



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Solarize Ojai Valley Group-Purchase Program Returns for the 4<sup>th</sup> year**

***First Educational Workshop on August 17<sup>th</sup>  
at Oak View Park and Resource Center***

**Ojai, CA, 8/1/2016**— Solarize Ojai Valley, a community-led program offering group discounts on solar electrical systems, launched on August 1st. The program is back for its fourth year in Ojai, offering vetted installers and sizable discounts on solar installations. Solarize Ojai Valley is offered as a partnership between The Community Environmental Council (CEC), The Ojai Valley Green Coalition (OVGC), and the vetted installer partners.

Solarize Ojai Valley Programs in 2012, 2013, and 2015 helped 41 local homeowners go solar and save on utility bills. Solarize Ojai Valley 2015 participant, Sandra Blasé explained, "It was a great program. I was looking into putting solar on my house, but it was a little beyond my budget. This program made it possible to do it. So far I have had no problem with it and California Solar Electric did a great job. It was installed quickly and professionally."

The Solarize program is designed to make going solar simpler and more affordable and to increase the amount of renewable energy within Ojai Valley. "With discounted, fixed pricing from vetted installers and free solar education through workshops and independent consultation, we are looking to make the whole process streamlined and easier on the customer," explained Jefferson Litten, CEC's Director of Energy Programs.

Solarize Ojai Valley 2015 Participant J.B White shared his experience, "I participated in the Green Coalition's Solarize Ojai program at the end of 2015. The recommended installers were knowledgeable, personable, and efficient. It was a snag-free, no-surprises process. Along with the money I saved upfront (and the welcome tax credit), after nine months online, I'm carrying a negative balance on my SCE bill. For anyone interested and able to go solar, I highly recommend you take advantage of this great program."

In addition to monthly savings on their electricity bills, Solarize participants will help support the CEC and OVGCs missions to increase renewable energy in the region. For each homeowner that goes solar through the program, CEC's partnered solar installers will pay, at no additional cost to the homeowner, a small fee, which covers program costs and allows CEC and OVGC to continue to offer the program to local communities.

Solarize Ojai Valley will be available to homeowners for three months, beginning August 1, 2016, through October 31, 2016. During this time, homeowners in the Ojai Valley can switch to solar at a fixed, group-purchasing price the program's vetted installers, California Solar Electric and Coastal Solar.

As part of the program, CEC and OVGC will host free educational workshops covering solar technologies, energy efficiency, financing options and the Solarize program. "The workshops are a great opportunity to learn the ins and outs of going solar - from technical aspects to the effects on home values, to how your electric bills will shrink," said Litten.

## **Upcoming Workshop Dates:**

### **Wednesday, August 17**

6:00 – 7:30pm

Oak View Park & Resource Center

555 Mahoney Ave., Oak View

Please use parking lots, not the street

### **Monday, September 12**

6:00 – 7:30pm

Oak View Park & Resource Center

555 Mahoney Ave., Oak View

Please use parking lots, not the street

### **Wednesday, October 12**

6:00 – 7:30pm

Chaparral Auditorium

414 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

More information is available at [www.Solarizeojai.org](http://www.Solarizeojai.org) or by calling 805-963-0583 x 101.

### **About the Community Environmental Council**

Since 1970, the Community Environmental Council (CEC) has led the Central Coast region – and at times California and the nation – in creative solutions to some of the toughest environmental problems. Today CEC is focused on the climate, encouraging global change through local action with five initiatives: Drive Less, Choose Electric, Go Solar, Ditch Plastic, and Eat Local.

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