



SHOPPING FOR COMMUNITY SOLAR



The sun shines everywhere in Maryland but only those that owned a good roof for solar could take advantage **until now.**

Community solar makes it possible for anyone with an electricity bill to access solar energy, even if they can't put it where they live.

Community solar means photovoltaic (PV) systems can be somewhere else in the community (a field, a building, a parking lot, and more) but provide the benefits of solar to participating subscribers, like you.

Q What are the benefits?

Signing up to participate in a community solar project means buying clean, renewable solar energy, as well as possibly reducing your energy bill. Any amount of solar energy you subscribe to will be credited to you on your electricity bill.

You may have a choice of subscription options available to you. And, your subscription may provide other benefits like creating jobs in the community or supporting local businesses and organizations.

Q What should you know before subscribing?

Before subscribing to any particular project, ask for and carefully review the subscriber agreement. These agreements should address things like the cost of the subscription, the length of the contract, termination fees, and more.

Community solar subscriptions will come in all shapes and sizes. Some subscriptions may let you buy energy monthly. Others may ask you to pay for a year or more upfront. Some may be owned by local groups. Others may be through national companies. **Make sure you ask questions.**



Learn more, ask questions & take action:
www.mdsun.org/community-solar

Q What questions should I be asking?

Whatever your preference, there are important questions to ask as you decide what's right for you. Make sure you are asking these questions before choosing a project.

COMPANY & PROJECT DETAILS

- Who owns the project? Is it owned by a local group?
- Who operates it and how long have they been in business?
- Are there a performance guarantees on the energy produced?
- Are there any local benefits from the community solar system, like jobs created.

PRICING & COMPENSATION

- Is the electricity cheaper than the energy options available to me now? Will it be in the future?
- Is the subscription upfront, monthly, or yearly? Are there other fees?
- For how long is the subscription contract?
- What happens if you cancel or move before the end of your agreement?
- What happens if the community solar system under performs for a period?

READ YOUR CONTRACT

The state of Maryland regulates community solar projects, subscriber organizations and their offerings. Check the terms offered. Ask questions! Make sure you understand what's in your agreement.

Contracts must disclose information like:

- contract price
- term length
- additional charges
- renewal
- dispute resolution
- insurance
- system maintenance



Learn more, ask questions & take action:
www.mdsun.org/community-solar

Special thanks to the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTS) of Minnesota and Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection for providing content and feedback on the development of these materials.