



City of New Bedford  
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor



City of New Bedford  
Office of the Mayor  
Contact: Elizabeth Treadup Pio  
(508) 979-1410  
[etreadup@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:etreadup@newbedford-ma.gov)

Melissa Macaulay Federico  
Spiralgroup  
[melissaf@spiralgroup.com](mailto:melissaf@spiralgroup.com)  
+1. 617. 686. 7898

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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### **Mayor Mitchell Joins with Clean Energy Organizations To Encourage New Bedford Homeowners to Consider Solar Energy**

*Officials to describe benefits of solar at press conference in front of home equipped with solar panels on Tuesday, March 25, 2014*

**New Bedford, Massachusetts-** On the heels of the successful New Bedford Energy Now Saves Energy campaign, two organizations are aiming to help at least 150 New Bedford homeowners install solar power systems in 2014. [Next Step Living™](#), the leading provider of whole-home energy solutions and New Bedford Energy Now have announced they will launch “Solarize New Bedford” to offer New Bedford homeowners the ability to explore their homes’ potential to “go solar” and reduce their carbon footprint.

On Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in a residential neighborhood in New Bedford, at the intersection of Lancaster Street and Upton Street, Mayor Jon Mitchell and representatives of the Solarize New Bedford program will hold a briefing to help educate the public and showcase the solar technology available for residential installation.

The briefing on Tuesday is part of the City’s targeted public outreach effort to encourage homeowners to explore whether solar energy is right for them.

The City of New Bedford is a nationally recognized leader in renewable energy and is pursuing an ambitious renewable energy agenda. Mayor Mitchell, praised New Bedford Energy Now for its contributions toward moving the city closer to its clean energy and renewable energy goals. The two organizations will work in partnership to educate the community of New Bedford about residential solar opportunities. Homeowners who



install a solar energy system can save up to 20 percent annually in utility costs, increase the value of their homes and become more energy independent.

“My team is dedicated to helping residents explore whether going solar is right for them,” said the Mayor. “Through the Solarize New Bedford program, residents can lock in lower energy costs, create new clean-energy jobs right here in New Bedford and help us continue to build our community and city,” he stated.

"This effort capitalizes on our respective strengths," said Gabe Shapiro, vice president of outreach at Next Step Living. “We share a commitment with New Bedford Energy Now to help the community reduce energy costs, optimize the comfort of homes, and reduce their carbon footprint.”

Organizers will also hold a free information session on Thursday, March 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Roosevelt Middle School, 119 Fredrick St. New Bedford, MA. (*Please use the Cleveland Str. Entrance.*) In addition, they will host an Open House, Saturday, April 12th from 12:00-2:00p.m. Call 617-429-8844 for location. Attendees will have the opportunity to observe the solar power system first hand.

For more information, residents may visit

[www.nextstepliving.com/partners/solarizenewbedford](http://www.nextstepliving.com/partners/solarizenewbedford) or call Ken Ramos, New Bedford Energy Now Program Coordinator, at 617-429-8844

### **About Next Step Living**

One of the fastest growing companies in the country, Next Step Living™ is the leading provider of whole-home energy solutions. Headquartered in Boston’s Innovation District, Next Step Living makes it easy and affordable for people to live in homes with a low environmental impact. A one-stop service provider for informed advice, funding guidance and expert work done under fixed-fee contracts, Next Step Living partners with more than 400 municipalities, civic organizations and leading corporations to deliver energy-efficient and environmentally friendly solutions for better living. Since 2008, Next Step Living has helped New England homeowners achieve almost \$12 million in energy savings, which is expected to grow to \$64 million in the next five years. Next Step Living makes our world better. Please visit [NextStepLiving.com](http://NextStepLiving.com) for more information.

### **About New Bedford Energy Now New Bedford Energy Now (NBEN)**

The City of New Bedford has brought together a partnership of community groups, local and trusted businesses and city offices to amplify the benefits of efficient buildings, clean energy, community development, and the creation of local jobs.

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