

# SunWatts Solar Program Member Workshop



**TRICO**

AN ENERGY COOPERATIVE

**POWERED WITH PURPOSE**



# Welcome!

## **Chelsea Morrison**

Renewable Resources & Energy Efficiency  
Specialist

520-744-2944 ext. 1524



# Workshop Overview

## Our Purpose

The purpose of this workshop is to provide educational resources to Trico members who may be considering solar interconnection.

## Our Goal

Our goal is for our members to feel equipped with the information and resources necessary to make informed decisions when considering solar interconnection.

# Workshop Topics

1. Trico's Renewable Resources and Programs
2. Contractor Selection
3. Trico's Interconnection Application Process
4. Renewable Energy Rate Tariffs
5. Educational Resources



# Trico's Community Scale Resources

## Community Scale Renewable Resources

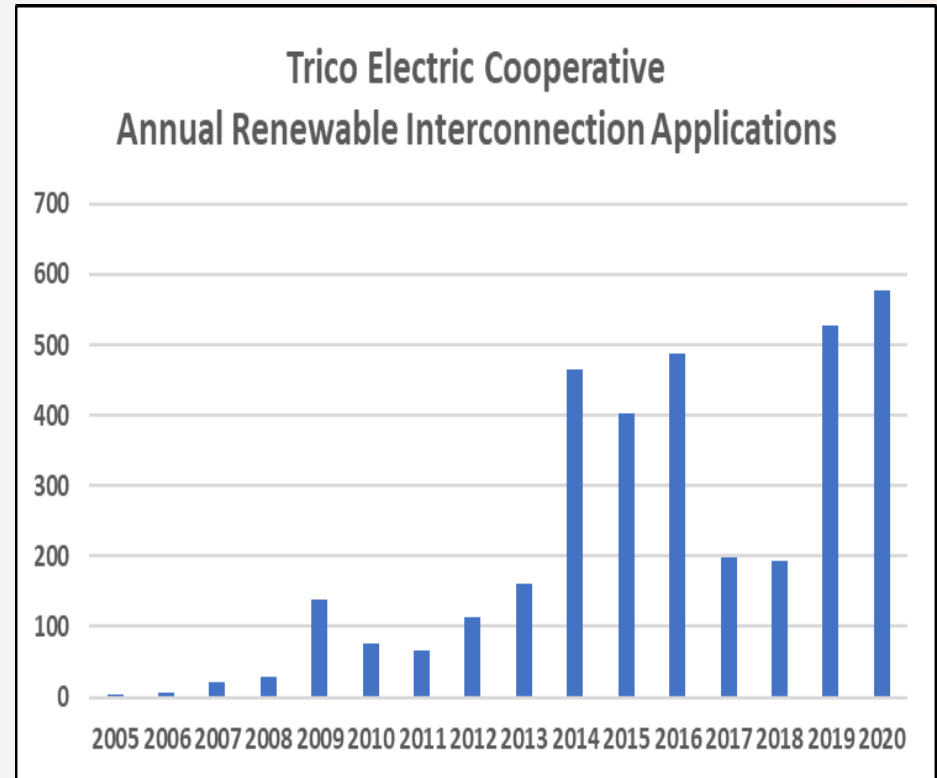
- SunWatts Sun Farm
- Apache Solar
- Avion Solar
- Chirreon Solar and Storage  
(Starting Construction  
Soon)

Trico's existing community scale systems provide enough renewable energy to power more than 4,500 homes.



# SunWatts Member Installed Solar

- Member installed programs started in 2005
- 3,000+ installed retail solar systems
- 40+ new solar interconnections each month
- 480+ new installations in 2020
- Represents about 50% of Trico's total renewable portfolio



# Considering going Solar?



**Let's get started**



# Contractor Selection

- Trico does not sell or install solar systems.
- The third-party contractor is selected by the member.
- It is recommended to contact a minimum of three contractors.



# How do I find a contractor?

- Must have an active Contractor's License in the state of AZ.
- Self-installations require a licensed electrician to complete the final interconnection.
- The Arizona Registrar of Contractors provides a search option for licensed contractors.
- <https://roc.az.gov/contractor-search>

# Do your Research...

- Review business rating and qualifications
  - Better Business Bureau
  - The Arizona Attorney General's Office
- How long has the contractor been in business?
- What is their experience?
- Where are their headquarters, do they have a local branch?
- Will they provide a list of references?

