



## **Program Goal:**

Solar Faithful aims to increase solar access among houses of worship (HOW) and faith-based nonprofits. The key program objective is to build a more inclusive movement for climate justice and to tell a new story about who can access and benefit from energy transformation (energy efficiency and renewable energy).

We educate staff and congregants, helping to make the connection between Creation Care and faith.

Our educational offering builds an inclusive job training component to engage People of Color in the trades and lifting people out of poverty in the communities where these projects take place.

## **Plan:**

The Solar Faithful project team, which includes the Climate Witness Project, World Renew, Michigan Interfaith Power & Light, Word Renew, Chart House Energy, and other partnering organizations are working to increase adoption of solar in Houses of Worship. This will be accomplished by offering direct purchase or no-cost Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) options.

## **Eligibility:**

- Houses of worship
- Religious schools
- Other faith-based nonprofits

## **Model:**

- Direct Purchase
  - Purchase the system with any combination of donations, budget, and borrowing. We can connect the participating organization with lenders if desired. Federal incentives, equaling 30-50% of project cost, are received as a rebate after completion of the project and treasury processing time.  
System decreases the organization's electric bills and the savings pay for the cost of the system.
  - Organization can contract solar installer to provide operations and maintenance services.
  - After the system is paid off, 100% of the system savings are realized.
  - This option offers an organization the best economics but also involves risk and operational responsibility.
- Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)
  - Participating congregations and nonprofit organizations sign 25-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to purchase power generated by the solar arrays with an initial rate 10% lower than what they currently pay the utility. This enables the congregation to generate their electricity using solar at no upfront cost.
  - Solar Faithful provides a "no loss" guarantee that the PPA rate will never be higher than the utility rate at the same point in time.
  - A turn-key program, including maintenance. Finance Company will own and maintain the array (panels, inverters, etc.) and provides for one removal and replacement if required during the 25-year PPA.
  - At the end of the agreement, there are three options:
    - Continue the PPA
    - Take title of the system at no cost
    - Ask for removal of the system



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- Congregant supported Purchase
  - House of Worship purchases the system with any combination of donations, budget, and borrowing. We can connect the participating organization with lenders who provide up to 100% of project cost.
  - Federal incentives, equaling 30-50% of project cost, are received as a rebate after completion of the project and treasury processing time. When received a few months after construction, incentives pay down borrowed funds.
  - Congregants loan the House of Worship remaining borrowed funds.
    - Replaces conventional lending
    - Congregants earn same interest as charged by lenders (typ. 7.5-8%APR)
      - Payments pay both interest and principal
      - Term of loan is same as bank (typ. 10 years)
      - Congregant can ask for remaining principal anytime
        - HOW can either pay off with budget or go back to borrower to re-instate that part of the loan
  - Solar system decreases the organization's electric bills and the savings pay for the cost of the system.
  - Organization can contract solar installer to provide operations and maintenance services.
  - After the system is paid off, 100% of the system savings are realized.
  - This option offers an organization the best economics but also involves risk and operational responsibility.