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**For Immediate Release**



**Solar Urbana Champaign 2022 Ends with Record Participation:  
Adds 703 Kilowatts of New Solar Energy**  
*Solar Group Buy Program Provides Additional Discounts for Program Participants*



Community members learn more about solar and what it can do for them at an in-person Solar Power Hour at Papa Del's Pizza Factory in Champaign, IL. Photo courtesy of GRNE Solar.

**Urbana, IL - December 5, 2022 -**

This year's Solar Urbana Champaign solar group buy has concluded with record participation, with 70 properties contracted to install clean solar energy. In a year where global energy supplies have become uncertain and costs continue to rise, the citizens of the Urbana-Champaign area are moving toward renewable energy, securing affordable electricity for years to come. By choosing to purchase solar through a community-led bulk purchase, program participants have offset the effects of inflation and secured a lower price on their new solar arrays.

"We're definitely interested in helping the environment and saving on energy bills," said Laura Lyon of Urbana, a participant in this year's group buy. "We realized that this was a good time to buy with all the

energy incentives from the state and federal government. We're looking forward to having the panels installed soon!"

Rising prices may have brought solar energy to the top-of-mind for many participants, but the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in August also may have impacted this year's record participation. Among many other renewable energy incentives, the IRA extended the existing solar federal tax credit for ten more years (it was set to expire in 2023) and raised the credit amount from 26% to 30% of the array's cost.

"In an uncertain world, solar power provides a level of stability, since you're essentially buying decades of your energy up-front," said Marta Monti, Grow Solar's program manager. "Unlike utilities, solar panels will never raise their rates. So by purchasing solar now, community members can protect themselves from future price hikes, which feels especially satisfying with inflation on the rise."

The program's record participation will result in over 700 kilowatts of new solar energy capacity being installed on area homes and businesses. To put that into perspective, those solar panels will generate over 844,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, which is enough to power an average Illinois household for over 96 years!

This year's group buy was made possible by a partnership between the Midwest Renewable Energy Association and the City of Urbana, along with several other local organizations. Together, this group selected GRNE Solar as the program's designated installer, and hosted a series of Solar Power Hour presentations across the area and online throughout the summer and fall. These presentations explained the basics of solar energy and the incentives that are available, as well as how buying solar panels in bulk alongside fellow community members can lower the cost further.

"We're thrilled to see such a great level of participation, especially since this is the seventh year we've run the solar group buy," said Scott Tess, Sustainability & Resilience Officer for the City of Urbana. "It goes to show that when presented with clear information and substantial state and federal incentives, central Illinois residents are eager to gain the energy independence that solar provides."

While the program is closed for the year, stay tuned for a future group buy in the Urbana-Champaign area in Spring of 2023. To learn more about Solar Urbana Champaign, please visit [solaruabanachampaign.com](http://solaruabanachampaign.com).

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*For more information about the City of Urbana, please visit [www.urbanaininois.us](http://www.urbanaininois.us)*

*The MREA was incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit shortly after the first Energy Fair ([www.TheEnergyFair.org](http://www.TheEnergyFair.org)) in 1990. The MREA's mission is to promote renewable energy, energy*

*efficiency, and sustainable living through education and demonstration. To learn more, call 715 - 592 - 6595 or visit [www.midwestrenew.org](http://www.midwestrenew.org).*

*GRNE Solar is one of the Midwest's leading solar energy companies, with offices in 4 states and a presence across the region. With expertise in both commercial and residential projects, GRNE offers installation, operations and maintenance services, as well as EV charging and battery storage solutions. To learn more, visit [www.grnesolar.com](http://www.grnesolar.com).*

***Additional Resources: [Solar Urbana Champaign 2022 Media Kit](#)***