



What is Community Solar?

Community Solar is a mid-sized solar installation that serves a local community. Depending on the program, community members can buy or lease part of an installation. Electricity generated at the solar garden is then applied to participants' utility bills each month. A 1 megawatt system (1,000 kilowatts) is enough to power around 164 homes.

Why Community Solar?

There are several reasons why community solar can be a good fit for a community.

ACCESS: Shared solar facilities make it possible for people who do not own their homes (or who do not have good yard or roof space) to use solar energy. Additionally, many solar gardens set aside a portion of energy generated for low-income residents.

COST CONTROL: The cost of electricity will only increase. When a customer buys into a solar garden, costs are fixed for the period of their contract. This provides protection from rising energy costs.

AFFORDABILITY: A home solar system will make owners money once savings on energy bills reach the initial cost of the system, but home solar involves an upfront investment. Community solar models that allow monthly payments and flexible contract lengths can remove upfront costs. The tradeoff is that **community solar will never make money for participants.**

COMMUNITY: A shared solar facility can foster a sense of community among users. The energy is generated nearby, and friends and neighbors can buy in. This can add to the sense of shared space and experience that leads to stronger community ties.

For more information:

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