Solar Power:
Next steps, facts & figures:

- Check with your utility company
  - See if you can join a “solar garden” or “community solar;”
    → then no need to consider panels at home.
    This might also be possible for condos or apartments.
- If you’re interested in solar AT your home:
  - Log onto your utility provider (e.g. Xcel Energy);
    check your total annual, and monthly, energy usage, in kilowatt-hours (kWh)
  - Examine your roof areas & surrounding trees for solar exposure; check out morning, noon & evening
  - Try a quick on-line estimate: https://www.solar-estimate.org/
- Nerdy facts:
  - Power is the RATE of energy use, in kilowatts, horsepower, or a combination of amps x volts
  - Energy is the total AMOUNT used over time, in kilowatt-hours.
  - For example: horsepower is the POWER of the engine in your car, and ENERGY is the amount of gasoline in your tank, or how many gallons of gasoline you might use on a given trip.
  - Typical solar panels, today, deliver 350-400 watts per panel, in full sun
- Do your OWN rough estimate:

• Example:	• **Your figures**
• Annual usage = 12,000 kWh (from your utility website)	• Annual usage = _____ kWh
• Initial target = 80% 80% of 12,000 = 9,600 kWh	• Initial target = ____% ___ % of _____ = ____ kWh
• Divide by 1,000 to get PV system size: 9,600 / 1,000 = 9.6kW power	• Divide by 1,000 to get PV system size: _____ kWhr / 1,000 = _._ kW
• Divide system size in watts by 350 or 400 to get # of panels: 9.6kW = 9,600 W 9,600 / 350 = ~27 panels	• Divide system size in watts by 350 or 400 to get # of panels: _._ kW = _,___W _,000 / ____ = ___ panels