

Fall 2020



25TH NATIONAL SOLAR TOUR



AMERICAN
SOLAR
ENERGY SOCIETY



**SOLAR UNITED
NEIGHBORS**

in partnership with



Generation180

Welcome to the 25th Annual National Solar Tour

September 28th - October 4th
nationalsolartour.org

The National Solar Tour is 100% Virtual!

American Solar Energy Society and Solar United Neighbors host the nation's largest tour of solar buildings virtually.

Due to COVID-19, the American Solar Energy Society (ASES) and Solar United Neighbors (SUN) have converted the 2020 edition of the National Solar Tour to be fully virtual. This largest annual grassroots solar event will take place virtually on nationalsolartour.org from September 28th - October 4th, 2020. National Solar Tour week will showcase live programming focusing on electric vehicles, schools, homes, businesses and community building through solar along with virtual tours of solar and sustainable homes, businesses, schools, religious institutions and more. These events and tours will empower people to learn about solar technology and the process of going solar from their neighbors and people nationwide, all from the safety of their home.

2020 National Solar Tour Program Schedule

Subject to Change

Monday September 28 - Electric Vehicle Day

EV Panel

Tuesday, September 29 - Solar Homes Day

Coffee Chat with Solar Owners

All About Solar/Intro to Solar

Going Solar with a Certified Installer | NABCEP

Happy Hour with Solar Owners

Wednesday September 30 - Solar Businesses Day

Solar for Small Business

Solar Businesses and Sustainability Panel

Thursday, October 1 - Solar Schools Day

A Brighter Future for Schools Through Solar

Electrify Your Ride to School

Students Lead the Charge for Solar

Friday, October 2 - Community Building Day

Policy Session | Community Solar

Energy and Equity Panel

Veterans Program | NABCEP

Movie Screening

Saturday, October 3 & Sunday, October 4 - Virtual Solar Tours



To learn more and RSVP to get access to the online National Solar Tour, visit nationalsolartour.org.

2020 Local Solar Tours

Check out these Local Solar Tours and more at nationalsolartour.org

Passive Solar Homes by Sun Plans – Various Locations in USA & Canada

Prostruct Solar CEO House Tour – Scottsdale, Arizona

Davis Driving on Sunshine – Davis, California

Denver Metro Green Home Tour – Broomfield, Colorado

Atlasta Solar Center Clean Energy Campus – Grand Junction, Colorado

Chafee County Green Homes Tour Colorado – Salida, Colorado

FREA Solar Tour of Titusville – Titusville, Florida

Heartland Solar Tour – Carterville, Illinois

Solar Planet KS – Shawnee, Kansas

Cohasset, MA Solar Tour and More - Cohasset, Massachusetts

Hingham Solar Tour - Hingham, Massachusetts

South Shore Green Energy Tour – Hull, Massachusetts

Plymouth Solar Tour - Plymouth, Massachusetts

Dearborn Solar Home Tour – Dearborn, Michigan

Lansing Area Solar Home Tour – East Lansing, Michigan

Grand Rapids Area Solar Tour – Grand Rapids, Michigan

SolarYpsi Solar Tour – Ypsilanti, Michigan

MRES Virtual Solar Tour – Minneapolis, Minnesota

Minnesota EV, Solar and Battery Storage Owners – Saint Paul, Minnesota

Sierra Club Croatan Group – Emerald Isle, North Carolina

Ohio “Wish You Were Here” Tour – Mentor, Ohio

Lover Merion Solar Tour - Merion Station, Pennsylvania

Exact Solar's Awesome Customers Tour - Pennsylvania & New Jersey

Chester County Clean Energy Tour - PA - Chester County, Pennsylvania

Tour of National Grid Customers in MA & RI - Rhode Island & Massachusetts

Cool House Tour - Austin, Texas

South Plains Solar Tour – Lubbock, Texas

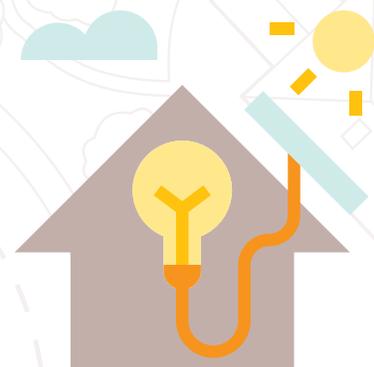
AbleEasy - McDade, Texas

Solar Tour Waco – Waco, Texas

Harrisonburg Solar Home Tour 2020 – Harrisonburg, Virginia

Hampton Roads Solar Tour – Norfolk, Virginia

Palouse Tour – Palouse, Washington



Sustainability Basics



Geothermal Heating

Geothermal heat pumps (GHPs) can heat, cool, and supply hot water to a home by taking advantage of the Earth's constant underground temperatures.

How does it work?

The sun heats the Earth's surface. This heat is then transferred to water-filled underground pipes. This water then goes through a heat pump, which sends heated air into the distribution system.

What are my options?

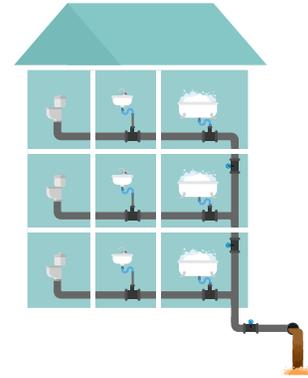
Consumers have several options to consider when selecting a GHP system. The design of a GHP system varies depending on climate, soil conditions, land availability, groundwater accessibility, and local installation costs.

