Too Good to be True? Reducing Energy Costs with Community Solar

December 16, 2020
Presentation Overview

Community Solar Overview
• What is Community Solar?
• Selecting Projects for Municipal Support

Outreach and Education for Community Solar
• Outreach Obstacles
• Community Solar from Resident’s Point of View

Case Studies
• Linden
• Secaucus
• Princeton

Pilot Year 2 Overview

Today’s Speakers

Tracey Woods
Project and Research Specialist, Sustainable Jersey

Alex Lospinoso
Director of Economic Development Corporation, Linden, NJ

Jennifer Schneider
Environmental Coordinator, Town of Secaucus, NJ

Christine Symington
Program Director, Sustainable Princeton, NJ

Ariane Benrey
Program Administrator, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
What is Sustainable Jersey?

Certification program for municipalities and schools

- **Tools, resources, and guidance** to help municipalities and schools become more sustainable
- **Grants and funding** for municipalities and schools
- **Regional Hubs**
Program Participants

Municipal Program
455 (81%) participating
204 Certified
- 151 Bronze
- 53 Silver

Schools Program
350 Districts (>50%)
948 Schools
241 Schools Certified
- 223 Bronze
- 18 Silver
Actions: Prosperity, Planet, People

- Municipalities choose from menu of actions to accumulate points

- Actions created by issue-based Task Forces:
  - subject matter experts
  - local leaders
  - state / federal agencies
  - stakeholders
What is Community Solar?

Solar installation with multiple subscribers

- Provides benefits of solar to those who are not able to install solar (renter, shade, cost)
- Each subscriber receives billing credits for section of larger solar array

Who can subscribe?
- Renters
- Businesses
- Municipalities
- Homeowners
- Institutions
- Non-profits
- Schools

Benefits of Community Solar

• Expands access to solar
• Energy savings for subscribers
• Local generation of clean energy
• Local job creation/workforce development
• Creating positive development on difficult sites, such as brownfields and landfills
• Reduction of municipal emissions
• Community pride
Community Criteria

Most important step is for municipality to set its own criteria for community solar:

- Supporting Low- and Moderate-Income Residents
- Workforce Development
- Landfill/Brownfield Preferred Site
Selecting a Project

A developer has contacted the municipality with a community solar proposal, what next?

Solicit developers for proposals and selecting the one(s) that best benefit your community.

How does the municipality solicit proposals from developers?

- Informal solicitation to learn about available projects
- Projects where municipality has financial stake require formal bidding process/RFP
Maximize Benefit to Low- and Moderate-Income (LMI) Residents

- Reserve a percentage of total site generation for LMI subscribers
- Offer enhanced subscription pricing for LMI residents
- Provide supportive LMI contract terms
Municipal Roles in Community Solar

• Project Ambassador
• Outreach Partner
• Multi-Municipality Project Coordinator
• Anchor Subscriber
• Site Host
• Zoning and Permitting
Project Ambassador/Outreach Partner

Project Ambassador - Help developer make local connections

Subscribers - Affordable housing authorities, anchor subscribers

Site Hosts - Local property owner with suitable site, i.e. a manufacturing facility or a privately-owned landfill

Outreach Partner - Use municipal resources to educate community about project

Rhode Island Community Solar Ribbon Cutting
http://www.energy.ri.gov/
NJ DEP Community Solar Siting Tool

nj.gov/dep/aqes/solar-siting.html
NJ DEP Community Solar Siting Tool

Image from NJ DEP Community Solar Siting Tool Guide state.nj.us/dep/ages/docs/sstguide.pdf
**Interconnection** - Physical point of exchange of electricity between distribution company and customer

**Capacity** - Maximum amount of electricity that can pass through existing infrastructure

Electric Utility Interconnection Capacity Maps
NJCleanEnergy.com/renewable-energy/programs/net-metering-and-interconnection/interconnection-forms
Outreach to Affordable Housing

Affordable Housing may be individually metered by household or master metered.

