



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



Image: U.S. Department of Energy. NREL. 2012. *A Guide to Community Shared Solar: Utility, Private, and Nonprofit Project Development*. (p.41)



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

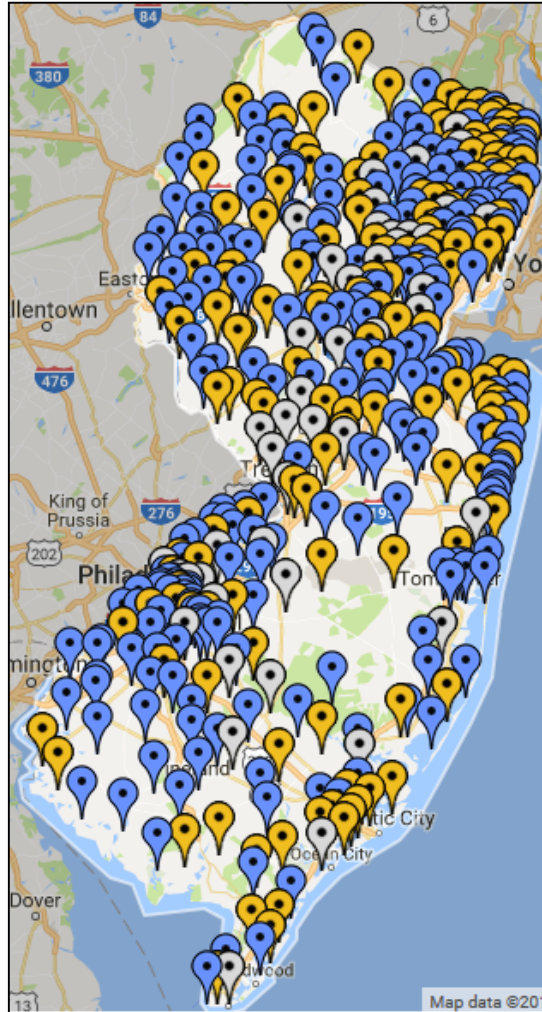
Schools Program

350 Districts (>50%)

948 Schools

241 Schools Certified

- 223 Bronze
- 18 Silver



Municipal Program



Schools Program



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

GREEN DESIGN	
Green Building Policy/Resolution	
Green Building Training	
Create Green Development	
Green Building Education	
Site Plan Green Design	
New Construction	
Upgrade/Retrofit-Light	
Upgrade/Retrofit-Whole	
ENERGY	
	Points
Energy Efficiency for Municipal Facilities*	5-50
Energy Tracking & Management*	10-20
Buy Electricity from a Renewable Source	10
Municipal On-Site Solar System	10-40
Municipal Geothermal Energy System	10
Municipal Wind Energy System	10
Renewable Government Energy Aggregation	5-50
Commercial Energy Efficiency Outreach	10-20
Residential Energy Efficiency Outreach	10-20
Make Your Town Solar Friendly	15-30
Community-Led Solar Initiatives	10-15
Wind Ordinance	10
Fleet Inventory*	10
Meet Target for Green Fleets	30
Purchase Alternative Fuel Vehicles	10
Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	15
Make Your Town Electric Vehicle Friendly	15



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



Images from energy.gov/eere/solar/community-and-shared-solar

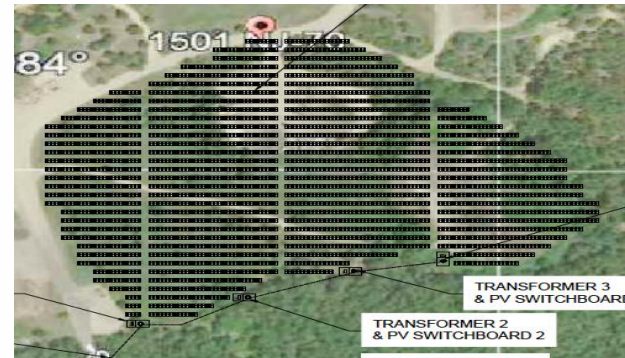


Benefits of Community Solar

- 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



Planning drawing from a community solar project on Perth Amboy commercial building



