

What is community solar?

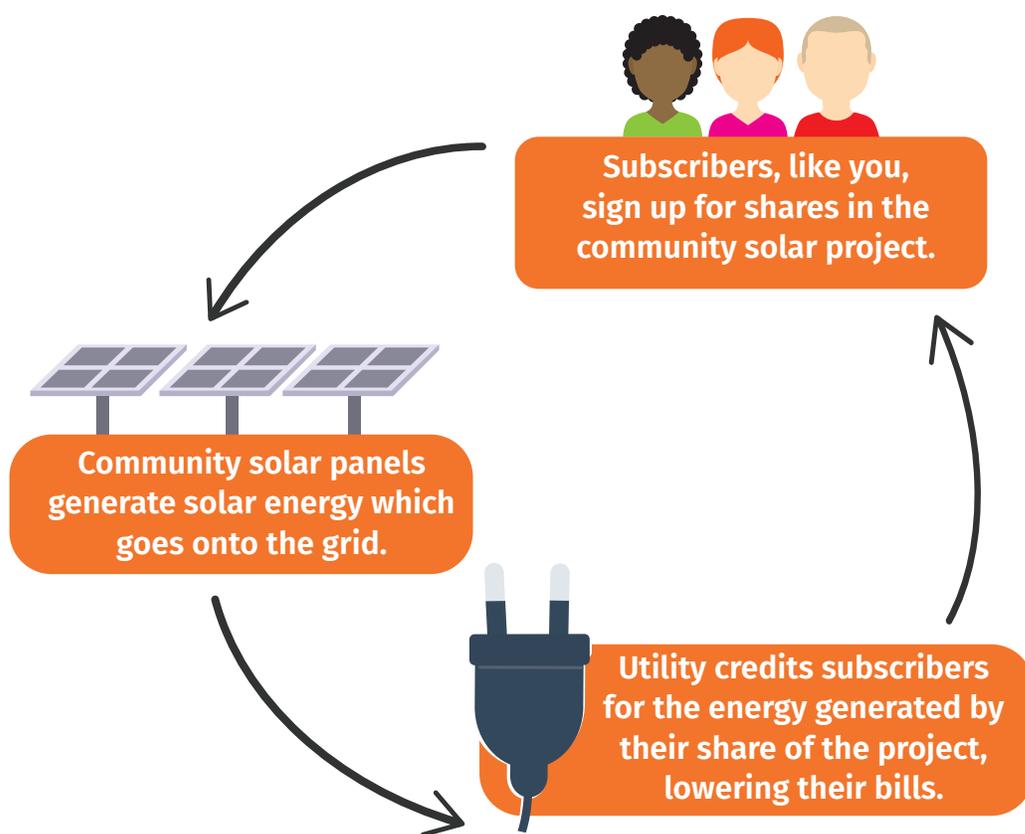


Community solar is shared local solar.

The sun shines everywhere—but only homeowners with a good roof for solar could take advantage...until now.

Community solar makes it possible for anyone with an electricity bill to save with solar, even if they can't put panels where they live because they rent or don't have a good roof for solar.

Community solar means the solar panels can be somewhere else in the community – like a field, a building, or a parking lot – and provide benefits and savings to subscribers, like you.



How do you subscribe?

1. Find a recent copy of your electricity bill
2. Locate providers in your area
3. Compare costs, fees, term lengths, etc.
4. Pick a provider and contact them
5. Review your contract (see back)
6. Sign-up!

And be sure to check out our list of subscriptions at <http://cs.solarunitedneighbors.org>

How do you save?

You save by selling your solar energy back to the grid.

Two bills are less than one.

Your subscription cost plus your reduced utility bill ideally should be less than your current electric bill but this varies by provider.

Things to look for when choosing community solar:

- ▶ How long is the contract?
- ▶ What happens if you move?
- ▶ What happens if you leave the utility area?
- ▶ Are there late fees and cancellation fees?

Time between subscription and savings:

For new projects, developers must get a certain number of subscribers before they can build a community solar project. On average, it takes **three to six months from the time you subscribe** to see savings in your overall utility expenses.

For projects already in operation, check with your provider on when you can expect to start seeing savings on your electricity bills.



What am I actually buying?

When you pay your electric bill, you're buying electricity -measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh)- from your utility company.

Usually a community solar subscription means you'll be buying those kWh from the community solar project instead. You then get a credit for those kWh applied to your electric bill.

Sometimes a community solar project may offer you the option to buy a portion of the actual solar array. In that case, you are buying all the electricity that your piece of the solar array produces. Depending on how many kilowatts you buy, you will get a certain number of kWh produced each month and applied to your electric bill as a credit.

Will my electric bill be cheaper than what I pay now?

It should be! Check the agreement from the provider and make sure you know what the cost per kWh will be now, and what it could be in the future. Then check that against the price per kWh you pay on your current electric bill.

How much of my energy bill will come from solar?

Do you know how much electricity you use on a monthly or yearly basis? This will be shown on your electricity bill. Your community solar provider should tell you how much of that total energy will now be coming from solar. *Generally you should only subscribe for up to 100% of your total energy usage. Any energy you buy above 100% may get paid back to you at the end of the year by the energy company, but probably at a lower rate than what you originally paid for it.*

For more information visit:
solarunitedneighbors.org/community-solar

How will I know how much energy the community solar project is producing?

Some providers give you direct access to monitoring or some kind of monthly report on energy production. Be sure to ask how you will be informed about how much energy the system produced overall and your share.

What should I know before subscribing?

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

What should I look for in my contract?

There are several key items that should be covered in plain language in your contract, including:

- ▶ Contract price
- ▶ Term length
- ▶ Additional charges
- ▶ Early termination fees and requirements
- ▶ Renewal fees and conditions
- ▶ Dispute resolution procedures
- ▶ Insurance held by subscriber organization
- ▶ System maintenance details
- ▶ Company contact information
- ▶ Performance guarantees on the energy produced (if offered)

Who owns the Solar Renewable Energy Credits for the project?

While the project owner typically owns the rights to all of the renewable energy credits that the system makes, in many cases the value of those credits is being used to pay for the system and helps reduce the price of electricity that is charged to you.”