Either metering structure can be LMI Subscriber.

NJ DCA List of Affordable Developments by County

[link](state.nj.us/dca/divisions/codes/publications/developments.html)
How Much Can Residents Save?

- Most community solar subscriptions structured to result in 5-20% savings
- Many projects offer low- and moderate-income residents higher percentage of savings

Image provided by NJCEP
Community Solar Billing

Subscribers will receive two bills:

- Credit from subscription on utility bill
- Separate bill for cost of subscription

Calculating savings example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electric Bill</th>
<th>Separate Community Solar Subscription Bill (10% discount)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Solar Bill Credit</td>
<td>Subscription Fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[= \text{\$10 Savings for billing period}\]
Outreach Obstacles

• It sounds too good to be true

• Competing messaging from
  • other solar offers
  • third party supplier offers

Lack of understanding

• Basics of community solar (subscriber does not have to have suitable roof)

• Billing/Credits Structure

NYC Five Borough Administrative Building
nycgovparks.org
Community Education

Municipality can address these issues by:

• Using municipal outreach channels to support community solar. The municipality is a trusted messenger.
• Newsletter/Emails
• Public meetings
• Website/Social media
• Press Release/Ribbon Cutting

• Educating public about basics of community solar
What do residents need to know?

• What if my roof is no good for solar?

• How much money can I save?

• Is there a fee for subscribing?

• Can I have Community Solar and R-GEA or a third-party supplier?

• Am I leaving the utility?

• What if I move?
Community Solar Pilot Year 1

ACE
Egg Harbor Twp (8)
Woodbine (23)

PSE&G
Bridgewater (1)
Carlstadt/ Wood Ridge (2)
Cinnaminson (3)
Delanco (4)
Deptford (5)
East Orange (6)
Edison (7)
Glendora (10)
Jersey City (11)
Linden (13)
Newark (15)
North Bergen (16)
Pennsauken (17)
Perth Amboy (18)
Secaucus (19)
South Brunswick (20)
Teterboro (21)

JCPL
Lakewood (12)
Franklin (9)
Manchester (14)
Wall (22)
CITY OF LINDEN
LANDFILL
COMMUNITY SOLAR
The Linden Landfill is located at 1451 Lower Road, Linden, NJ (Block 581, Lots 11.03 and 17) and consists of approximately 55 acres.

The Landfill is owned by the City of Linden. It is properly closed in post closure care and accepted waste until 2000. The Landfill is located on land contiguous with the Rahway River.

The Landfill mound of approximately 17 acres was found suitable for the siting of a solar array.
The City issued a Request for Bid Proposals for “Lease of the Linden Landfill for Development of the Solar System” on June 11, 2019 and received seven (7) Responses.

The City ultimately awarded a ground lease for the development, construction and operation of a not to exceed 5 megawatt (MWdc) solar facility on the Landfill to Hathaway Solar, LLC an affiliate of CS Energy.

The BPU approved the Community Solar Pilot Program at its March 29, 2019 meeting, and the Application Period for Program Year 1 was open from April 9, 2019 to September 9, 2019. All information available at that time concerning the Community Solar Program was specifically referenced in the RFB.
COMMUNITY SOLAR APPLICATION

- Required Applicant (SOLAR DEVELOPER) to show “SITE CONTROL” - a form of the Lease with Linden attached to the RFB and was submitted with the application.

- Required a “LETTER OF SUPPORT” from the City of Linden, which stated in part, “the City is excited to collaborate with Hathaway to inform our residents on the benefits of the Project and connect our residents with Hathaway so they may participate in the community solar program.”

- Linden’s Project was awarded into PHASE I of the Community Solar Pilot.
CONCEPT PLAN

SOLAR ARRAY: 17.11 ACRES,
LAT: 40°38′10.01″N
LONG: 74°14′43.88″W

PERIMETER FENCE

BLOCK 581
LOT 17
34.4 ACRES
Benefits to Linden:

- Income from leasing site - 20-year lease, $257,608.90 a year
- Costly site maintenance (including difficult mowing of steep surfaces) is responsibility of developer
- Subscriptions available to residents
PROJECT STATUS

- Under Construction!