Planning Drawing from Manchester Landfill Community Solar Project



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



Image: The Solar Foundation. 2018. *Strategies for Solar Workforce Development, A Toolkit for the Solar Industry*. (p. 23)



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



betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/On_Site_Solar_Decision_Guide.pdf



Municipal Roles in Community Solar

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



betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/On_Site_Solar_Decision_Guide.pdf



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



New Jersey Community Solar PV Siting Tool

nj.gov/dep/aqes/solar-siting.html



NJDEP Solar Siting Analysis



NJ DEP Community Solar Siting Tool

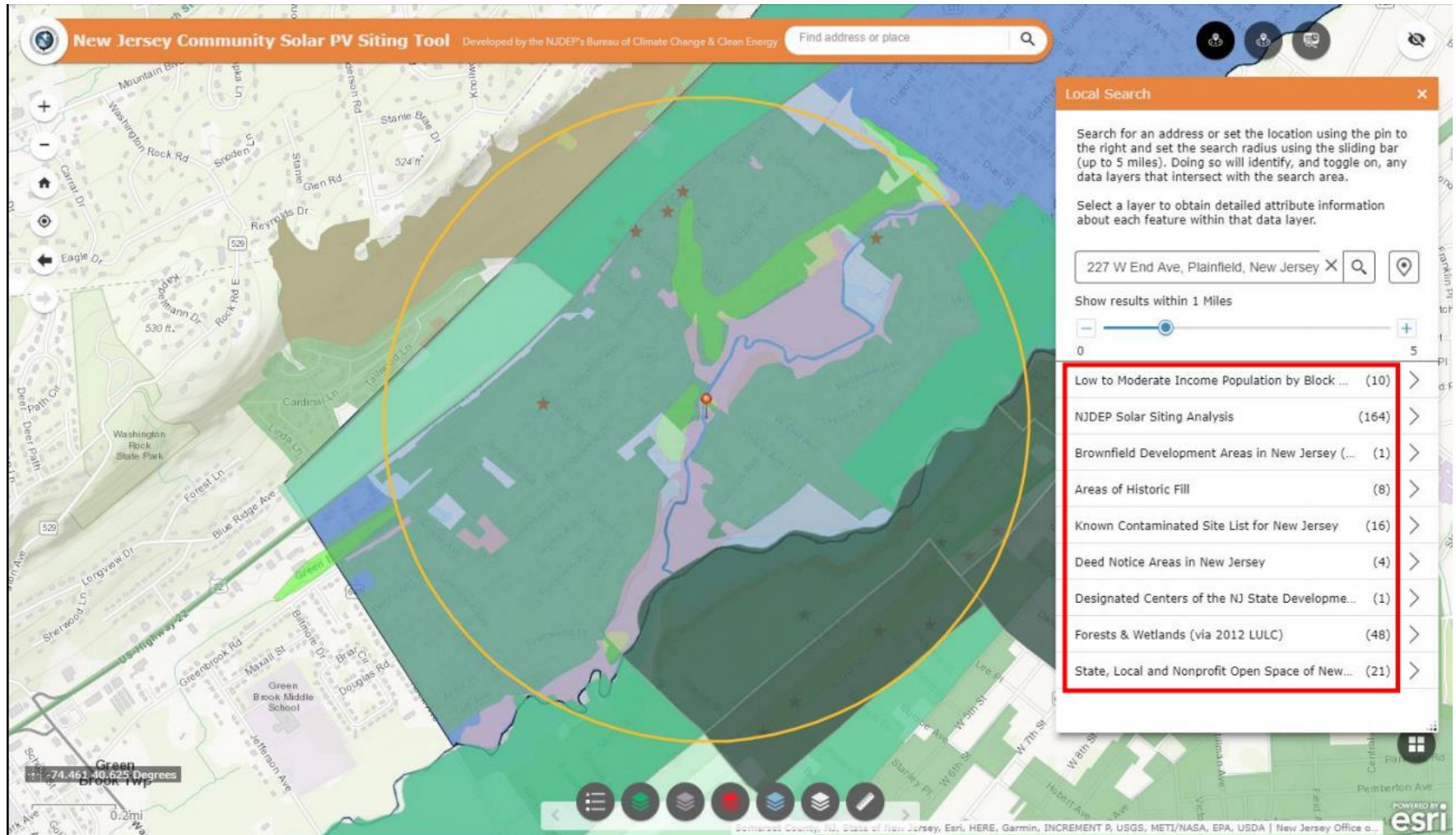


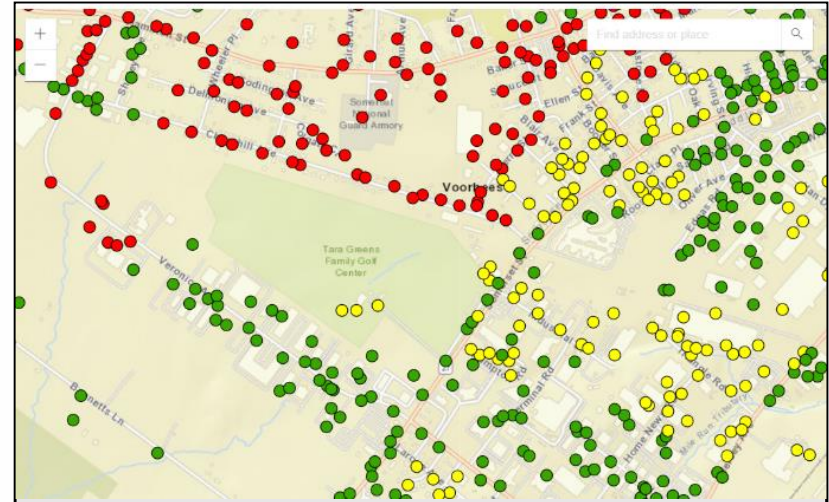
Image from NJ DEP Community Solar Siting Tool Guide state.nj.us/dep/aqes/docs/sstguide.pdf



Interconnection and Capacity

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

state.nj.us/dca/divisions/codes/publications/developments.html

GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY • LT. GOVERNOR SHEILA OLIVER

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Sandy Recovery Division

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Office of Communications

Affiliates

Home > Divisions & Offices > Codes & Standards > Publications > List of Affordable Developments by County

List of Affordable Developments by County

Following are links to lists of Affordable Housing developments grouped by county.

The links on the left will display printable .pdf files.

The links on the right will open MS Excel-formatted workbooks, which may then be saved to your local storage.

COUNTY [PDF FORMAT]	COUNTY [EXCEL FORMAT]
Atlantic	Atlantic
Bergen	Bergen
Burlington	Burlington
Camden	Camden
Cape May	Cape May
Cumberland	Cumberland
Essex	Essex
Gloucester	Gloucester
Hudson	Hudson
Hunterdon	Hunterdon
Mercer	Mercer
Middlesex	Middlesex

Facebook: SustainableJersey | Twitter: @SJ_Program, @SJ_Schools | Insta: sustainable_jersey | LinkedIn: sustainable-jersey



