

# Questions to consider for multi-tenant buildings before approaching your HOA



Are you interested in going solar in a multi-unit building? Check out the tips below to help you assess the feasibility of going solar!

## First Steps to Consider for Multi-Unit Buildings

### 1. Who owns your roof?

**Whether you live in a townhome, apartment building or other shared facility, you will need to determine who owns your roof and provide an initial assessment if it would qualify for solar.**

1. Who makes decisions about your roof? Is it a Homeowners' Association or do you own the portion roof space above your unit? Is your roof older than 10 years? Depending on the age and design of your roof, it may be advisable to replace it before going solar which will increase the cost of the overall project.
2. Do you have enough space available to install solar panels? The minimum size is approximately 200 square feet of unobstructed space.
3. Consider the angle of the sun throughout the year and the directions your roof faces. Are there buildings, trees, or other obstructions that shade your roof area? If direct shading on the roof is significant, it would limit the return on investment of the system. An unobstructed roof facing directly south is the most favorable for year-round production, followed by west-east exposure.

## 2. How well do you know your neighbors?

After confirming there's a way to make solar work for your multi-tenant building, be prepared for the politics.

1. Who would be the ultimate decision maker for utilizing roof space and installing a solar system? Is there a Homeowners' Association Board, property manager, and/or other stakeholder you need to work with? **Take note that homeowner associations cannot prevent you from installing solar, but they do have a say in where it goes.** It's to your advantage to get to know each decision maker and what their interests are ahead of formally approaching them.
2. Develop a plan to outreach, educate, and rally your neighbors to support going solar. The more support you can demonstrate, the less likely you'll run into political roadblocks.

## 3. Check out our going solar guide!

Once you have a solid lay-of-the-land for your multi-tenant building, now is the time to get to work.

1. Check out our [HOA Solar Action Guide](#) on our website for more information on how to work with your Homeowners Association. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the Colorado Solar United Neighbors team at [flteam@solarunitedneighbors.org](mailto:flteam@solarunitedneighbors.org).