- City working with the solar company to roll-out subscriber enrollment and implementation
Community Solar Outreach
Educational Webinar
All About Community Solar
Explore your solar options today!

The Town of Secaucus, NJ and EnergySage have partnered to help you go solar and save more money!

Compare solar quotes online & get honest advice

https://www.energysage.com/p/secaucus-nj/
Learn more about the EnergySage Marketplace

“Secaucus believes in a renewable energy future! That’s why we have solar panels on our Town Hall and other municipal buildings. Help us reach our sustainability goals and consider solar energy!”

Mayor Michael Gonnelli

Upcoming News & Events

Want to know more about what Secaucus doing to reduce our carbon footprint? Visit the Environmental Department at www.secaucusnj.gov

https://www.energysage.com/p/secaucus-nj/
Today we will cover:

✓ What is community solar?
✓ Who can join? How does it work?
✓ Where are the solar arrays located?
✓ How does subscription work?
✓ Any questions you may have!
Nearby Community Solar Project Locations

7001 Ansepil Drive
North Bergen

5 Ethel Blvd
Wood Ridge

1 Catherine Street
Teterboro
Nearby Community Solar Project Locations

111 Castle Road **Secaucus**

5601 West Side **North Bergen**

99 Caven Point **Jersey City**
Rental unit along Meadowlands Parkway

Household on Huber Street

Business on County Ave

Church on Paterson Plank Road

Rental unit along Meadowlands Parkway
Monthly Newsletter
Keep an eye out for Santa! He will be driving around The Town of Secaucus on Saturday December 5, 2020 beginning at 3pm before our virtual tree lighting. Learn more at SecaucusNJ.gov/Santa. Continued on Page 2 with Secaucus Volunteer Fire Department schedule.
Santa Claus is Coming to Town!

Mayor Michael Gonnelli and the Town Council along with the Secaucus Fire Department have invited Santa Claus to take a tour of our Town and pick up children’s request for this holiday season. Santa will ride atop a Secaucus Fire Truck at the following schedule. So come outside and wave to Santa as he passes along your street. And children, be on your best behavior—he’s going to be checking off on his naughty-or-nice list too!

December 10, 6:00 – 8:00 PM:
Engine 3 - County and Centre to Fifth St.

December 12, 4:00 to 9:00 PM:
Engine 2 - North End

December 13, 6:30 to 9:30 PM:
Engine 1 - Harper, 1st to 3rd Aves., First St. to Fourth St

December 16, 6:00 to 8:00 PM:
Engine 4 - Washington Ave. to Louis St. and Xchange

December 19, 6:00 to 9:00 PM:
Tower 2 - Fourth St. to Tenth St.

Community Solar Comes to Secaucus

Have you always been interested in going solar, but have not been able to? Secaucus residents are among the first in the state to be able to participate in the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities’ (NJBPU) newest clean energy program, community solar. It was designed so that everyone can access the great benefits of solar energy, regardless of housing or financial situation. To learn more and sign-up, visit the Secaucus Environmental Department’s Website, and navigate to the “Go Solar” tab within the “Residents” menu section. Questions? Call 201-86-GREEN (47336).

Secaucus Police Officers
Resuscitate 75-Year-Old Woman
The Environmental Department is instrumental in ensuring that Secaucus promotes initiatives and programs to help preserve our environment thereby making Secaucus a sustainable place to live for future generations. It serves as an advisor to the Mayor and Town Council on local environmental issues and to act as a resource for businesses and individuals in Secaucus who are interested in going green.

