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Solar panel leasing for homes, businesses coming to Md.

California firm acquires Clean Currents solar unit

By Timothy B. Wheeler, The Baltimore Sun

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A California-based solar energy company announced Monday it is expanding to Maryland, where it plans to offer homeowners and businesses the option to lease rather than buy photovoltaic systems.

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SolarCity, headquartered in San Mateo, has acquired Clean Currents Solar, the solar installation division of Clean Currents, an independent green energy company based in Rockville that now markets solar and wind power in the mid-Atlantic region.

Claiming more than 10,000 customers in Arizona, California, Colorado, Oregon and Texas, SolarCity said it plans to begin offering zero-down, 20-year solar leases in Maryland and Washington, D.C., in mid-February. SolarCity CEO Lyndon Rive said the firm, which has 1,000 employees, anticipates hiring 30 to 40 in Maryland in its first year.

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