



Community solar power

What are the benefits of community solar?

Community solar can allow all households and businesses to access the benefits of solar energy, such as lower electricity costs, regardless of whether they're able to host a system on their own roof. And, in areas where solar power is less expensive than fossil-generated electricity (most places), consumers can save money on their monthly bills.

What is community solar?

The U.S. Department of Energy defines community solar as any solar project or purchasing program, within a geographic area, in which the benefits flow to multiple customers such as individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and other groups. In most cases, customers benefit from energy generated by solar panels at an off-site array.

What is a community-owned solar project?

Community-owned solar: A solar project that is wholly owned by local members of a community. Power purchase agreement (PPA): A long-term electricity supply agreement between an electricity producer and an electricity consumer. Project host: The owner of the site where the community solar project will be located.

What is the national community solar partnership?

The National Community Solar Partnership goal is to enable community solar systems to power the equivalent of five million households by 2025 and create \$1 billion in energy savings for subscribers. This target represents a 700% increase in community solar deployment, growing from 3 GW of community solar in 2020 to 20 GW in 2025.

How does community solar work?

The local utility pays the community solar provider for the energy generated, and each subscriber receives a portion of the dollar value generated by their community solar subscription as a credit. Typically, this credit is applied directly to a subscriber's monthly electric bill, helping to reduce customers' electricity costs. Why Community Solar?

Is community solar right for You?

It encourages more clean energy in your community while reducing your yearly electric bill. We'll explain how to decide if community solar is right for you and why it's different from other alternatives to utility electricity, like green power plans and community choice aggregation.

Community solar power is possible thanks to virtual net metering. Through this process, a percentage of the electricity produced from energy generation by the community solar panels is subtracted from the total amount of power you use in your home even though the panels aren't located on your property. Here are a few key things to note:



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Green power is an overarching term that describes renewable energy technologies (specifically, "electricity produced from solar, wind, geothermal, eligible biomass, and low-impact small hydroelectric resources," according to the Environmental Protection Agency). Local governments, companies, nonprofit organizations, and individual electricity customers often ...

Check out our [Community Solar FAQ \(PDF\)](#) Watch our video about [Community Solar](#); [Understand Community Solar Subsidies \(PDF\)](#) Community solar is governed by 35-A M.R.S. Section 3209-A and Chapter 313 of the Maine Public Utilities Commission's rules

Community solar is a unique type of solar project that shares energy with thousands of people on the electric grid through a central solar power plant. It's an enticing option for anyone looking to use of solar energy without installing a system on your property. Let's review some of the primary benefits associated with community solar.

Groundswell is a 501c3 nonprofit that builds community power through equitable community solar projects and resilience centers, clean energy programs that reduce energy burdens, and pioneering research initiatives that help light the ...

Round 3 of the American-Made Community Power Accelerator Prize, launched in September 2024, expanded beyond community solar to include other forms of distributed solar energy technologies. The \$10 million prize from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is designed to fast-track the efforts of new, emerging, and expanding solar developers and co-developers ...

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The "for anyone" way to benefit from solar power without installing panels on your roof. ... "Love that we're part of Massachusetts' community solar program and helping lower carbon emissions across the state! It was so easy to sign up and find a solar farm to subscribe to. Now we're saving off our energy bill...and doing a little extra ...

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has allocated 3.13 megawatts (MW) of solar generation for Clean Power Alliance (CPA) customers under the Community Solar Green Tariff. CPA will provide residents within a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) in CPA service territory with access to 100% clean energy and 20% discounts off their ...

As with community solar, your actual power still comes from your utility. What CleanChoice and others do is authorize themselves as your electric provider and sign you up for a fixed rate, usually higher than your utility provider. CleanChoice recently offered me a total 18.6 cents per kilowatt-hour rate for REC-backed power, a kind of climate ...



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You can access the most recent project dataset and associated presentations and fact sheets on the Community Solar Resources webpage and on NREL's Sharing the Sun webpage. Access to Community Solar Projects. As of June 2024, there is approximately 7.87 GW of community solar in operation in the U.S. These community solar projects are located ...