Environmental Department Responsibilities

Environmental Department Services
GO SOLAR

Installing Solar:
- Since our municipality cannot recommend a company, we have partnered with Energy Sage to create a website for homeowners in Secaucus to get information about vetted and responsible solar companies. This is a free service and can help residents understand the incentives and programs available to purchase and finance solar panels as well as understanding the savings on energy costs.
- If you’re curious about solar and would like to learn more about your options, please visit: energysage.com/p/secaucus-nj/

Community Solar:
- Have you always been interested in going solar, but have not been able to? Secaucus residents are among the first in the state to be able to participate in the NJ Board of Public Utilities’ newest clean energy program, community solar. It was designed so that everyone can access the great benefits of solar energy, regardless of housing or financial situation. If you are a metered customer of PSE&G, you can sign-up! This includes renters, businesses, homeowners, non-profits, religious institutions, etc. Essentially, instead of having solar panels put on your roof, you would subscribe to part of a large solar array located on a nearby commercial rooftop. In doing so, you would be guaranteed overall energy savings depending on your income level (the greatest savings are reserved for low-to-moderate income households).
- As of October 2020, Secaucus PSE&G customers can sign-up to join a NJBPU-approved community solar project through one of two companies:
  - Solar Landscape: https://gosolarlandscape.com/
Connecting LMI Residents
Jennifer Schneider
Environmental Coordinator
Secaucus Environmental Department
jschneider@secaucus.net
201-86-GREEN (47336)
Sustainable Jersey: Too Good to be True? Reducing Energy Costs with Community Solar Webinar December 16, 2020
Why Community Solar in Princeton?

Climate Action Plan adopted July 2019
Why Community Solar in Princeton?

We need to do all we can to displace fossil fuels from our energy mix and replace them with renewable sources.

We need to do all we can to reduce energy costs for our most financially burdened community members.
Community Solar As An Energy Priority

Community Solar Action

Objective 2: Increase the supply of low-carbon, affordable, reliable energy

- **2.1** Pursue community solar and ensure maximum participation of low- to moderate-income households
  - Co-Benefits: +
  - GHG Reduction Potential: Medium
  - Timeframe/Status: Short-term/Initiated
  - Leader/Partner(s): PC/SP/PHA
  - Lever: Education, Policy, Management
  - Related Plans: NJ Energy Master Plan

- **2.2** Pursue Renewable Government Energy Aggregation (R-GEA) at a price lower than the default electricity rate for residents
  - Co-Benefits: +
  - GHG Reduction Potential: High
  - Timeframe/Status: Short-term/Initiated
  - Leader/Partner(s): PC/SP
  - Lever: Education, Policy
  - Related Plans: NJ Energy Master Plan

- **2.3** Increase adoption of low-carbon, on-site power generation, e.g., rooftop solar, ground source heat pumps
  - Co-Benefits: +
  - GHG Reduction Potential: N/A
  - Timeframe/Status: Short-term
  - Leader/Partner(s): SP
  - Lever: Education
  - Related Plans: NJ Energy Master Plan

- **2.4** Implement microgrids at Princeton’s critical facilities, e.g., police and fire stations
  - Co-Benefits: +
  - GHG Reduction Potential: N/A
  - Timeframe/Status: Short-term
  - Leader/Partner(s): PC/PPS, SP
  - Lever: Infrastructure Management
  - Related Plans: NJ Energy Master Plan, NJ DEP

A Community solar project is a local solar facility shared by multiple community subscribers who receive credit on their electricity bills for their share of the power produced. It reduces energy bills for low- and moderate-income residents and supports the development of more renewable energy in NJ.

Renewable Government Energy Aggregation allows municipalities to aggregate the energy requirements of residential customer accounts so that the participating customers can purchase electric supply at prices lower than the average utility price, with higher renewable energy content.


Princeton Climate Action Plan
Why Community Solar in Princeton?

