

Nonprofit Campaign Wins New Solar Regulations for Houses of Worship on Long Island

Massapequa, NY August 23, 2018 — Solar is coming to new roofs on Long Island. After years of uncertainty, the [Long Island Power Authority](#) (LIPA) announced a new rule last week establishing favorable compensation rates for solar photovoltaic (PV) installed for houses of worship on Long Island, creating more opportunity for houses of worship to save money and power their buildings with solar energy.

The rule-making came as a result of the [PowerUp Solar Long Island](#) campaign, an initiative launched by the [Long Island Progressive Coalition](#) and [Resonant Energy](#) in 2017 to bring the benefits of solar PV to nonprofits on Long Island. This summer, the campaign completed a competitive RFP process to select a local contractor, [SUNation Solar](#), to provide standard, bulk-discounted prices for participating nonprofits over the 12-month 2018-2019 campaign cycle.

PowerUp Solar Long Island provides flexible tools for nonprofits and houses of worship to lower carbon emissions while saving money on electricity. The campaign allows nonprofits to go solar for 20-40% below market rate. PowerUp Solar has received funding from the US Department of Energy SunShot Initiative, and the campaign has already brought its solutions to three houses of worship on Long Island.

After months of back and forth about design, engineering and permitting for one church's solar array, the conversation with LIPA revealed a unique barrier for houses of worship considering solar: installing a larger rooftop system would cause the church to be switched to a complex commercial utility rate and cut their potential savings from solar in half.

"As a policy-oriented nonprofit we saw this customer challenge as an opportunity to call for a more permanent solution," said Lisa Tyson, Executive Director of the Long Island Progressive Coalition. "We get calls from houses of worship every week through this campaign and knew that we would just keep running into this issue without a more permanent fix."

Under normal circumstances, houses of worship are allowed to register for the residential and religious electric rate (technically known as the 180 rate), which has averaged \$0.17 - \$0.21 per kWh over the past 2 years. When buildings install solar systems, the power generated is valued at the same rate as if it were being purchased from the grid. For example, under the religious electric rate, a typical solar installation on a church would create about \$8,000 savings of per year.

By adding a larger solar array, LIPA originally proposed switching the House of Worship off of the religious rate onto a more complex commercial demand rate for its power, which would have cut in half the value of their solar electricity — bringing annual savings down to about \$4,000 per year in the example above, and rendering the project economically unviable.

"Having worked to bring solar to nonprofits through campaigns in many states and utility territories, we've seen dozens of ways in which federal, state, and local policies make it harder for nonprofits to access clean energy savings," said Isaac Baker, President of Development at Resonant Energy. "As the utility

business model evolves, the success of solar is dependent on policy transparency and standardization. This rate clarification is a huge win for houses of worship and demonstrates LIPA's responsiveness to customer needs."

The LIPA announcement came after calls from campaign organizers to issue a broader policy resolution for this market segment. Houses of worship pay some of the highest energy costs per square foot of any building type in the country and stand to benefit the most from clean energy savings.

"Having designed thousands of solar systems on Long Island, we've seen a number of areas where policy hasn't been clear for customers," said Mike Bailis, Co-Founder and Chief Sales Officer of SuNation Solar Systems. "We're delighted to have found a solution for this customer and to be working with this campaign to bring solar to dozens of other facilities on Long Island."

The PowerUp Solar Long Island campaign will run from the summer 2018 through the beginning of the summer in 2019, providing bulk discounts to nonprofits that would like to participate in the program. If you are part of a New York-based nonprofit, now is a great time to start evaluating your options to go solar and be a part of this growing movement. More information and sign up is available at www.powerupsolarli.com.

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About The Long Island Progressive Coalition. The Long Island Progressive Coalition is a non-profit community based organization committed to sustainable development and environmental justice. We have worked with other nonprofit organizations and houses of worship on clean energy solutions for over 5 years, helping to service over 22 Long Island Presbytery churches with energy efficiency upgrades through the NYS Energy Research & Development Authority and 3 churches with PowerUp Solar Long Island. Through the NYSEERDA efficiency program we also assisted 200+ homeowners on Long Island in receiving energy saving improvements in their homes.

About Resonant Energy. Resonant Energy is a New York City and Boston-based solar provider, specializing in giving nonprofits and houses of worship access to the benefits of solar energy through local campaigns. We believe that in order to see a more just, clean energy landscape, solar must be accessible to everyone. Resonant Energy specializes in making solar accessible to nonprofits and houses of worship through a unique approach that customizes financing to the priorities of each organization. We serve our clients as a competitive platform to put projects out to bid for top quality, low-cost installation and impact financing that comes from local investors. This combination allows us to provide the best value to each client we serve as a guarantee – along with an open and transparent process throughout.

About SUNation Solar Systems. SUNation Solar Systems is the local solar expert trusted by over 3,000 Long Islanders since 2003 for professionally installing the highest quality and most durable equipment. We pride ourselves on our professionalism, customer service and providing the highest level of customer satisfaction. We are your neighbors – we live here, we work here, and we give back to our communities. Our not-for-profit corporation, SUNation Cares, provides the gift of free electricity for life to select Long Island families in need. We strive to make Long Island a better place to live for generations to come through clean, efficient solar power. SUNation has earned "Best of L.I. Solar Business" for nine years running, "Best Alternative Energy Company" for seven years running and "Best Green Business" for six

years running. We rate in the top ten solar companies out of 500 on Angie's List. And we boast an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau.