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Media Contact: [Kristi Parker Celico](#), East Boulder Solar Coalition, 970-368-0999

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Go Solar

East Boulder Solar Coalition Launches Limited Time Solar Discount Program

Lafayette, Colo. – It all started with a simple posting on Nextdoor, the neighborhood social network: *“Is anyone else interested in solar? Could we work together as a community to get a better price?”*

A group of community members, called the East Boulder Solar Coalition (EaBoSoCo), announced they have signed an agreement with Custom Solar so that community members can lease, finance or buy solar systems at a discount. This announcement comes at an opportune time as Boulder County is offering large rebates of up to \$3,000 for income qualifying middle-class residents and \$500 for all other residents.

Details about the community deal will be laid out at a public information meeting on Wednesday, July 12 at the Louisville Alfalfa’s community room at 5:30 p.m. Residents can also go to EaBoSoCo’s web page, <http://eabosoco.com/>, or Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/eabosoco/>, to gather more details about the program.

Interested residents can contact Eric Verdier at Custom Solar (303-859-8597/sales@customsolar.us) to get an estimate for installing solar on their home. To receive the community discount, residents must mention East Boulder Solar Coalition. The agreement with Custom Solar is structured such that the more families who sign up to go solar before September 30, the cheaper the price for everyone. All residents of Boulder County are eligible.

“I was boring myself complaining about the direction of our country’s global climate change policy. I thought others might want to work together as a community to DO something. I was stunned at the response,” noted Lafayette resident Kristi Parker Celico, who posted the initial question on Nextdoor. The community group began by educating themselves about solar. Their effort was greatly supported by expertise from Boulder County’s Sustainability Office and EnergySmart. Together the group identified criteria that they thought were most important and asked local and national companies to bid for the work. Louisville resident Lisa Hering led the interview process, *“We were impressed that Custom Solar can provide good, better, and best technology, and would work with residents who wanted to get a lease or buy solar. They also work with Elevations Credit Union to provide loans. Finally, they have a good reputation as an established, local provider.”*

“What surprised me most is how competitive solar has become in price,” stated local real estate agent Leanne Goff. *“All of us found that we could begin leasing solar panels tomorrow and the cost of the lease would be less than our current electric bill, with no money down. And we could save even more money with a loan or outright purchasing if*

we plan to stay in our house for five to ten years. After looking into it, we realized that going solar is a no-brainer and the right thing to do.”

“Custom Solar is excited about this unique experiment between a community group and our company. A couple of years ago, we did a similar effort with Boulder County government—but this is unique in that it is totally grass roots. We think it may provide an interesting model for other communities to consider,” noted Willie Mein of Custom Solar.