- Multifamily housing
- Historic Districts
- Mixed-use
- Low- & Moderate-Income
$160,000 in Funding Awarded to 12 Sustainable Energy Projects Across New Jersey

on Jan 30, 2019

Grant recipients from eight NJ counties: Atlantic, Bergen, Camden, Hudson, Mercer, Monmouth, Somerset and Sussex

Sustainable Jersey announced today the two public school districts and ten municipalities selected to receive Sustainable Jersey grants funded by the Gardinier Environmental Fund. Two $30,000 grants and ten $10,000 grants were distributed to fund proposals for electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and education; a solar energy feasibility study and community solar education; and innovative energy efficiency projects in school facilities and municipal buildings.

“We’re giving local communities the help they need to drive down energy costs and emissions,” said Randall Solomon, executive director of Sustainable Jersey. “These grant recipients demonstrate leadership and a commitment to advancing climate action that will help New Jersey meet more ambitious targets moving forward toward a low-carbon future.”

“The Gardinier Environmental Fund is committed to conserving the Earth’s energy resources and enhancing renewable energy measures,” said Gene Wentzel, president, Gardinier Environmental Fund. “We are proud to stand alongside Sustainable Jersey, and to continue to fund worthy projects that support our mutual goals in New Jersey.”

This year Sustainable Jersey is celebrating its tenth anniversary and a decade of impact, including the implementation of creative energy projects via the Gardinier Environmental Fund grants. Overall, since 2009 the Sustainable Jersey Grants Program has distributed over $49 million in grants to New Jersey schools and municipalities to help make their communities more livable, environmentally friendly and prosperous.
Community Solar Basics Fact Sheet

**WHAT IS COMMUNITY SOLAR?**

A Community Solar project is a solar array whose energy generation is financially divided among multiple participating subscribers. As a subscriber, you will receive a financial credit on your utility bill for the portion of power generated by the array on your behalf.

**Why subscribe and who can participate?**

The benefits of subscribing to a Community Solar project are two-fold: you'll save money and will be supporting New Jersey's transition to cleaner energy. Your home will not be directly connected to the solar array nor will you receive your personal household energy from its generation. Your subscription finances the array and you financially benefit from the energy generated.

Community Solar is for anyone who wants to benefit from solar energy generation especially those unable to do so on their own. All electric utility customers in New Jersey can participate. This is an ideal opportunity for renters, homeowner with shaded roofs, or anyone else that is unable to install their own solar array to participate and benefit from the generation of renewable energy.

Community Solar projects are large solar arrays that provide a utility bill savings to subscribers in accordance with their subscription size. Your household can subscribe to a project within your utility area for the amount of electricity your home uses. The array’s solar panels create electricity every day and feed that power into the grid. You will receive a credit on your bill to reflect profits from the array’s generated energy. Typically, after deducting the subscription fee, customers can expect to see a 10% net savings on their electricity bills.

**How does it work?**

1. A solar array is installed in a suitable location.
2. A home or business subscribes to receive a credit on their utility bill.
3. Each subscriber receives a bill credit on their utility bill for their participation in the project.

**DID YOU KNOW**

40% of community solar projects installed in NJ must serve low and moderate income households.

Learn more: sustainableprinceton.org/blog/what-is-community-solar/

**How can I subscribe to a community solar project?**

A home or business can participate in a community solar project that is in their utility service territory by entering into an agreement with a subscriber organization.

The subscriber organization manages the solar array and distributes the energy generated by the array. The utility company supplies and credits the energy generated by the array.

The subscriber organization provides complete customer support to subscribers. Once the project goes live, subscribers receive two bills: one from the utility company and a separate bill for the community solar subscription.

**UTILITY BILL**

- Electric Charge: $100
- Community Solar Credit: $100
- Guaranteed Discount: 10%
- Total: $80

**COMMUNITY SOLAR INVOICE**

- Total: $100

**NET RESULT**

- You pay $90 instead of $100 while supporting a local source of clean energy.

The sum of the payments will be less than what you would have paid to PSE&G if you were not participating in the community solar project.

