

SUNRUN Wants to Keep Solar Shining in Illinois



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Senior Director of Public Policy
Sunrun

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Sunrun is the nation’s leading home solar, battery storage, and energy services company. Founded in 2007, Sunrun pioneered home solar service plans to make local clean energy more accessible to everyone for little to no upfront cost. Today Sunrun has more than 500,000 customers across the United States, more than 13,000 of whom have their home battery product, Brightbox. Sunrun is active in 22 states, including Illinois, as well as District of Columbia and Puerto Rico and employs approximately 8,000 people nationwide.

Sunrun invested in Illinois in 2017, and the state has become a robust home solar market through supportive programs like [Illinois Shines](#), which is the state-administered Adjustable Block Program. These programs support developing a wide array of new solar energy generation projects throughout the state. The program also reduces financial barriers for households who want to be a part of the state’s clean energy future, demonstrating Illinois’ commitment to renewable energy.

“We’re thrilled to offer affordable, clean, and reliable power to Illinois families,” said Amy Heart, Senior Director of Public Policy for Sunrun. “These state programs have resulted in solar projects in every corner of the state, increasing clean energy, helping households manage energy bills, and also creating good family-supporting jobs and spurring economic growth.”

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have been created, and families are benefiting from cleaner air and power to control energy bills at a time when they need it most,” Heart said.

Sunrun is also investing in the local economy and workforce development through state programs and organizations that open access to solar for low-income households in Chicago’s South Side neighborhood as well as training and workforce development.

Illinois Solar For All and Workforce Development

Sunrun is proud to participate in the [Illinois Solar For All](#) program, which aims to drive down energy costs for low-income families and build a pipeline for solar careers in traditionally under-represented communities. Through this [state program](#), Sunrun provides no-cost rooftop solar for low-income households to lower homeowner’s energy bills immediately. The program allows qualifying households to receive all the solar savings benefits for no money down, no ongoing payments, and no credit check.

“Underserved communities contribute the least and suffer the most from climate change impacts and pollution,” said Bejeray Morrison, Solar for All Program Manager at Sunrun, who runs the program’s deployment on the ground in Chicago. “This program enables families in underserved communities to save on electric bills and access wealth through solar, without any financial or time investment,” said Morrison. “It’s an amaz-

ing opportunity, where we can help leverage clean energy savings to close the wealth and health gaps.”

For Morrison, the Illinois Solar for All program also provided her own opportunities, since she is a graduate of the Solar for All training program through Chicago Urban League. “Working for Sunrun has allowed me to keep fighting for people in my community to live better lives while expanding my own career opportunities,” said Morrison.

Sunrun is committed to hiring, training, and investing in Illinoisans like Morrison. Sunrun’s mission to create a planet run by the sun, relies on making solar [inclusive](#). Sunrun’s Senior Training Analyst Emmitt Muckles, mentors and trains Sunrun’s Illinois workforce. “We strive to work closely with [Illinois solar training organizations](#) to increase family-supporting career opportunities,” said Muckles.

The Coronavirus Pandemic Impact on Illinois Solar Industry

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, Sunrun has [adopted the practices](#) below to protect their employees, customers, and the public. There is nothing more important than everyone’s continued health and safety. “Our products - solar and storage - are integral to economic growth and production, ensure that people are able to work from home, and relieve concerns about increased

electricity consumption and costs,” Heart said.

Benefits of Rooftop Solar

Two new reports show how investing in distributed energy resources, like rooftop solar and storage, will provide long-lasting environmental and social benefits for everyone. One report, called [“Why Local Solar for All Costs Less: A New Roadmap for the Lowest Cost Grid,”](#) shows deploying 247 gigawatts of community and rooftop solar solar and storage, will save \$473 billion for people and create 2 million jobs over the next three decades. Let’s pause at the number: 247 GW of solar is enough to power more than 25 percent of the U.S. homes.

The second report, [Solar Savings in New England](#), says small-scale solar saved utilities and their customers more than \$1.1 billion in wholesale electricity costs from 2014 through 2019. And the savings were not confined to just people with solar on their rooftops - it included everyone who pays a power bill. But the savings don’t stop there: the report estimates that small-scale solar reduced climate pollution by 4.6 million metric tons in the same five years, which would equate to taking 1 million cars off the road for one year.

“These reports can apply to Illinois as well and demonstrate how a growing rooftop solar industry will continue to bring benefits to all residents of the state,” Heart said.

