



**For Immediate Release:
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Solarize Pomfret Program Approaches August 14 Deadline

Pomfret, CT — The town-sponsored Solarize Pomfret program is approaching its deadline. Residents have until August 14 to sign a contract and take advantage of this discounted solar program. Solarize Pomfret is a coordinated effort across the community to increase residential solar. Through a competitive selection process, the Town has selected Sunlight Solar as their solar installer. Sunlight Solar will provide the solar installations in Pomfret at special discount pricing in exchange for outreach and education from the Town.

Homeowners can still sign up for a site visit before the deadline to find out if their home is good for solar at Solarizect.com/Pomfret.

Local residents have attended educational workshops to learn about solar and the various financing options available through Sunlight Solar. There is a 30% tax credit on residential solar and the CT Green Bank still gives an incentive for solar. Solar installations still qualify for net metering, making solar a sound investment.

Homeowners who want to find out if their home is good for solar can go directly to Solarizect.com/Pomfret. More information about Solarize Pomfret by contacting Kate Donnelly – kdonnelly@smartpower.org.

Pomfret resident Walt Hinchman has solar on his home and supports the Solarize Pomfret program, *"I was a physics teacher and consequently was interested in alternative sources of power. I realized that my barn roof faced south and would probably be a good location for photovoltaic cells. When I went to Positively Pomfret Day five years ago I met a man who was "pushing" solar cells. He told me that I could have my house evaluated for free and that there were federal and state rebates to help with the cost of installation. My home evaluation was very positive – I would get 85% of the available sunlight without cutting any trees and I was told that 18 panels on my barn roof would supply my electric needs for a year.*

I was still hesitant; the total cost of the installation was high even with federal and state rebates. I was a senior and retired on a fixed income and wondered if I would live long enough to see my investment repaid... My experience in the four years that I have had photovoltaic cells on my barn roof is that I am making about 15 percent return on my investment!

I'm still in good health and with luck I will live to see full payback on my investment, but in the meantime I am getting a very good return on that initial cost which is giving me well over \$100 each month in spendable cash in my pocket. Studies in the west, where solar is more prevalent, is that a solar installation can add as much as \$20,000 to the value of a home when it is sold."

More information about Solarize Pomfret by contacting Kate Donnelly – kdonnelly@smartpower.org.