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Summit and Wasatch County Residents Launch Campaign to Help Community Install More Solar Energy

Community bulk purchase effort launches March 28th, offering discounts on solar

Media Contacts:

- Clayton Johnson, Utah Clean Energy. Office: 801-903-2046, Clayton@utahcleanenergy.org
- Mary Christa Smith, Summit Community Power Works. 435-640-9189, mc.smith@scpw.org
- Mountain Town Community Solar Steering Committee Members:
 - Ari Ioannides, (770) 639-0082, ari@boarddocs.com
 - Lindsay Walsh, (202) 420-1940, lwalsh@sustain3.com
 - Bill Goodall, (660) 287-7150, goodallbill@gmail.com

Summit County and Wasatch County, UT – A community-led program in Summit and Wasatch Counties is giving new meaning to the phrase *power in numbers*. Community members have come together with non-profit organizations Summit Community Power Works and Utah Clean Energy to launch Mountain Town Community Solar – a program to help residents tackle the solar process as a team, realize great cost savings through bulk purchasing power, and energize their communities with clean energy.

Mountain Town Community Solar will host its launch event on March 28th at 6:00 pm at the Jim Santy Auditorium (1255 Park Ave., Park City, UT, 84060)

About Mountain Town Community Solar

Mountain Town Community Solar is an innovative community bulk-purchase solar initiative designed to help homeowners overcome the logistical and financial hurdles of going solar. Local citizens, non-profits, and local governments are working together to lead the Mountain Town Community Solar effort and ensure success.

“We know that people want a simplified path to solar energy for their homes because we’ve helped over 600 Utah homeowners go solar so far”, states Clayton Johnson, Community Solar Program Coordinator for Utah Clean Energy. “Community Solar helps homeowners overcome the barriers to going solar by offering a streamlined process, discounted price, and access to expert advice. We’re excited that Mountain Town Community Solar will expand these benefits to Wasatch County for the first time. This program will put solar on more rooftops, which brings economic and environmental benefits for the entire community.”

Mountain Town Community Solar is available to all Summit and Wasatch County residents. Interested individuals can take the first step – a Solar Survey to evaluate the feasibility of a solar installation on their roof – beginning March 28th by visiting www.MountainTownCommunitySolar.org; there is no financial commitment until homeowners’ contracts are signed with the contractor

Mountain Town Community Solar is a project of non-profit partners Summit Community Power Works and Utah Clean Energy, supported by Summit County, Vail Resort's Epic Promise Program, and Park City, and in collaboration with a citizen-led volunteer Steering Committee, consisting of residents of Summit and Wasatch Counties. Alpenglow Solar, was selected from a competitive pool of applicants to be the official contractor for Mountain Town Community Solar.

Summit Community Power Works is the local nonprofit organization pursuing the Georgetown Energy Prize for Park City and Summit County. "SCPW is thrilled to partner with Utah Clean Energy and offer a proven program for rooftop solar to our residents. We encourage residents to adopt efficiency first and thereby lower the cost of the solar installation. We have 9 months to make a dramatic reduction in our consumption and win \$5million for our community."

The Cost & Benefits of Solar Energy

For an average residential solar project, the Mountain Town Community Solar program provides historically low costs for solar, saving participants up to 20% off the installed price, before eligible incentives.

In addition to the discounts offered through this program are the state and federal tax incentives for residential solar energy. Homeowners may be eligible for a state tax credit of 25% (with a cap of \$2,000), and a federal tax credit of 30% off the cost to install a rooftop solar system.

About Past Community Solar Programs

Mountain Town Community Solar is a continuation of past Community Solar campaigns with a proven track record of success. In 2013, 60 homeowners installed over 300 kilowatts (kW) of clean rooftop solar energy through the first Summit Community Solar project. This was five times the amount of solar installed in Summit County in the previous year. Residents took advantage of a substantial discount when compared to the national average cost for residential solar. The average participant from the 2013 campaign will see a lifetime savings of nearly \$23,000.

"We've had numerous requests to repeat this program since its first run in 2013 and are excited to launch this second round of community solar", states Lisa Yoder, Sustainability Program Manager with Summit County. "Increasing the use of clean, renewable energy is a critical component of Summit County's Climate Action Plan to reduce countywide greenhouse gas emissions 15% below 2015 level by 2030."

In addition to the financial benefits of the 2013 Summit Community Solar campaign are the environmental and air quality benefits. The solar energy installed through Summit Community Solar will prevent nearly 20 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions, and will save nearly 40 million gallons of water that would have been used for cooling thermoelectric power plants.

About the Steering Committee and RFP Process

The volunteer, citizen-led Steering Committee (formed in January 2016) is responsible for the contractor selection process, research, recruitment, marketing, and events. At the start of 2016, the Steering Committee initiated a highly competitive bid process through a widely distributed RFP. After receiving several quality bids from local solar contractors and conducting a rigorous scoring and interview process, the volunteer members of the Steering Committee selected Alpenglow Solar, a qualified, local solar contractor to provide discount pricing for proven high quality residential solar installations across Summit and Wasatch Counties. For information on Mountain Town Community Solar, visit www.MountainTownCommunitySolar.org



About Utah Clean Energy

Utah Clean Energy is a non-profit, non-partisan public interest organization partnering to build the new clean energy economy. Through their work to stop energy waste, create clean energy and build a smart energy future, Utah Clean Energy is committed to creating a future that ensures healthy, thriving communities for all, empowered and sustained by clean energy. Utah Clean Energy spearheaded Utah's first community solar effort, Salt Lake Community Solar, in 2012, and has since administered four Community Solar programs throughout Utah. www.UtahCleanEnergy.org.



About Summit Community Power Works

Summit Community Power Works is a local nonprofit organization that empowers our Summit County community to adopt energy efficiency and make the switch to renewables, thereby creating a brighter environmental and economic legacy. SCPW is pursuing the \$5million Georgetown Energy Prize on behalf of our community. SCPW educates, facilitates and incentivizes residents, schools and local governments to reduce their consumption of electricity and natural gas at the meter. We bring the lens of energy to the forefront of the conversation at the individual and community wide level. We are truly a grassroots organization.



About Summit County

Summit County has a vested interest in protecting and enhancing the environment, the economy, and quality of life through reducing energy consumption and helping the community become more sustainable in its use of all resources. Summit County is pleased to partner with Park City Municipal, Summit Community Power Works, Utah Clean Energy and the group of highly motivated residents that share the County's commitment to providing more sustainable use of resources that help maintain the fabulous quality of life enjoyed in Summit County. Mountain Town Community Solar supports the County's sustainability goals to increase adoption of renewable energy. www.SummitCounty.org



OUR COMMUNITY. OUR MOUNTAINS. OUR FUTURE.

About Vail Resort's Epic Promise Program

The Epic Promise Grants Program is how we will create a more promising future for generations to come. Everything we do is built upon the promise of bringing together the mountains, our communities, employees and guests to ignite a passion for the outdoors, conserve the natural environment, and support our local communities for a bright, sustainable future. Through this program, Vail Resorts contributes more than \$7.8 million annually to more than 250 nonprofit partners located in our resorts communities, focusing on youth programs and environmental initiatives. Led by the employees of Park City Resort, Vail Resorts is committed to working with the non-profits and schools who make a positive impact in the Park City region



About Park City

Clean and local renewable energy is a high priority for the Park City community and City Council. Park City is excited see so many citizen volunteers commit their time to raising the profile of solar power in our region. For more information on Park City's renewable energy efforts, including municipal solar projects, visit www.ParkCity.org/Renewable