Subscription offers vary. A subscriber can either pay a monthly subscription or purchase a piece of a system upfront. Each project will have its own fees and contract. Be sure you read the contract and understand its specific terms and conditions before signing up. Check out the Community Solar Subscriber Tip Sheet for more information on how to select a project.

**Why Community Solar?**

Community Solar is part of New Jersey’s Clean Energy goals because its benefits include:

- Access to local clean energy
- Potential savings on electric bills
- Local jobs and economic development
- Equal access to the economic and environmental benefits of solar energy for homeowners, renters, and businesses
- Expand solar access for low-to-moderate income customers
- A stronger, distributed, and more resilient electric grid

Learn more: sustainableprinceton.org/your-home/

**SUSTAINABLE PRINCETON.**

These materials are made possible by a grant from Sustainable Jersey funded by the Gardiner Environmental Fund

For additional information visit: www.sustainableprinceton.org/blog/what-is-community-solar/

bit.ly/SustainableJerseyEnergyGuidebooks
Community Solar Subscriber Tip Sheet

Front Page

Back Page
Community Solar Webpage

What is Community Solar?

Community Solar is new in New Jersey. In February 2019, the state launched a three-year Pilot Program and approved projects will be taking subscriptions soon.

What is Community Solar?

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- Potential savings on electric bills
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How does it work?

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The array’s solar panels create electricity every day and feed that power into the grid. You will receive a credit on your bill to reflect credits from the array’s generated energy. Typically, after the subscription has run, customers can expect to see a 10-15% net savings on their electricity bills.

1. A solar array is installed in a suitable location
2. A home or business subscribes to cover their utility usage
3. Each subscriber receives a bill credit for their participation in the project

Check out the Community Solar Basics Fact Sheet and Community Solar Subscriber Tip Sheet.

These materials are made possible by a grant from Sustainable Jersey funded by Gardinier Environmental Fund.
Community Solar Education at Events

AGENDA - Energy GHG Emission Reduction Strategies

Climate Action Plan Update
Molly Jones, Executive Director Sustainable Princeton

Renewable Government Energy Aggregation
Pam Frank - VP, Gabel Associates

Energy Efficiency
Jackie Berger - President, APPRISE, Inc.

Community Solar
Jeanne Fox - former Commissioner and President NJ Board of Public Utilities

SUSTAINABLE PRINCETON
Community Solar Education at Events

Let's Talk Climate and Its Impact on You

When: Wednesday, April 11
Where: Princeton Municipal Complex, 410 Witherspoon Street, Community Room
Time: 7:00 - 8:15 pm

Climate Concerned, but What Can I Do?

SUSTAINABLE PRINCETON
Thank You!

Molly Jones  
Executive Director

Christine Symington  
Program Director

Jenny Ludmer  
Community Outreach Manager

info@sustainableprinceton.org  
sustainableprinceton.org
New Jersey’s Community Solar Energy Pilot Program

December 16, 2020
Community Solar: What is it?
NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

• A large solar array or facility that is virtually divided among multiple participants ("subscribers") by means of a credit on their utility bill.

• Is generally remotely located, as opposed to being located on the subscriber’s own roof.

• Enables access to solar energy for those who haven’t been able to “go solar” in the past, including renters and households, institutions, or businesses where the roof isn’t appropriate for solar installation, or solar is cost-prohibitive.
Do you....

