



Community Solar Explained: What It Is and How It Works

Community solar is rapidly growing as an easy way for individuals (homeowners or renters), businesses, and municipalities to save money while supporting the use of clean energy. Community solar is an easy solution to enjoy the benefits of solar energy without the costs and/or installation hassles of rooftop/onsite solar.

Rooftop/onsite solar is not an option for many homeowners, renters, and businesses, as solar panel installation isn't possible with the rooftops of certain structures. You need to own your roof to install panels – and permits, installation, and insurance can be cost-prohibitive for many people.

All of these reasons – and more – explain why *community solar* is becoming so popular.

What Is Community Solar?

Community solar farms (also referred to as projects) are large, commercial-grade solar arrays shared by multiple community subscribers who receive credits on their electricity bills for their share of the power produced. Community solar farms offer residents, businesses, and municipalities a way to support clean, renewable energy with no upfront costs, maintenance fees, or installation hassles, AND savings of up to 10% on their monthly energy costs.¹ (with no change in utility provider). It's easy, which is one of the many benefits!

How Community Solar Works

As a subscriber to a local community solar farm, you'll receive energy from your utility as usual, but you'll also receive solar credits on your utility bill for the energy generated by the solar farm. These solar credits provide savings on your electricity costs. Depending on the solar farm, you may receive two bills (one from your utility company and one from the subscription manager or developer), which is referred to as dual billing. Or, you may receive just one bill from your utility company (referred to as single billing). Either way, you'll receive the same solar credits – leading to savings on your electricity costs of up to 10%.





Community Solar Benefits

The benefits of community solar are numerous – for those who participate and for the environment. Community solar:



Is accessible. Anyone can support clean energy use by signing up for community solar. Many businesses, renters, and homeowners don't want or can't install rooftop solar – or can't afford to pay for rooftop solar installation, maintenance, and insurance. Community solar sign-up is free and easy to do.



Saves money. Subscribers save up to 10% on their monthly energy costs.¹



Reduces our carbon footprint. Community solar supports the production of clean energy that doesn't emit greenhouse gases, create pollution, or increase climate change – helping our environment. You can be part of making our world better today and for the future.



Is easy. Signing up for community solar is simple. You provide your location and utility information, find an available local solar farm, create an account, and sign up. It's easy to start saving money and the environment within a matter of minutes.

For More Information

If you have additional questions about community solar or are interested in signing up for a local community solar farm, contact:

Kate Seifert

Nelnet Renewable Energy

Kate.Seifert@Nelnet.net

612.239.7131

Nelnet Renewable Energy is a Nelnet brand. Nelnet is a diversified company that's been in business for over 40 years – and has expanded to over 6,500 associates in 30 communities across the country.

Nelnet helps our environment through tax equity investments in clean, renewable energy and by making renewable energy sources available to residents and businesses through subscription management for solar developers. Nelnet offers opportunities for solar developers, investors, and those interested in starting tax equity investing – as well as higher education institutions that want to convert to solar power.