

# Solarize Cabarrus NC



*Scott Noel's home has a 2.616kW system comprised of eight SunPower 327W panels.*

Scott Noel has lived in Harrisburg for almost 10 years. He works in digital marketing, but has been very passionate about – and active in – sustainability for many years. Sustainability is defined as the interplay between being environmentally sound, economically prosperous and

socially considerate for today, and the long-term benefit and quality of life for future generations.

“As part of the Solarize Cabarrus NC 2015 program, I got a small 2.616kW solar array that faces northeast at about 70 degrees, the only place on my roof that would work,” Noel says. “This orientation results in a system that is about 23 percent less than the optimal 180 degrees; however, I still had it installed because I am a staunch proponent of renewable energy; I wanted to prove that this system would still produce impactful results; and I wanted to walk the walk, not just talk the talk so I could speak firsthand of our experience and run at least some of our house on renewable energy. We did also have a solar attic fan installed, which I can already tell is making a positive difference.”

Noel started Solarize Cabarrus NC in 2015 as a personal, non-financially vested or incentivized program for himself in order to create awareness and reduce the cost of going solar. The basic premise is establishing a volume discount with a solar installer in order to get a lower price.

This citizen-led project is open to residents in Cabarrus County and the entire Charlotte metro area. The Solarize Cabarrus program was responsible for eight residential installations last year, and another solar installer put in almost a dozen residential installations in Harrisburg alone last year.

The local solar installer chosen again this year is ReNu Energy Solutions based in Charlotte. They offer SunPower panels, which are a top-tier panel in efficiency, durability and warranty. There are multiple financing options to consider, including one that has no initial cash outlay.

There is also a 30 percent Federal tax credit to take advantage of. Visit <http://programs.dsireusa.org>, but it is strongly recommended you consult with a tax advisor for more specifics on your financial situation.

There have been many solar installations in Cabarrus outside of this Solarize program: residential, commercial, governmental and schools. Noel is excited about the opportunity that the Mt. Pleasant High School Academy of Energy & Sustainability (MPHS AOES) brings for the students of that program and the school, plus for Cabarrus County Schools and the community overall. MPHS AOES has been awarded the NC GreenPower Solar Schools Grant, which will allow for a small solar system to be installed at the school; the students in the AOES will be involved throughout this process as a work-based learning experience that will be ongoing for many years. If you would like to make a donation to this project and help spread the word, you can do so via <http://my.ncgreenpower.org/>.

Visit [SolarizeCabarrusNC.com](http://SolarizeCabarrusNC.com) or contact Noel at [SolarizeCabarrusNC@gmail.com](mailto:SolarizeCabarrusNC@gmail.com) for more information. To set up a free site survey, call ReNu Energy Solutions at 704-525-6767.

*Source: Scott Noel*