

Chula Vista Solar Homes Tour

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Curious about Going Solar?

Take the 2014 Chula Vista Solar Homes Tour

Some of your neighbors have done it – and others are thinking about it as well. Going solar is currently one of the most popular home improvements and a great way to cut energy costs while reducing your family's carbon footprint.

The Center for Sustainable Energy and the City of Chula Vista are sponsoring the 2014 Chula Vista Solar Homes Tour as a way for you to see how solar works and talk with Chula Vistans and energy experts who know about it firsthand – without any sales hype or pressure. Join the tour at your leisure and explore the benefits of solar electric systems as well as other energy efficiency measures and even electric vehicles.

Solar benefits

- ☀ Reduce utility bills
- ☀ Claim available tax credit
- ☀ Improve property values
- ☀ Access low-interest loans
- ☀ Gain energy independence
- ☀ Charge electric vehicles



FREE Solar for Homeowners workshop – October 2 • Register at www.energycenter.org/solarsmart

1 Ryan's Way Family • 949 Paseo La Cresta, Chula Vista, CA 91910

The O'Connor-Florez family is much bigger than the name may imply. That's because it includes the immediate family as well as several developmentally challenged residents and care providers. Inspired by their son Ryan's struggles with developmental problems, the family established four Ryan's Way Adult Residential Facilities. The family is equally passionate about the environment. All four residences have solar panels and use other energy-saving measures. A lease for the solar systems is saving them hundreds of dollars a month on utility bills.

"We use a lot of energy because we provide 24-hour care. We would rather spend money taking care of our residents than on rising energy costs," said Jamie O'Connor-Florez.

Square footage..... 2,847
 Solar Installer American Solar Direct
 System Capacity..... 7.504 kW (CEC-AC)
 Module Information 33 REC 250W panels
 Inverter Information..... 2 Solar Edge



2 Tim and Maho's Home • 574 Vista Miranda, Chula Vista, CA 91910

Admittedly, Tim and Maho had an advantage when they decided to go solar – he is a corporate energy consultant. Since they moved into their Chula Vista home in 2007, Tim has taken many measures to reduce their family's energy use – from LED lighting to a tankless water heater, which cut their natural gas bill in half. But he found that rising electricity costs were going up faster than his efforts to cut consumption, so they bought a small solar system that offsets their reduced consumption. They also own a hybrid car and an electric vehicle.

"Purchasing solar made sense for us because we plan on staying in our home for a long time," Tim said.

Square footage..... 1,683
 Solar Installer Jamar Power Systems
 System Capacity..... 1.67 kW (CEC-AC)
 Module Information 6 SunPower 315W panels
 Inverter Information..... Power-One 3k



3 Fahti and Carlos' Home • 632 Port Dunbar, Chula Vista, CA 91913

For Fahti and Carlos, going solar was all about the long-term investment and savings. As monthly energy bills soared as high as \$425, they knew they had to do something. In January 2013, they had solar installed and their energy bills dropped substantially, to as low as \$27 in August 2014. They've been in their home for 12 years and don't plan on moving, and their experience with solar makes Fahti Jones say, "I wish we had done it sooner."

"Now I tell my friends and family that if you can afford to go solar, do it because, honestly, it will pay for itself," Fahti said. *"Whenever you install, that's when you start profiting from it."*

Square footage..... 2,500
 System Installer Solare Energy
 System Capacity..... 4.94 kW (CEC-AC)
 Module Information 24 SolarWorld 240W panels
 Inverter Information..... 24 Enphase Energy M215 (microinverters)

