

# PINE COUNTY SOLAR SUMMIT

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2016**

**FREE · HINCKLEY COMMUNITY ROOM**



## **Solar Opportunities or Risks? Issues for LGU's and businesses in the solar development market**

Solar energy, long thought to have limited applicability for rural Minnesota communities, is suddenly a real development option for farms, businesses, and communities. Solar developers are making inquiries on potential sites for solar farms and solar gardens. Farms and businesses are being offered opportunities to invest in on-site solar generation to meet some portion of their energy use. A variety of incentives for solar investment are offered by state and federal governments, as well as by some utility companies, economic development agencies, and local governments.

This solar energy summit will explore two "value proposition" perspectives of solar development for rural communities:

- 1) What considerations do local governments need to make in development plans and regulations to capture benefits and minimize risks of this new form of development, particularly solar farms and gardens?
- 2) When does solar energy present a viable investment opportunity for farms and businesses in rural communities? Can local solar resources create economic value?

### **WORKSHOP 1: 10AM-NOON**

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

- Why solar energy now? Market and development trends
- Understanding solar energy as development
- Minnesota Statutes affecting local options
- Local planning best practices
- Local zoning best practices
- Other tools for the LGU

### **WORKSHOP 2: 1PM-3PM**

#### **FARMS AND BUSINESSES**

- Owning Solar, the business case: affordability, advantages, incentives
- Is solar right for my business? Consumption, efficiencies, utility rebates
- Do I have the right site?
- What does it cost?
- Evaluating the investment
- Incentives and net metering
- Funding Options

**Registration: Contact Pine County Planning and Zoning at 320-216-4220**

**Location: 106 1st Street SE, Hinckley, MN**



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