



Solar Shindig 2015: Tips and Resources Guide

[Why a Shindig? And why now?](#)

[A Solar Shindig, wherever you are!](#)

[Solar Shindig: key steps](#)

[Need a little Shingdiggin' help? Come to our online meeting!](#)

[Putting on your Solar Shindig](#)

[Before your Solar Shindig:](#)

[At your Solar Shindig:](#)

[After your Solar Shindig:](#)

[Want your Shindig to be BIG? Here's some ideas.](#)

[Things to remember for Bigger Shindigs:](#)

[Resources links](#)

[Thank you](#)

[Contact us](#)

Why a Shindig? And why now?

In March this year we launched Stand Up Solar to get the debate about the future of solar and renewables out of the political quicksand. We are seeking a commitment from all political leaders for a renewable energy goal of *at least* 50% by 2030, to ensure a fair go for solar owners and help for people struggling with their power bills. [Read more here.](#)

And Solar Citizens all around Australia have been very busy, with more than 1,200 people attending launch events in communities and online to hear about our campaign and take the pledge to Stand Up For Solar. Volunteers are out meeting with their local MPs and community

SolarCitizens.org.au

A: PO Box 360 Newtown NSW 2042 E: info@solarcitizens.org.au PH: 02 8188 2871 ABN: 13 753 514 032

leaders, asking them to pledge their support, and out letterboxing and holding community stalls to help spread the word.

So what's next?

The Australian Labor Party will hold its National Conference from July 24-26 - and that's not far away. The conference decides the ALP platform that will guide the party's policies ahead of the next Federal election, and we could be heading to the polls anytime from now until late 2016.

Stand Up For Solar is calling on every political party to make a commitment to solar, but the July ALP conference is a key moment when we can influence what's next for clean energy policy for Australia.

Let's raise the roof! We all know the best way to have our politicians listen is by getting loud and proud in our local communities, so we're build momentum for solar by holding a week-long national event that you can be part of, wherever you are.

A Solar Shindig, wherever you are!

From the July 18-24 we're holding an exciting national Solar Shindig and everyone's invited! You can get involved by holding your own Shindig during the week - large or small, at your home with a few friends or at your local community centre.

Perhaps you'd like to host a street party, a community stall or have a dinner party at home? Morning tea at your workplace? A meeting with your church group or a family meal? Great! Take some time during the week to celebrate solar by holding a Shindig your way and declare your support for a bigger, brighter solar future.

We have a few things we'd like you to do at your Solar Shindig so it gets maximum attention. Read below for details and all the information you need to make your event easy - and fun too! We want to make sure our MPs from all political persuasions understand that solar is a top issue for the next election, which is why hosting a Solar Shindig in your community will make all the difference.

Find all the materials you need on our resources page: http://www.standupforsolar.org.au/shindig_resources

Solar Shindig: key steps

1. Decide to have your shindig and what type of shindig you'd like to hold - big or small your Solar Shindig will be fantastic!
2. Use our invite card to promote your shindig. Just print it out and fill in the details of your event including your contact details so people can RSVP. Then, you can drop it in your neighbour's letterbox or post it on a community noticeboard. Download the invite card from our [resources page here](#).
3. Think about about what type of event you'd like to hold. Remember if your event is open to the public, you can register it here on our event finder [right here](#)

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4. Get your family and friends together and declare your town, community group, workplace or family is Standing Up For Solar. We've prepared a sign you can use to make your declaration [download it here](#) and print it out - or even make your own.
5. Take a photo of everyone holding the declaration sign at your Shindig.
6. Remember to tell us how the event went! You can do that through our [reportback form](#)
7. Make sure your local MP knows about your declaration - email it to your MP, or post it to Facebook or Twitter and tag your MP.
8. Make sure everyone at your Shindig has signed the pledge to Stand Up For Solar - we've made a handy sign up form you can use. [Download it here.](#)

Remember to explain why your care about solar and what Stand Up For Solar is all about to people who come along to your Solar Shindig - you can find a presentation slides, a video and talking points that might be useful to use on our resources page here:

Need a little Shindiggin' help? Come to our online meeting!!!

Want to know more about how to make your Shindig a success? See more at our Solar Shindig webinar on **Thursday, July 9 at 6:00 pm (EST) time**. To register RSVP [here](#).

