

July 26, 2016 Immediate Release Contact: Karen Stewart 401-215-3285

Solarize Warwick Gives Residents, Businesses Opportunity to Adopt Solar

WARWICK – Beginning today, Warwick residents and businesses can sign-up to participate in "Solarize Warwick", a community-based campaign that is part of "Solarize Rhode Island" and encourages the adoption of solar power.

Through a partnership among the Office of Energy Resources, Commerce RI and the nonprofit organization SmartPower, Solarize Rhode Island is responsible for over 350 residents and businesses gaining access to solar power since the program launched in 2014.

"Over the course of recent months there has been an increased interest from both residential and commercial parties in solar energy," said Mayor Avedisian. "Warwick has worked tirelessly to become a leader that protects our natural resources. As we continue to educate residents about the solar options available to them, we also hope to increase general awareness about the benefits, both economic and environmental, of solar energy."

After a rigorous review process this month, city representatives chose SolarFlair as the primary solar installer to work with residents through the end of the program, which concludes Sept. 29, 2016. SolarFlair is a Massachusetts headquartered solar installation company with a RI office in North Smithfield. SolarFlair has experience participating with 17 community campaigns in Massachusetts and Rhode Island including the Solarize Providence program which is currently underway.

"We're excited to be the selected installer for the Solarize Warwick program," said Matthew Arner, President of SolarFlair. "We look forward to working with the City of Warwick and its residents to offer high quality, affordable solar installations for both residential and commercial properties."

Solarize Warwick is based on a proven residential model that has worked successfully in more than 100 communities in Massachusetts, Vermont and Connecticut. It is designed to reduce the cost of solar and help homeowners and businesses make the leap to a cleaner energy alternative.

Solarize RI relies on several key components to reduce installation costs: 1) a competitively selected installer, 2) a tiered pricing system which reduces costs for all as more people sign contracts, and 3) organized community outreach, which includes education and access to uniform solar pricing.

An educational presentation for residents called "Solarize Warwick Solar 101" will be held on August 16th from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane. This will be an exciting event where residents will meet the chosen solar installer, learn about pricing, solar equipment options, state incentives and financing options. Residents will have a chance to ask questions and to sign up at the event. Solarize Warwick will work with neighborhood associations, community groups and businesses to host future events, which will be posted on the Solarize RI website. **All Solarize Warwick events are free and open to the public**.

For more information about the Solarize Warwick program, to learn about upcoming events or to sign up, visit: <u>www.solarizeri.com/Warwick</u> or call: 401-349-3475.

