



Community Solar Brings Energy Cost-Savings Directly to Marylanders

What is community solar? [A federal study](#) estimates that nearly half of all U.S. households and businesses are unable to host solar systems. Community solar, sometimes called “shared solar,” offers the benefit of solar to those who can’t, or prefer not to, install solar panels on their homes. This often is the case for renters, condo and apartment dwellers. The solar arrays are located throughout the community and enable individuals, businesses, or organizations to purchase or subscribe to a “share” in a community solar project. Participants who join the community solar program receive a credit on their electric bill each month for the energy produced by their share.

Background/Issue: The community solar pilot authorized by the legislature will sunset in 2024. Since the pilot program was authorized by the general assembly in 2015, community solar has increased access to solar, generated clean and reliable energy and produced meaningful cost-savings for participants. If the community solar program is made permanent it is estimated that it will contribute at least 100 MW of capacity development each year. In 2022, the legislature approved an increase in project size from 2 MW to 5 MW.

Solution: The legislature should renew the community solar program and make it permanent. Community solar shares the benefits of solar with the entire community, opens the door for more Marylanders to access solar and serves as a boost to new solar development.

Shares the benefits of solar with the entire community

- Solar is one of the fastest growing and most popular sources of clean energy
- Solar provides direct benefits to the community and increases the reliability of the grid

Opens the door for more Marylanders to access solar

- This program is the pathway to make solar affordable and accessible to families regardless of their income or housing situation
- Supports a dedicated funding source that will help low- to moderate income households benefit from community solar

Serves as a boost to new solar development

- Community solar attracts new solar developers and provides consumers with more options
- A 2018 [report by the Maryland Public Service Commission](#) (PSC) found that increasing solar energy in Maryland would have more than \$3.9 billion in economic impacts and create 2,200 jobs (lasting 10 years).

Solar United Neighbors (SUN) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that represents the needs and interests of solar owners and supporters across the country. SUN helps people go solar, join together, and fight for their energy rights.