- Want solar but don’t have a place for panels?
- Want solar but can’t put panels on your home or business?
- Have room for more panels, even if you wouldn’t use the additional energy yourself?
Community Solar
NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

Buy Solar Subscription

Community Solar Project

Solar Delivered to Grid
History of Community Solar in NJ

- Community Solar Energy Pilot Program established pursuant to the Clean Energy Act of 2018.
- Pilot Program Rules published on February 19, 2019.
Program Year (PY) 1 Process
NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

- **PY1 Application Period:** April 9, 2019 – Sept. 9, 2019

- **PY1 Capacity Assigned:** 75 MW, of which at least 30 MW (40% of PY1 capacity) must be allocated to projects with at least 51% of project capacity serving low- to moderate-income (LMI) subscribers (i.e. LMI projects).
252 total applications received (approx. 652 MWdc)

- 232 applications for LMI projects (approx. 600 MWdc)
- 112 applications for projects sited on rooftops
- 54 applications for projects sited on brownfields, landfills, parking canopies
- 75 applications for projects sited in part or in whole on farmland
45 applications selected (approx. 78 MWdc)

- All 45 applications are LMI projects
  - At least 39.8 MWdc will be carved out for LMI subscribers
- 31 projects located on rooftops
- 14 projects located on landfills, parking canopies, combined rooftops and parking canopy, a brownfield, and a former sand and gravel pit

Map Credit: NJDEP
### Summary of LMI Projects and Subscribers (1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Installed LMI MWac</th>
<th>Pending LMI MWac</th>
<th>Average Subscription Size (Household/MWac)</th>
<th>Potential Subscribers (if all pending LMI MW are installed)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>170 (R-C)</td>
<td>2480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>170 (E)</td>
<td>442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>170 (R-C)</td>
<td>1730</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>910 (R-C)</td>
<td>6246</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>150 (R-C)</td>
<td>4245</td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
<td>380 (R-C)</td>
<td>12300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
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<td>170 (E)</td>
<td>2210</td>
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<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td></td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>170 (E)</td>
<td>2533</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td></td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>170 (E)</td>
<td>6681</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td></td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>170 (E)</td>
<td>2737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>21.6</strong></td>
<td><strong>155.6</strong></td>
<td><strong>41604</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- State: [a], [b]: the capacity does not specify DC/AC; [c]: Rhode Island installed LMI and pending LMI refer to total community solar capacity;
- Average Subscription Size: R-C: data are collected through reported data and then calculated; E: data are estimated as 170 household/MWac. The potential subscriber numbers may be different due to rounding/multiple programs, see following state slides and the appendix for details.

Source: NREL “Community Solar 101”
[https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy20osti/75982.pdf](https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy20osti/75982.pdf)
PY1 Awards: LMI (cont’d)

NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

Summary of LMI Projects and Subscribers (2)

State Community Solar Capacity for LMI Customers

Based on the most recently available data, 21.6 MW of community solar serving LMI customers are in operation, and 155.6 MW are planned. This LMI capacity will benefit over 40,000 LMI households, once in operation.

Source: NREL “Community Solar 101”
https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy20osti/75982.pdf
Application Form approved on October 2, 2020

- **PY2 Capacity Assigned**: 150 MWdc. At least 40% (i.e. 60 MW) will be allocated to LMI projects. The Board has the flexibility to allocate up to 10% under or over this 150 MW capacity limit.

- Applications are due on **February 5, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

- Applications must be submitted via an online form (further details to follow).
Special Considerations for Municipalities
NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

Developer exemption for governmental applicants:

▪ Applications submitted by a government entity may omit certain information (e.g. developer name) if the developer will be selected via a public procurement process (e.g. RFP or RFQ).

Automatic enrollment for municipally-owned projects:

▪ Rule amendment was proposed by the Board on October 2, 2020.

