Every Bit Counts

Imagine a next-to-nothing PECO bill this winter. **Meet the Bortmans**. Mark and Dara Bortman offset their energy consumption with the electricity they generate through solar panels on their roof. Their PECO bill for June 2020 was only $3.39!

The Bortmans installed 26 solar panels in two phases. The investment paid off in 7 years through the renewable energy net metering system that provides customers credit for excess energy generated and linked back to the grid. The family of four, in a home of about 3,000 sft., is very careful about not wasting electricity. The Bortmans manage their energy with a solar monitoring system that tracks not only their usage down to the device, but also how much energy they produce from the solar panels and how much they sell to the grid - in real time. The energy production and usage can be tracked by the hour, day, week, month and year. Watch a fascinating virtual tour of their system at the 2020 National Solar Home Tour.

The Pennsylvania Alternate Energy Portfolio Standard requires retail energy suppliers to purchase 8% from renewable sources and 0.5% from photovoltaic solar by 2021 (Renewables Work for PA). Home solar systems qualify for Federal Income Tax Credit of 26% currently. Additionally, the quantum of alternate energy generated by the alternate energy system is tracked to issue Solar renewable energy credits (SRECs) that can be traded on the market. Sierra Club's initiative, Ready for 100 Bucks County promotes townships to transition to renewable resources and energy efficient technology. The Bortmans' home, just one home, has produced renewable energy that has saved about 66,000 lbs. of CO_2 emissions, equivalent to planting 500 trees to date.

Every bit counts.

Soumya Dharmavaram 09.29.2020

Monthly Report

Hourly Report

Yearly Report

Time-lapse of energy production — click