



Solarize Pendleton is a program spearheaded by the City of Pendleton in collaboration with Energy Trust of Oregon to help homeowners save money, improve home comfort, and generate clean electricity by installing solar electric or solar thermal systems.

Here is how the program works:

1. Residents get educated with free workshops provided by local contractors and on the website. These workshops will get you started with everything you need to know about the program.
2. Next is your free solar site assessment from the solar contractor. This will teach you a lot including how big a system you can get and what different options will cost.
3. If you are interested in an interest-free solar loan from the City of Pendleton, you submit an application.
4. Each participant, after educational workshops and site assessments, decides whether or not to commit to solar.
5. Each participant who decides to commit signs his/her contract with the chosen contractor. This solar contractor will coordinate equipment purchases and the installation schedule to conserve resources.
6. Your system is installed!
7. Everyone gets the appropriate signatures needed and the right paperwork for the State and Federal Tax Credits. Start enjoying your new solar energy!

Frequently Asked Questions:

What are the benefits of solar? With the various benefits that come along with going solar, almost anyone can find a reason to do it!

1. When you produce your own energy from your solar system, you are reducing the amount of electricity that you have to buy from your utility company. The more energy you produce, the more you save on your utility bill.
2. No matter how much utility rates increase, your solar electricity rates will be predictable for the long run. After all, that sunshine is free. You can enjoy energy security and can count on the energy from your own panels.



www.solarizependleton.com

3. The environmental benefits of solar are numerous. For one, you can reduce your environmental footprint or the amount of resources you use. By taking advantage of the sun, you are using a renewable resource to create your energy and reducing your dependence on fossil fuels. Once your panels are on your roof, you are producing clean energy that won't emit carbon dioxide and other dangerous gases that directly harm humans and wildlife as well as our atmosphere.

4. Since your solar system will be helping you save money and is an improvement to your home, it adds significant value to your home, and for 2012, solar panels will not be taxed!

5. By supporting solar you are supporting a growing industry that is creating new local jobs and economic opportunities. We only use Oregon-made panels and inverters, so you can be proud of supporting a network that is over 1,000 jobs strong.

What if I'm not sure solar is right for me? Not a problem! Through educational workshops, site assessments and discussions with the solar contractor, you will have all the information you need to make the correct decision.

What are the benefits of participating in the Solarize Pendleton program? Solarize Pendleton is a loan to help you go solar. We've done the homework, so you don't have to.

1. Your contractor will guide you through process. You will be able to learn how solar can benefit your lifestyle, how that fancy system actually works, and how you can save the most money through incentives and tax credits through free educational workshops.

2. We're available to answer your questions and connect you to resources.

3. Energy Trust has already found reliable contractors who will help you decide if solar is right for your home and what size system is best for your home.

4. Through our City loan program you can apply to take advantage of a 4 year interest free loan while you are receiving your tax credits and realizing your initial energy savings.

5. And best of all, since this is a community effort your neighbors are going to be going solar with you. The more people that participate, the better our community will be.

Who qualifies for the loan? Only those within the City limits of Pendleton will be eligible for interest-free city loans.

What if my roof is shaded or I don't have much roof space? Don't give up on solar before you've considered all your options! Just because your roof is shaded or isn't south facing (the most ideal orientation) doesn't mean that solar has to be out of the picture for you. Consider your garage or ground mounts in your yard. How about creating a solar cabana?

How much does it cost? There is no fee to enroll in the program. The only cost to the homeowner is that of the installation, which we will reduce greatly by taking advantage of Energy Trust incentives, and state and federal tax credits. *The price of your system will be reduced by up to 80%.* The City will be offering interest-free loans to help with financing. These loans will be issued through a lottery system. A 2,000 Watt system will cost just under \$3,000.

How long will the system last? The warranty on most solar panels is about 25 years. Other components such as the inverter may need maintenance earlier on. However, the lifetime of the system can be between 30-50 years. After 25 years, the output of the system will generally be about 80% of when they were first installed.



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