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

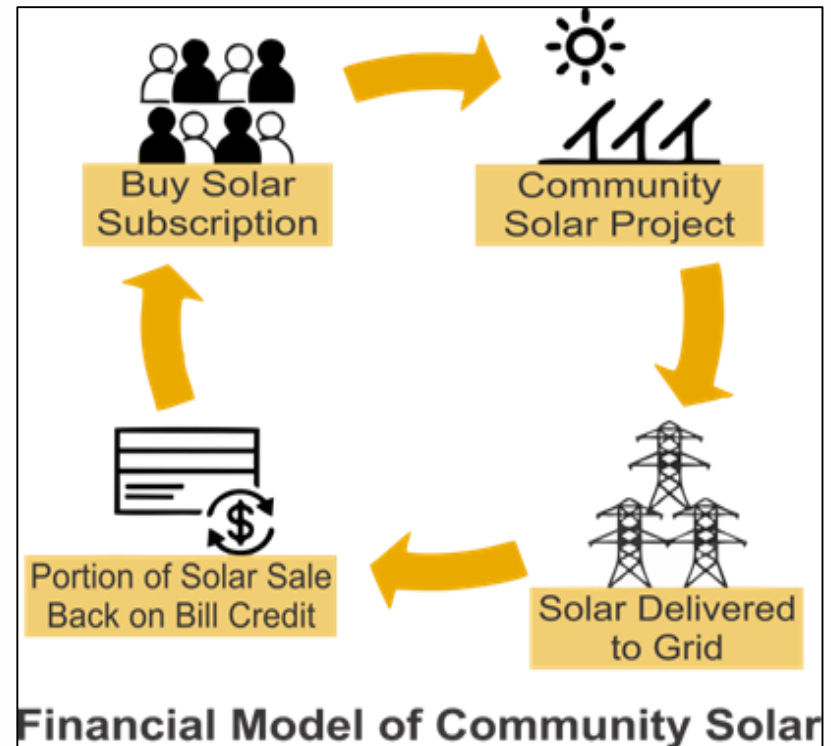


Image provided by [NJCEP](#)



Community Solar Billing

Subscribers will receive two bills:

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

This month's charges and credits	
Gas charges - PSE&G	\$12.56
Plus Electric charges - PSE&G	\$192.36
Plus WorryFree Protection Plan charge - see page 5 for details	\$49.38
Plus Community Solar Credit - see page 5 for details	-\$115.57
This month's charges and credits	\$138.73
Total amount due by Mar 7, 2018	\$138.73

Example above is excerpted from sample [PSE&G residential bill](#) showing community solar billing credit.

Calculating savings example:

Electric Bill
Community Solar Bill Credit \$100

-

Separate Community Solar Subscription Bill (10% discount)
Subscription Fee \$90

**= \$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



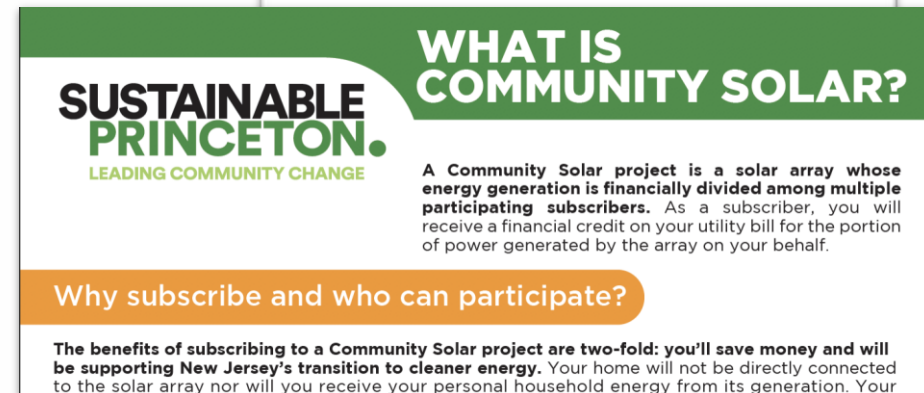
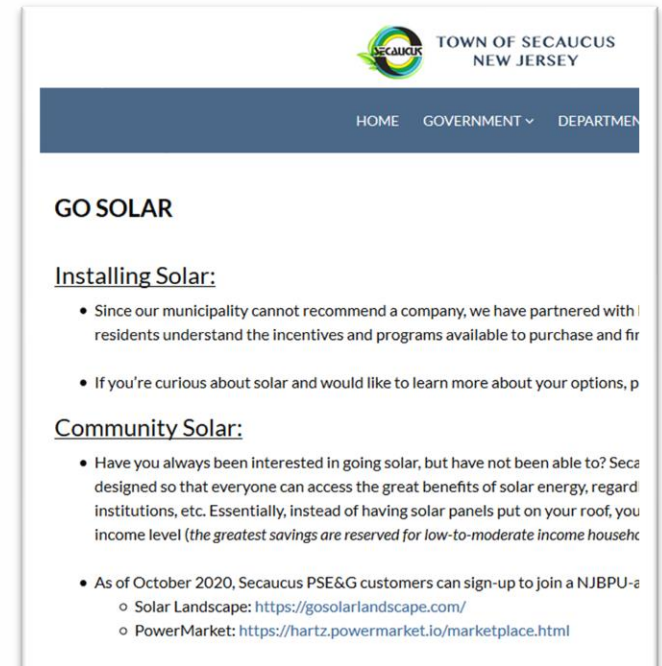
NYC Five Borough Administrative Building
nycgovparks.org