▪ If approved, would apply to PY2 projects that meet the eligibility criteria and have expressed interest in their PY2 Application.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
<th>Max. Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low- and Moderate-Income and Environmental Justice Inclusion</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher preference: LMI project</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Siting</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher preference, e.g.: landfills, brownfields, areas of historic fill, rooftops, parking lots, parking decks, canopies over impervious surfaces (e.g. walkway), former sand and gravel pits, former mines Medium preference, e.g.: floating solar on water bodies at water treatment plants and sand and gravel pits, that have little to no established floral and faunal resources (*) No Points, e.g.: preserved lands, wetlands, forested areas, farmland Bonus points for site enhancements, e.g. landscaping, land enhancement, pollination support (<strong>) Bonus points if project is located in a redevelopment area or an economic opportunity zone (</strong>)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Note: Applicants with a floating solar project must meet with DEP prior to submitting an Application, and take special notice of DEP's siting guidelines.**Note: bonus points will only be available for projects in the “higher” or “medium” preference siting categories. Projects in the “No Points” siting categories are not eligible for bonus points.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community and Environmental Justice Engagement</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher preference: formal agreement, ongoing collaboration or effective partnership with municipality and/or local community organizations and/or affordable housing provider (per Section X, Questions 1, 2, and 3) Medium preference: consultation with municipality and/or local community organization(s) and/or or affordable housing provider (per Section X, Question 4) No Points: no collaboration or collaboration has not been proven</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Product Offering</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher preference: guaranteed savings &gt;20%, flexible terms*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium preference: guaranteed savings &gt;10%, flexible terms*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low preference: guaranteed savings &gt;5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Points: no guaranteed savings, no flexible terms*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Flexible terms may include: no cancellation fee, short-term contract*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Other Benefits</strong></th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher preference: Provides jobs and/or job training and/or demonstrates co-benefits (e.g. paired with storage, EV charging station, energy audits, energy efficiency)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Geographic Limit within EDC service territory</strong></th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher preference: municipality/adjacent municipality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium preference: county/adjacent county</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Points: any geographic location within the EDC service territory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Project Maturity</strong></th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher preference: project has received all non-ministerial permits; project has completed an interconnection study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next Steps
NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

Proposed rule amendments: Written comments are due January 15, 2021
➢ Please see the Community Solar webpage for more information

February 5, 2021: Program Year 2 application deadline

early 2021: Program Year 2 application evaluation and selection

early 2021: Stakeholder process for development of permanent program begins
More Information

EMAIL
communitysolar@njcleanenergy.com

VISIT
https://njcleanenergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

NEWSLETTER
www.NJCleanEnergy.com/NEWSLETTER

SUBSCRIBE
www.NJCleanEnergy.com/LISTSERVS

@NJCleanEnergy

[Social media icons for Facebook and Twitter]
Community Solar Resources

Sustainable Jersey Community Solar Guidebook – coming soon.

Municipally-Supported Community Solar action

Community Solar Webinar Recordings

- **Navigating the Community Solar Application** (2019)
  - Highlights the NJ BPU application process

- **Planning Solar to Serve the Whole Community** (2019)
  - Highlights the NJ DEP Demonstration of Community Solar Siting Tool

- **Case Studies from New Jersey's Community Solar Energy Pilot Year 1** (2020)
  - Highlights the role of municipality in community solar projects
Municipally Supported Community Solar Action

15 points
RFP or other solicitation including community criteria
Municipality acts as project ambassador or outreach partner

For 10 additional points include at least TWO of following:
• Municipality serves as anchor subscriber
• Municipality serves as site host
• Municipality supports workforce training
• Project offers one of the following:
  • Over 51% of capacity reserved for LMI residents
  • Discount for LMI subscribers of 15% or greater
  • Project includes value-added energy efficiency services

Contacts

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Alex Lospinoso, Linden, NJ - alospinoso@linden-nj.org

Jennifer Schneider, Town of Secaucus, NJ - jschneider@secaucus.net

Christine Symington, Sustainable Princeton - info@sustainableprinceton.org

Ariane Benrey, NJ BPU - communitysolar@njcleanenergy.com

Upcoming Event:
Tour Sustainable Jersey for Schools Newly Upgraded Website
DEC 18, 2020  1:00 -1:30 PM

Register
Sustainable Jersey Supporters & Sponsors

Program Underwriters

- DODGE FOUNDATION
- New Jersey's cleanenergy program
- PSEG Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Grants Program

- GARDINIER ENVIRONMENTAL FUND
- PSEG Foundation

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