Introduction to SOMAH
Workshop Agenda

1. What to expect with SOMAH
2. How solar energy works
3. Installation timeline
4. Get paid to install solar on your building
5. Handouts
What to expect

HOW DOES SOMAH WORK?

- Funded by the State of California
- Maintained and operated by property owner/contractor
- Continue to pay monthly energy bill
- Monthly credit on your energy bill
- Energy Savings Assistance program (ESA)
What to expect

HOW WILL YOU BENEFIT?

- Direct financial benefits on your energy bill
- **No increase in rent** or any household cost due to solar installation
- You are not responsible for maintenance or operations costs
- Access to **paid** job training opportunities
- Clean energy in your community
How solar energy works
How solar energy works

Here’s how

1. Sunlight hits the panels, producing electricity.
How solar energy works

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2. A meter measures the amount of electricity your building’s solar panels produce.
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3. The electricity is sent to the power grid.
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1. Sunlight hits the panels, producing electricity.

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3. The electricity is sent to the power grid.

4. The meter measures how much energy you use and determines how much saving will be allocated to your utility bill.
Installation timeline

1. **Site Visit**
   - [Month - Month]
   - Construction team checks roof size and structure, measures sun exposure and inspects electric service panel.

2. **Tenant Education**
   - Theme: Introduction to SOMAH
     - What to expect with SOMAH
     - Get paid to install solar where you live
     - How solar energy works

3. **Permit Application**
   - [Month - Month]
   - Construction team applies for and receives city permits.

4. **Schedule Installation**
   - Installation notification and schedule will be shared with you and your neighbors.

5. **Installation**
   - [Month - Month]
   - Construction begins! Expect crews on-site and some minor inconveniences including noise and construction equipment.

6. **Tenant Education**
   - Theme: Changes to expect
     - How will my utility bill change?
     - Simple ways to save energy

7. **Solar Meter**
   - [Month - Month]
   - Utility company installs a solar production meter on the property.

8. **System On**
   - [Month - Month]
   - Your landlord turns on your solar system.
Get paid to install solar where you live

**BENEFITS**

- Get paid to gain experience in key solar industry skills
- Post your resume and apply for jobs on SOMAH job board
- Access a directory of job training organizations
- Other resources to support your job search and professional development
Get paid to install solar where you live

GAIN EXPERIENCE IN

- Electrical and battery equipment
- Installing ground- and building-mounted systems
- Configuring mechanical and electrical design
- Project management
- Lots more!
Get paid to install solar where you live

HOW TO GET STARTED

1. Contact your SOMAH-approved contractor installing solar on your building

2. Sign up for access to the job training portal at calsomah.org
Handouts

1. What to expect with SOMAH
2. How solar energy works
3. Installation timeline
4. Get paid to install solar on your building
What to expect with SOMAH

What should you expect when your building goes solar?

Your property owner is working with the Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) program to install a solar photovoltaic (PV) system on your building.

How does SOMAH work?

- An approved SOMAH contractor will install the PV system.
- The PV system will provide clean energy for your home and for common areas like the laundry room, hallways, and community spaces.
- The PV system will be maintained and operated by your property owner or a contractor.
- You will continue to pay your utility bill monthly, but you will receive credits for the clean energy that the PV system generates that reduce your bill amount.
- You will have the opportunity to enroll in energy efficiency programs and will be connected to the Energy Savings Assistance Program (ESA), a no-cost service to help with energy savings.

How will you benefit?

- You receive direct financial benefits on your energy bill.
- You will NOT see an increase in rent or any other costs for your household.
- You or your family may have access to paid job training opportunities, learning to install the solar PV system.
- Part of your building will be powered by clean renewable energy.

Where does the funding come from?

The SOMAH program is funded by the State of California, using funds designated for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing climate change. SOMAH provides a number of no-cost services to property owners and tenants, ensuring that you do not pay anything to access clean energy.

Questions about SOMAH?