Community solar is solar energy generated from a central location and shared by multiple subscribers. That means you don't need your own rooftop panels to get the benefits of solar. If you're a customer of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power or Idaho Power, you can subscribe to a community solar project and receive credits back on your ...

The Community Power Accelerator is powered by the DOE National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP), a coalition of community solar stakeholders working to expand access to affordable community solar with meaningful benefits to every U.S. household. This site was developed and is maintained by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, a national laboratory of the U.S. ...

May 30, 2024 - SAN FRANCISCO - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today expanded and improved its existing community solar programs and launched a new community renewable energy program that will allow California to capture millions of dollars in state and federal funding, including the Solar For All grant recently awarded to California by the U.S. ...

Learn how to develop community solar projects with meaningful benefits for subscribers and communities, such as bill savings, resilience, ownership, and jobs. This guide shares best ...

With community solar, renewable energy is more accessible than ever--allowing more communities to enjoy clean power. How Does Community Solar Work? With community solar, the energy generated by one large local solar farm (also called a solar project, solar garden, or solar field) is shared by multiple members--homeowners, renters, and ...

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Community solar is a way to allow members of a community the opportunity to share the benefits of solar power even if they cannot or prefer not to install solar panels on their property. By subscribing to a community solar project, you can get credit on your electric bill for the solar energy generated at a different location.

DOE's National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP) selected 25 teams to participate in the \$10 million Community Power Accelerator Prize competition, which aims to establish a strong, nation-wide network of community solar project developers. Successful teams have the potential to deploy as much as 150 megawatts of community solar across the ...



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Community solar, also known as solar farms or solar gardens, is a solar energy program that allows multiple individuals to share the benefits of a single solar energy system.

Why did Tacoma Power build a community solar project? We built a community solar project to help customers take advantage of state solar production incentives and to educate customers about solar electrical production in the Pacific Northwest. The project also helps us meet our commitment to using renewable energy sources whenever possible.

Community solar is the sharing of renewable solar power from a centralized source. As distributed generation and customer demand for solar grow, community solar offers an excellent opportunity for utilities to give their customers what they want while retaining control of generation in ...

Community solar lets renters and people who can't afford large upfront costs go solar. A bipartisan group of Pa. lawmakers back it. ... "The power [subscribers use] is always going to come from the grid," Morales said. "The system that gets installed is feeding the power into the grid and it just goes where it's needed. The grid doesn't ...

Community Solar. NREL conducts market analysis, provides technical assistance, and develops tools and resources to accelerate equitable access to community solar. ... Net metering is a commonly used mechanism that credits distributed generation owners for the power that their systems contribute to the grid. Community solar participants can be ...

Community solar farm in the town of Wheatland, Wisconsin [1]. A community solar project, farm or garden is a solar power installation that accepts capital from and provides output credit and tax benefits to multiple customers, including individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and other investors. Participants typically invest in or subscribe to a certain kW capacity or kWh generation of ...

Homeowners, renters, businesses, and multifamily buildings can all access the benefits of solar power without installing panels on their property. Community solar projects generate renewable energy on behalf of multiple customers, who receive credits on their monthly electric bills for their share of the clean electricity that's produced. ...

Community solar, community choice aggregation (CCA), and green power plans offer renewable electricity alternatives, but if you want to impact locally, look to community solar and CCAs first. Among these options, ...

Enjoy the benefits of cleaner energy without having to install solar panels or wind turbines on your home. Signing up is easy and free! ... Community Power LI has the stamp of approval of the Community Development Corporation of Long Island (CDCLI), a regional non-profit organization founded in 1969 by government, business, and civic leaders on ...



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o A solar power plant whose electricity is shared by more than one property o Community-owned projects as well as third party-owned plants ... Customers pay community solar subscription fees through ongoing payments on utility bills Heeter, Jenny, ...

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