



PRESS RELEASE

SOLAR POWER HOURS

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Normally at this time of year, there would be Solar Power Hour presentations around the greater Wausau area. Needless to say, things are not normal, so area residents who want to be part of a group buy program need to learn about it virtually.

They also need to learn about it quickly because state incentives are running low for 2020. The deadline to participate is Sept. 30, but it's looking like state incentives that help pay for the installations will be all spoken for by the end of August or early September.

Mayor Katie Rosenberg said "I am proud that, along with the City of Stevens Point, Wausau is in its third year of supporting the group purchase program that is open to homeowners and businesses in four counties, Lincoln, Marathon, Wood and Portage." "It is administered by Mid-State Technical College and the Midwest Renewable Energy Association and is known as Grow Solar Central Wisconsin", she added.

As the administrators, they seek proposals from installers of what are usually photovoltaic systems to generate electricity. The installer is able to install quality systems at reduced costs because the work sites are clustered in the participating communities. In 2019 there were 54 systems installed.

Under an agreement with the selected installer, North Wind Solar of Stevens Point, system costs decrease as more installations are arranged. So far this summer, scheduled installations will generate more than 50 kilowatts of clean, green electricity.

The presentations are informational, not sales pitches. After viewing the presentation, the interested party can sign up for a free evaluation of a site's potential and decide after getting that information whether to go ahead.

There are four Solar Power Hours remaining. The schedule is at www.cwsolar.org. The City of Wausau and Monk Botanical Gardens are sponsoring the next one, set for 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19. Remaining presentations are Aug. 28, Sept. 1 and Sept. 9.

The Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) is known for its annual energy fair. Its mission is to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable living through education and demonstration. To learn more, call 715-592-6595 or visit www.midwestrenew.org.