

# Baltimore Shines

## Overview

**Location:** Baltimore City, Maryland

**Beneficiaries:**

- Baltimore City low- and moderate- income residents
- Baltimore City unemployed / underemployed residents

**Solution:** Residential Rooftop Solar Systems, Solar Training

**Sponsored by:**

- Baltimore City of Housing And Community Development
- Civic Works

**Project Duration:** 2022 to 2024

# I. Introduction

Baltimore Shines is an initiative created by a collaboration between Civic Works (CW) and the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). A leadership team of CW and DHCD is administering the program and providing operational oversight.

## Program Goals



1. Provide access to rooftop solar PV installations for low- and moderate-income Baltimore City residents.



2. Create family sustaining careers through solar job training and job placement opportunities..

## II. Solar Benefits

### Benefits to you:

- **Lower electricity bill:** Save up to 25% or more on your monthly electric bill
- **Increase home value:** Homes with solar increase their home value by 2%.
- **Limited maintenance:** A solar array requires minimal maintenance to operate at full efficiency.

### Benefits to your community:

- **Fight Climate Change:** By reducing your carbon footprint. The “carbon footprint” refers to the amount of CO2 released into the atmosphere because of one’s own energy needs.
- **Provide jobs in the community:** The solar industry is growing and producing new green jobs every day.
- **Generate clean energy:** No greenhouse gas emissions are released into the atmosphere when you are using solar panels to create electricity.
- **Promote energy independence:** The more energy we can produce here in the United States, the less we need to rely on fossil fuels from foreign sources.

## III. Eligibility Requirements

**2023-2024**

Baltimore City Resident	Yes
Baltimore City Homeowner	Yes
Homeowner Insurance	Yes
Income Limit	80% of AMI or below
Past Client of the Civic Works MEA Energy Efficiency Program	Not required but preferred
Cost to Customer	<b>Free or subsidized financing - depending on income level</b>
# of Solar Installs	TBD



## IV. Pilot Project Timeline

	2023								2024	
	Mar.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Apply to Baltimore Shines	█									
Meet Solar Contractor			█							
Assess Roof			█							
Sales Prop. / Sign Contract				█						
Begin Permitting Process					█					
Site Preparation					█					
Install Solar							█			
Permission To Operate									█	
Turn on Solar										█

- 1. Apply to Baltimore Shines:** This is done through the Neighborly Software platform. Civic Works and Baltimore City will help you with the application process.
- 2. Meet the Solar Contractor:** Once the application process is complete, Civic Works will introduce you to the solar contractor qualified for the Baltimore Shines program.
- 3. Assess Roof:** The solar contractor will assess the roof to ensure that solar can be installed on it.
- 4. Sign Contract:** A sales proposal will be provided to show how much energy you will generate, how much money will you save on your monthly utility bill and how much it will cost you to have solar. The cost will depend on your income level. Once approved a contract will need to be signed depending on whether the solar system is free or being financed.
- 5. Begin Permitting Process:** The solar contractor is responsible for obtaining the legal permits for installing solar.
- 6. Site Preparation:** Depending on the site, it is possible that site preparation may be required. An example could be that an electrical panel might need to be upgraded to handle solar or part of the roof needs to be repaired.
- 7. Install Solar:** Once the necessary permits are approved, the solar contractor’s team comes to install solar on your roof. This generally takes 1 to 2 days depending on the size of the system.
- 8. Permission to Operate:** The solar contractor obtains permission to operate from the utility company.
- 9. Turn on Solar:** The solar system is turned on and you begin to generate clean energy and reduce your monthly energy bills.

## V. Net Metering

**Net metering** is a billing mechanism that credits solar energy system owners for the electricity they add to the grid. For example, if a residential customer has a PV system on their roof, it may generate more electricity than the home uses during daylight hours. If the home is net-metered, the electricity meter will run backwards to provide a credit against what electricity is consumed at night or other periods when the home’s electricity use exceeds the system’s output. Customers are only billed for their “net” energy use.

Source: <https://www.seia.org/initiatives/net-metering>

Related to net metering, people often ask if my solar system has problems, will it affect my electricity from the grid. In short, if your solar system goes down due to problems, but your electrical grid is operating fine, you will have electricity in your home at all times. However, if your electrical grid goes down, your solar system is also down because it only works when the grid is on.