# What Questions do I ask?

- How much will this system cost over the life of the lease or purchase? Are there any interest or fees to be paid? What are total number of payments and due dates?
- Who has the tax obligations, including the increase in property values?
- Are there any eligible tax incentives and rebates? Who will be getting them?
- Can the warranty or maintenance obligations be sold or transferred? If so, how?
- Who do I contact in the event of a system malfunction?
- What happens if I sell my home? What happens to the lease?
- What statistics are you using for the projection of future electric rates?
- What is the minimum performance guarantee for the system?
- Will I be compensated if the system does not produce as much power as promised?
- What are my fixed monthly fees to the utility?

# Contractor Responsibilities

- Prepare an estimate, to include system size and financial obligations.
- Be educated on Trico's Interconnection Requirements, Rate Tariffs, and interconnection application process.
- Responsible for submitting Interconnection Application to Trico. Including:
  - Required permits, Engineered plan set, member documentation, and all other required documents.



# Interconnection Application Process

- An Interconnection Application is required to be submitted to Trico for all interconnections, including:
  - All grid-tied solar systems, self installations, stand-alone battery systems, and second phases to existing systems.
- Application will be submitted electronically by the contractor through the online PowerClerk application portal.

# Application Documentation

- Contractor Supplied:
  - Required Jurisdiction Permitting
  - Field Photos
  - Engineered Plan Set
  - System Quote
- Member Supplied:
  - Executed Tariff Application
  - Executed Terms and Conditions

# What do I review before signing?

## Utility Documents

- **Trico maximum system size qualifications**
  - ✓ Confirm the largest size system your service qualifies for
- **Applicable Rate Tariff**
  - ✓ Understand the metering, billing, and fees associated with your applicable tariff
- **Terms and Conditions**
  - ✓ Understand the Terms and Conditions of your agreement with Trico.

# What do I review before signing?

## Contractor Documents

- **Thoroughly understand the terms of your contract**
  - ✓ Incentives and Rebates
  - ✓ Tax obligations
  - ✓ Payment details
  - ✓ Warranty and maintenance agreement
  - ✓ Performance guarantee
  - ✓ Transfer of ownership/Sale of home
  
- **Understand the terms of your contract as they apply to your contractor, sales company, and financing partner.**
  - ✓ Understand all parties associated with your contract
  - ✓ Request contacts for all associated parties
  - ✓ What is each party responsible for after your system has been installed
  - ✓ Contact legal council or tax professional if there are terms of the contract that need further clarification



# Application Submitted

- Application will be reviewed within 7 days from the date received.
- An email notification will be sent upon application approval, and continued notifications will be sent to inform member of the application status.
- Upon approval, contractor is responsible for installation schedule and completion.

# System Installed

- Contractor will contact jurisdiction to schedule inspection. **Inspection must pass prior to Trico's final inspection.**
- Contractor will request Trico's final inspection by providing the following:
  - Jurisdiction Inspection Clearance
  - Final Building Permit
  - Final Plan Set (including any revisions)

# Trico Final Inspection

- Meter technician will perform inspection based on the following criteria.
  - System installed per approved plan set
  - System Meets Trico Interconnection Requirements
  - All equipment is operating safely and correctly
- Trico will perform meter change and installation on site at time of passed inspection.
- The formal Permission to Operate will be provided after approved inspection for member and contractor records and will be dated with the inspection date.



# Renewable Energy Rate Tariffs

- Residential Services
  - DG Energy Export
  - Exported energy is credited during billing period at applicable export rate
  - Metering is bi-directional
  - 10-year grandfathering
- Commercial Services
  - Net Metering
  - Member is billed by net of energy delivered and energy received
  - Meter is bi-directional

# Sunwatts Webpage Demo

- [Trico.coop](http://Trico.coop)
- Sustainable Programs
- [Member Installed Solar](#)

# Educational Resources

- SunWatts webpage: <https://www.trico.coop/sunwatts/>. The Renewable Energy Tariffs can also be viewed here. We also provide a list of suggested questions to ask contractors and a list of frequently asked questions with full responses, and the maximum system size qualification form.
- Licensed contractor searches can be completed here: <https://roc.az.gov/contractor-search>
- “Be Smart” Consumer Tools: <https://irecusa.org/2016/04/new-be-solar-smart-consumer-tools-promote-safe-installation-and-fair-deal/>
- Residential Utility Consumer Office, AZ, Consumer Guide for Rooftop Solar: <https://ruco.az.gov/rucos-consumer-guide-rooftop-solar>
- Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Information, “Rays on the Roof”: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2015/07/rays-roof>



Thank you!

# Chelsea Morrison

Renewable Resources & Energy Efficiency  
Specialist

520-744-2944 ext. 1524