Tenant Hotline: 800-861-9728
How solar energy works

Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing

How it works
Solar electric systems, also called photovoltaic (PV) systems, use sunlight to produce electricity.

Here’s how
1. Sunlight hits the panels, producing electricity.
2. A meter measures the amount of electricity your building’s solar panels produce.
3. The electricity is sent to the power grid.
4. The meter measures how much energy you use and determines how much saving will be allocated to your utility bill.

Your questions answered
WILL I have electricity at night or when it’s cloudy outside?
Yes. Even though solar panels do not generate energy when the sun is not shining, you are still connected to your utility company.

How long will it take contractors to install solar panels on my building?
Install time will vary but you can reach out to your property manager or reference the SOMAH Install Timeline to help you track the installation of the solar panels.

WILL I have electricity when the power goes out?
The system does not run on battery storage, this means you will not have electricity during a blackout/power outage.

Questions about SOMAH?
Tenant Hotline: 800-811-39728

SOMAH is commissioned by the SOMAH Program Implementation Partnership through the Office of Public Affairs, Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice, Commonwealth of Virginia, Arlington County, City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, the Cities of Fairfax and Manassas Park, Fairfax County Public Schools, and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission.
Solar Installation timeline

What to expect with a solar installation

Solar Installation timeline for your community

You will experience some changes as solar panels are being installed at your building. It is important to know what to expect and how long the process will take. The schedule below is an estimate. Sometimes installers will experience delays and you will be informed by your property manager of any significant changes.

1. Site Visit [March - May 2019]
   Construction team checks roof size and structure, measures sun exposure and inspects electric service panel.

2. Permit Application [May - June 2019]
   Construction team applies for and receives city permits.

3. Installation [June - August 2019]
   Construction begins! Expect crews on-site and some minor inconveniences; including noise and construction equipment.

4. Tenant Education
   Theme: Introduction to SOMAH
   - What to expect with SOMAH.
   - Get paid to install solar where you live.
   - How solar energy works

5. Schedule Installation
   Installation notification and schedule will be shared with you and your neighbors.

6. Tenant Education
   Theme: Changes to expect
   - How will my utility bill change?
   - Simple ways to save energy

   Utility company installs a solar production meter on the property.

   Your landlord turns on your solar system.

Contact: contact@calsomah.org

Questions about SOMAH?
Tenant Hotline: 800-843-9728

Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing
Get paid to install where you live

Why work in the solar industry?
- The solar industry employs over 80,000 people in the state of California.
- Earn a living while benefiting people and the environment.
- Solar jobs cannot be sent overseas.

What to expect
- If you are selected for the job, you will work directly with your hiring contractor to schedule workdays.
- The number of hours you will work will depend on the size of the solar PV system for the project, ranging from 40 to 60 hours or more.
- All SOMAH job trainees will be paid at a rate consistent with the contractor’s entry-level or temporary worker wage, or 1.4x the minimum wage of the city in which the SOMAH project is located — whichever is higher.
- You will receive payment within 30 days of doing the work.

Questions about SOMAH?
- Tenant Hotline: 800-843-9728
- Visit CalSOMAH.org/tenant to learn more and sign up.

Job training opportunities
The building you live in is having a solar PV system installed through the SOMAH program. As a resident of this building, you’re eligible for paid on-the-job solar training opportunities.

Benefits
- Get paid to gain experience in key solar industry skills
- Access the SOMAH job board, where you can post your resume and apply for jobs
- Gain access to a directory of job training organizations offering solar-related training
- Benefit from other resources to support your job search and professional development

Get started
It’s easy to get started. Just follow these steps:
1. Contact your SOMAH approved contractor installing solar on your building. (see below)
2. Sign up for a job training program at CalSOMAH.org.

Questions about SOMAH?
- Tenant Hotline: 800-843-9728
- Visit CalSOMAH.org/tenant to learn more and sign up.
Questions?

📞 Tenant hotline: 800-843-9728
✉️ Comments: calsomah.org/contact-us
Thank you for joining.