Remember, if you have any questions drop us a line at info@solarcitizens.org.au

Putting on your Solar Shindig

You can do this with your neighbours, in your workplace or at home. We have attached some checklists for before, at and after your event so you can be sure your Shindig is a dazzling success!

Before your Solar Shindig:

- Have you registered your event? [Do that here](#) and your event will be included in our public listing page on the Stand Up For Solar website.
- Have you invited people to come along? If you are inviting your neighbours or work mates you can use our poster or invite to promote your Shindig. [Download and print these from our resources page here.](#)
- Have you printed out or made your own sign that declares your family/town/community is Standing up for Solar? You can use paper, a whiteboard or something else? [Here's a declaration sign you can download and print out too.](#)
- Have you got your snacks or drink ready? (You definitely need snacks at a shindig!!)
- Have you looked up your MP's phone number, Facebook page and Twitter handle?
- Have you attended the Solar Citizens Shindig Webinar (on July 9)? [Register here.](#)

At your Solar Shindig:

- Have you taken attendance by asking everyone to take the pledge to Stand Up For Solar? Ask your guests to sign up using [our handy form](#).

- ❑ Have you taken a photo with your Stand Up For Solar declaration sign and pledge cards (and other crowd shots are always great)?
- ❑ Have you called your MP to let them know what you're doing and why? Use the script on our [resources page](#) to help make your call.

After your Solar Shindig:

- ❑ Have you Tweeted your group photo to your MP? Don't forget to include your MP's Twitter handle, as well as **@solarcitizens** and use the hashtag #StandUpForSolar too.
- ❑ Have you filled in the [Solar Shindig reportback form](#)?
- ❑ Have you uploaded your group photo? Do it using our [online reportback form](#).
- ❑ Have you typed up your attendance list into the [signup return form](#)?
- ❑ Have you uploaded your attendance list using the [online reportback form](#)?

Want your Shindig to be BIG? Here's some ideas.

1. **Organise a street party** - knock on the doors of your neighbors, invite them (using our [invite card](#) and get to know your solar neighbours.
2. **Organise a stall** outside your local MP's office and ask people to sign the pledge to Stand Up For Solar using our handy [pledge signup sheets](#).
3. **Organise a barbeque** in a local park and invite your MP and other community leaders from your electorate to come along.

Things to remember for Bigger Shindigs:

- ❑ **Find a suitable location.** Is there a park in your community with barbeque facilities? Maybe you want to have a picnic. Remember, if it's somewhere public people will be there anyway and will be interested.
- ❑ **Check if you need permission** for the location you want to use and make sure you're cleared to use the area.
- ❑ **Set a day and time during Shindig week** (July 18-24) and [register your event](#) on our website here so it will be listed publicly.
- ❑ **Invite everyone you know!** Your friends, colleagues, neighbours community members or family. Set up a Facebook invite, email, call or text your friends and ask them to come along, or [use our invite](#) and drop it in their letterboxes.
- ❑ **Invite your solar neighbours.** Look down your street, can you see the solar panels shining in the sun? Have you knocked on their door to introduce yourself and invite them to your shindig or left an [invite](#) in their mailbox? You can print the invite larger and post it up at your local community centres or shops too.
- ❑ **Invite your local MP or senators** who live their area - are there any other political leaders you could invite?
- ❑ **Tell your local media** - they might help promote your event or come along and cover it. Use our [template media release](#) to send to your local newspaper or radio station. If you need help with media contact us by emailing info@solarcitizens.org.au.
- ❑ **Organise food and snacks.**

- ❑ **Make a sign** or multiple signs you can use in the photo ([or print out our declaration sign](#)) - remember your sign should say your street, suburb or electorate and say “is Standing Up For Solar”. Alternatively **get folks at your event to make a sign as part of the fun!**
- ❑ Have your local MP’s **phone number, Facebook page and Twitter handle** on hand.
- ❑ Remember to **bring a camera!**
- ❑ **Have lots of sign up sheets ready** so people can make their individual pledge to Stand Up For Solar. [Download them here.](#)

Resources links

All our resources, including this guide can be found on our website:

http://www.standupforsolar.org.au/shindig_resources

Remember to email us at info@solarcitizens.org.au if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Our impact will come from lots of events in lots of different communities - if you have another idea for what will work in your street or community go ahead and try it. Maybe you want to have a cake stall or go door knocking - work out what will work for your community and join our Solar Shindig!