional \$3000-4000 in labor costs to take off your panels and then replace the panels when the roof is replaced. Newer roofs will be given priority to minimize this burden.

