



Going Solar: Steps for Congregations

This guideline walks through the typical process that a congregation goes through from the time a member suggests that solar be considered as a possibility to the time the panels are in place and producing electricity. The amount of time involved will vary widely. Experience has shown the need for a champion or champions who will keep pushing.

1. Gather 12 months of your facility's utility bills. Calculate how much was spent and how many kWhs were used.
2. Get a company to do an assessment of your facility's solar potential. The assessment is usually done virtually using satellite images and will look at roof size and position, shading, etc. Site assessments are provided at no cost to you.
3. **Get to a Yes!** Understand how decisions are made in your congregation. Understand the process you need to go through if the project proves technically feasible. Do you need a committee to study the matter, make the case, and report back to a group? **Getting to YES** means building on initial interest and continuing to get buy in through succeeding steps.
4. Solicit solar proposals.
5. Decide how the project will be funded.
6. If self-funding, plan and begin raising funds **OR**, if financing, secure commitment (PPA, Michigan Saves, etc.).
7. Agree on the installer.
8. Sign contract(s).
9. Celebrate the installation. This is an opportunity for your congregation to come together around a project they can feel proud of.
10. Tell the story. Within your congregation and the community, use your solar array to spur a deeper conversation about the importance your tradition places on caring for and repairing the Earth and why it is critical to do so NOW in the age of climate change. Cutting your congregation's carbon footprint is laudable; educating and inspiring others to do the same multiplies your impact!