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

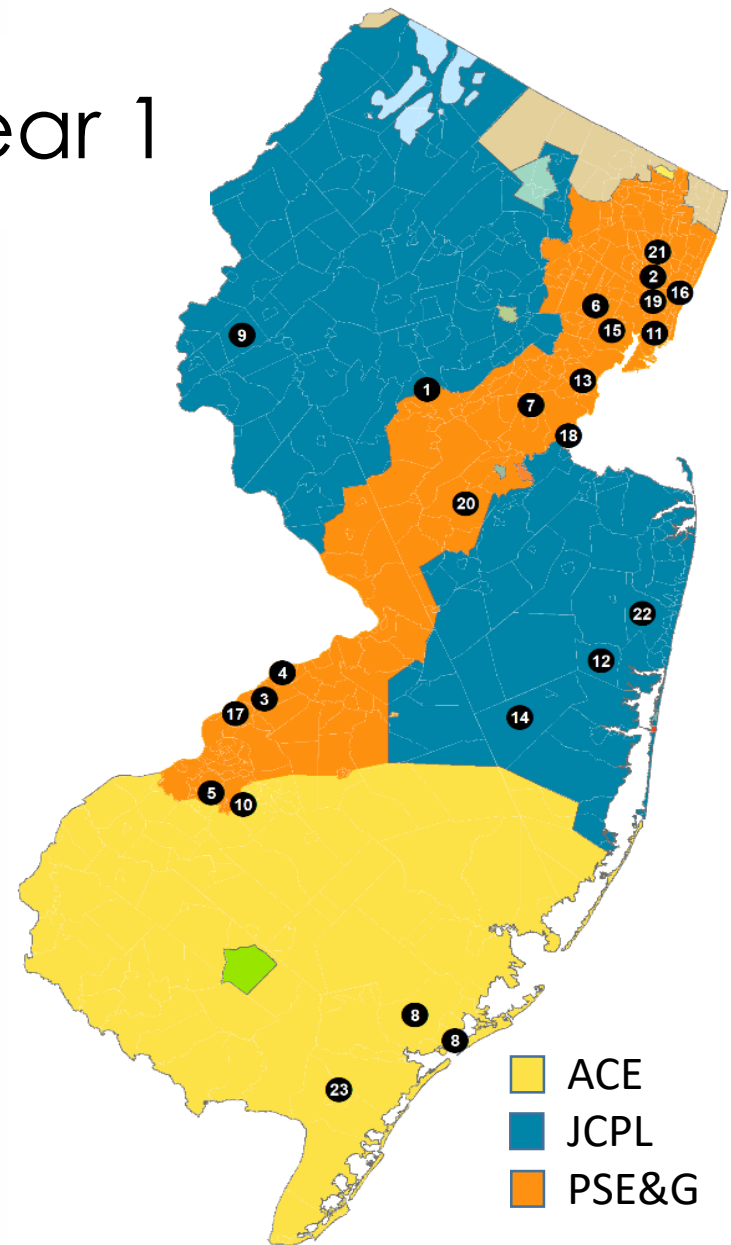
Egg Harbor Twp (8)
Woodbine (23)

JCPL

Lakewood (12)
Franklin (9)
Manchester (14)
Wall (22)

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)



The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades of lime and forest green, primarily located on the left and right sides of the slide. The central area is white.

CITY OF LINDEN LANDFILL COMMUNITY SOLAR

HISTORY OF LINDEN LANDFILL

- ▶ 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.