What are some Benefits?

GHP systems are more energy efficient than traditional HVAC systems, lowering your utility bill and reducing peak electricity demands. GHP systems also reduce your carbon footprint thanks to their high efficiency, all while having extremely long life spans!



Sources:
tinyurl.com/y6eg282w
tinyurl.com/y6lvovhe



Greywater system

Greywater is the term coined for water from washing machines, bathroom sinks, and showers, which can eventually be repurposed to conserve water.

What is a greywater system?

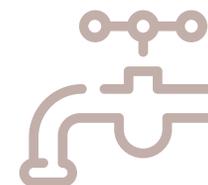
Greywater systems redirect and recycle this "repurposed" water for other purposes. There are many types of greywater systems such as rain barrels, laundry-to-landscape systems, and many others.

What can greywater be used for?

Since greywater contains traces of dirt, food, and grease, it should not be applied directly on vegetable gardens. However, greywater can be used for toilet flushing, to irrigate lawns, ornamental gardens, or trees, or more.

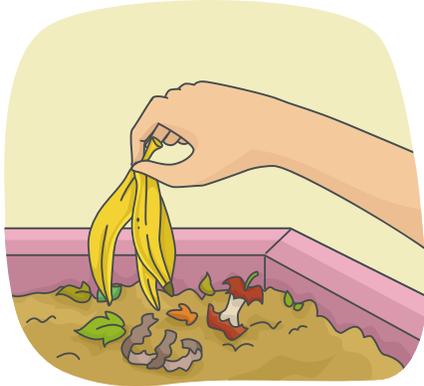
What are some benefits of a greywater system?

Aside from the savings on your water bill, reusing greywater keeps it out of the sewer or septic system, reducing the amount of pollution in local rivers and lakes.



Sources:
tinyurl.com/y2kcsffk
tinyurl.com/y3n2jq7w

Sustainability Basics



Composting

Composting is the process of recycling various organic materials that would otherwise be regarded as waste products.

How does it work?

Organic matter works to break down into nutrients to be absorbed by plants. Composting is a way of aiding in this process by including the right ingredients in the right proportions under optimal conditions

What can I compost?

To maintain a healthy compost pile, it is important to maintain a higher amount of carbon than nitrogen. Carbon-rich matter can include branches, dried leaves, peels, coffee grounds, eggs, and more. Whereas, nitrogen-rich matter can include manure, food scraps, lawn clippings, and more.

Why compost?

Compost can be used as a garden supplement to promote plant growth and soil health, all while reducing the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides. It also can save time and money by reducing your garbage bills.



Sources:
tinyurl.com/y3rqlogr
tinyurl.com/y6sw6bgk



Gardening

Starting a flower or vegetable garden is both fun and rewarding. Gardening can prevent soil erosion, replenish nutrients in the soil, support wildlife, and reduce your carbon footprint.

How do I start?

First, you must think about what exactly you want to plant? If you choose to plant vegetables, fruit, or herbs, think about what your family would be willing to eat and what grows best in your climate zone. If you choose flowers, decide whether you want annuals or perennials.

What next?

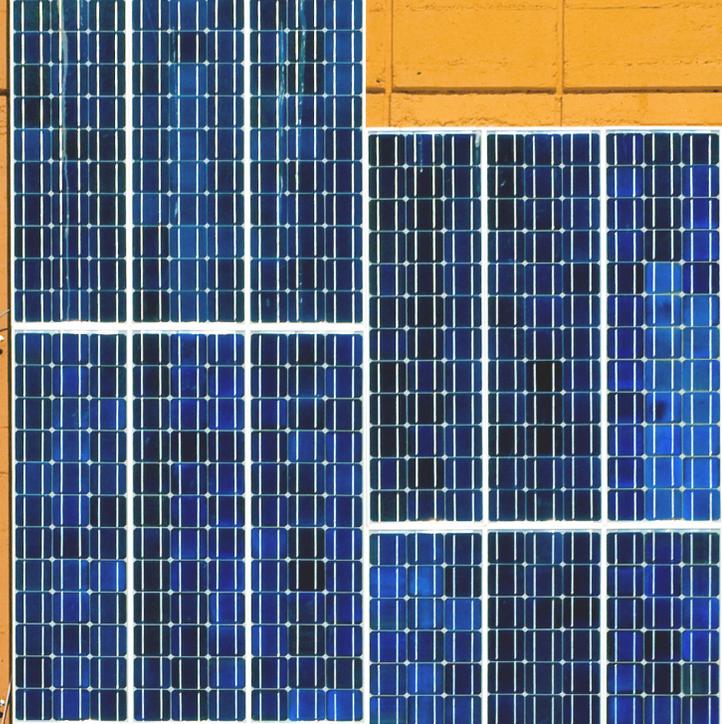
Once you decide what to plant, it is important to plan your garden beds and location. Almost all vegetables and flowers need 6-8 hours of full sun each day. Make sure to also test and prepare the soil, followed by planting your seeds or transplant.

How do I maintain a garden?

To help your garden reach its full potential, you'll need to water the area, pull weeds, add additional fertilizer, and get rid of dead/dying vegetation. It may be necessary to support tall plants with a trellis, stake, or a tepee.



Sources:
tinyurl.com/y5lbal75
tinyurl.com/y6tsqqp4



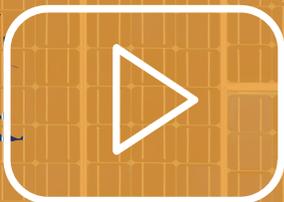
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