



# UNA ★ USA

Greater Lansing Chapter

## GO SOLAR - SAVE MONEY- SAVE THE PLANET

The United Nations Secretary General and climate scientists around the world are raising their voices to warn people everywhere that the lead time to slow the warming of the earth's climate by collective human action is becoming shorter with each passing day.

The increasingly urgent warnings are coming from the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the USA's NASA, and other climate science experts. All parts of our planet are experiencing the effects in a wide variety of ways, including more frequent hurricanes, wild fires, flooding, storm surges, glacial melting and shrinking of polar ice caps.

Success in bending the global warming curve to limit the average temperature rise to less than 1.5 degrees centigrade depends on each person recognizing the seriousness of the task. We all need to make a conscious effort to do everything in our power to join the world wide campaign to preserve our planet for future generations. This includes a wide variety of choices, including selecting more fuel efficient clean energy to power transportation and electricity for our homes, businesses and other activities.

Midwesterners may not be aware that solar energy technology has become progressively more efficient, accessible and less expensive for use in our northern climate zone. Consider the example of a homeowner whose south/west facing roof surface has adequate space for a 5KW solar panel system which would generate 90+% of annual electricity used. The solar system cost would be paid back in 8-9 years, and for the remainder of the 30-40 year useful life, the system would continue to produce very low cost electricity. Solar powered homes are becoming increasingly attractive to buyers of older as well as new homes. Some states, like California, are requiring all new homes to be equipped to generate solar energy.

From an environmental impact perspective, in just the first 20 years, a single home solar roof system would replace fossil fuel pollution equivalent to 93 tons of CO2 released, or 9500 gallons of gasoline burned, or to planting 2000 additional trees. The solar system would save the owner over \$20,000 in electricity costs over the same period. The return on investment would be around 140% if the cash purchase was made during 2019 while the federal tax rebate is 30%. Tax rebates phase down in succeeding years. An additional incentive is that net metering is still available for Consumers Energy customers.

Multiply those numbers by 10,000 for those in our region who could/should install solar systems over the next decades. Think of all the new business that would be generated by attracting solar panel manufacturers, new solar panel installers, solar system advertising, component sales and related activities to our part of the state.

Going Solar is a WIN for the home, business or house of worship owner, a WIN for the local economy, and a WIN for the planet and all its inhabitants. **There is no better time than now to GO SOLAR!**

For more information search: [Solar Installers, Lansing, MI](#) , [Michigan-Energy Tax Credits Rebates](#), [EnergySage.org](#), [SolarEstimate.org](#), or contact UNA board member Joseph Hess [jwhessgm@gmail.com](mailto:jwhessgm@gmail.com)