

# ACT to support solar energy

Find your own ways, small or large, to use solar technology. Once you start, you'll discover new ways to add solar energy to your life.



Photos courtesy MRES

A 4-kilowatt solar electric array mounted on the garage roof provides all the electricity the Born family needs—and then some. They receive a credit from their local utility company for electricity they generate but don't use.

## Going big takes commitment

The Borns of Minneapolis power their entire home with solar energy. A desire to be good stewards of the earth and energy-independent motivated them to act for solar. Their electricity is produced by a fuel source that's always there, doesn't pollute and is owned by everyone and no one—the sun.

*You don't have to be wealthy to do this. You just have to be motivated.*

—Chris Born



Courtesy Doug Shoemaker

## Experience shows the way

The Borns planned their solar-powered electric system with help from the Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES). "Their annual Solar Tour gave us great information," says Chris. "We learned what worked and didn't work from people who had already installed solar technology. I couldn't find that kind of information anywhere else."

Learn more about the October MRES Solar Tour. Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES) [www.mnrenewables.org](http://www.mnrenewables.org)

## Starting small is easy

If you can do it with fossil fuels, you can do it with solar.

**Tally numbers** on a solar-powered calculator.



**Listen** to a solar-powered radio.

**Recharge** batteries with a solar-powered charger.

**Cook** with a solar-powered oven.

**Power appliances** with a solar-powered cart.



# ACT to support community solar



## Help put solar energy in the spotlight

Community-based projects help individuals join forces with businesses and organizations that share an interest in promoting solar energy.



Courtesy MRES

One solar-energy project can lead to another. When word spread about the Old Man River Cafe project in West St. Paul, other such initiatives sprang up.

## Choose how you want to help:

### Buy ice cream and other solar-made products

### Volunteer your labor



Courtesy MRES

Dozens of volunteers helped mount and wire more than one hundred solar panels on the roof of the Green Institute in Minneapolis.



Courtesy Chris Burda

Inspired by the Old Man River Cafe project, Izzy's Homemade Ice Cream in St. Paul used an ice cream social to raise funds and recruit volunteers to help install its solar-powered electrical system.

### Raise money



Courtesy MRES

A group of friends gathered donations from neighbors to pay for the 1-kilowatt solar electrical system on the roof of West St. Paul's Old Man River Café.



### Fun Fact

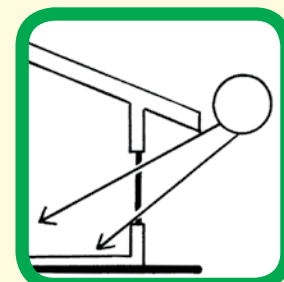
Find out about community solar-energy projects in Minnesota that need your support at [www.mnrenewables.org](http://www.mnrenewables.org).

Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES)  
[www.mnrenewables.org](http://www.mnrenewables.org)

## Choose solar technology to fit the bill

A first step in developing a community or home solar-energy project is defining which technologies best fit your needs and resources. Consult with experts to help weigh the various costs and benefits.

Courtesy Science Museum of Minnesota



Passive solar



Solar electric



Solar hot water



Solar hot air