



TOWN OF UNIVERSITY PARK, MARYLAND
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Once again University Park’s Town Tree will be “Green,” thanks to its many strings of twinkling energy-efficient LED lights and to a special gift from University Park Community Solar LLC (UPCS). In a gesture fitting the holiday season, members of UPCS will contribute to the Town some of the funds they received from the “excess” energy produced by the solar panels on the roof of the Church of the Brethren to pay for this season’s Tree lighting.

Since their installation in July, UPCS’s solar panels have been producing more electricity than the Church has been using. That excess is flowing into the grid that powers other PEPCO-serviced homes, in the same way that electricity produced by coal, wind, or nuclear power contributes to the grid. At the end of the year, University Park Community Solar LLC will be paid by PEPCO for the excess electricity they directed to the grid and UPCS members have chosen to give some of their payment to the Town to cover the cost of the Tree lighting. **This concept is called “virtual metering”** and it illustrates how solar electricity can grow into the larger energy sector.

Even though its solar power source is “up the block,” our Town Tree will remind us that University Park is a vanguard, leading in new ideas to make our future greener and brighter.