SOLICITATION OF BIDS

- ▶ 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

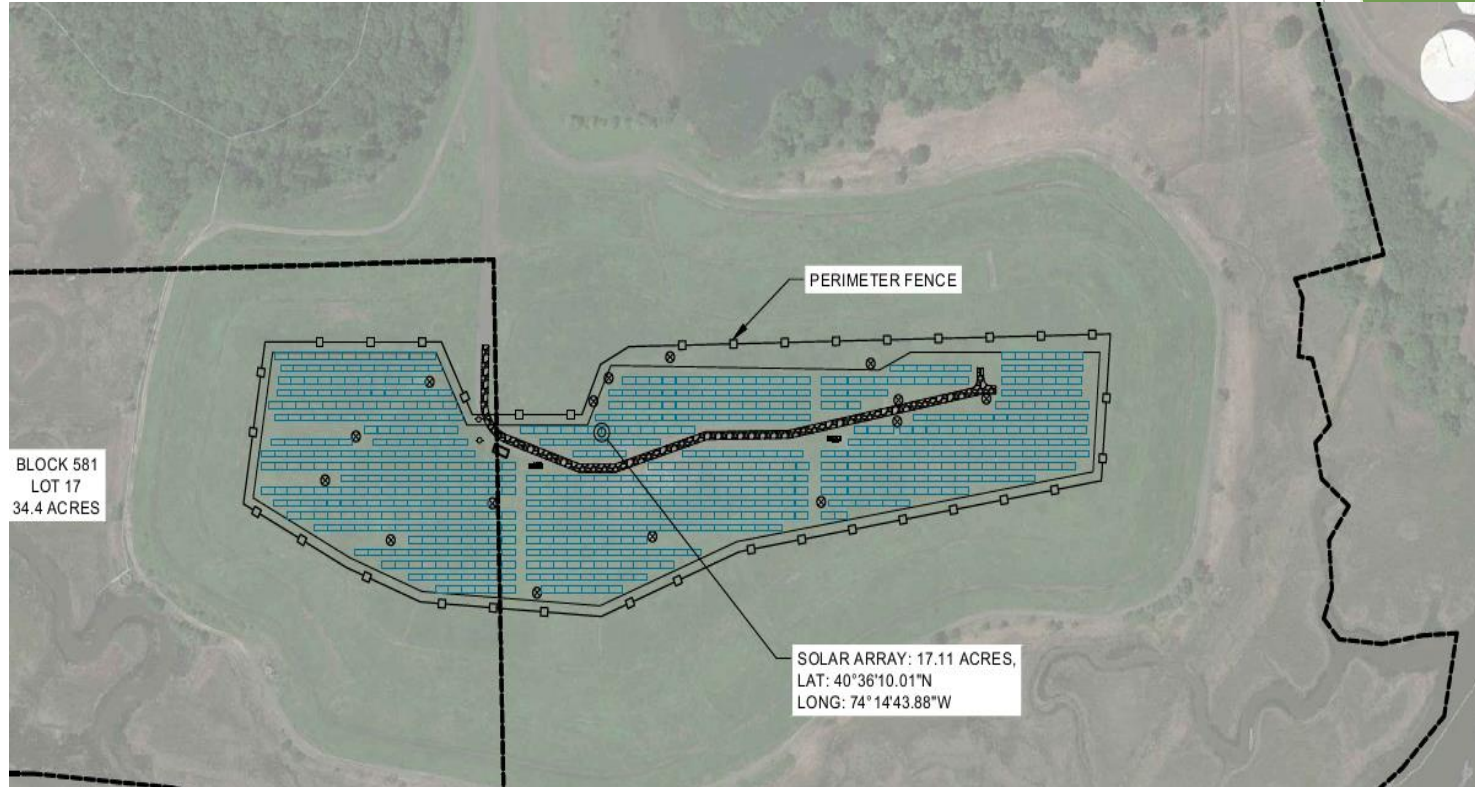




Image courtesy of Hathaway Solar.

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



Secaucus Public Library and Business Resource Center

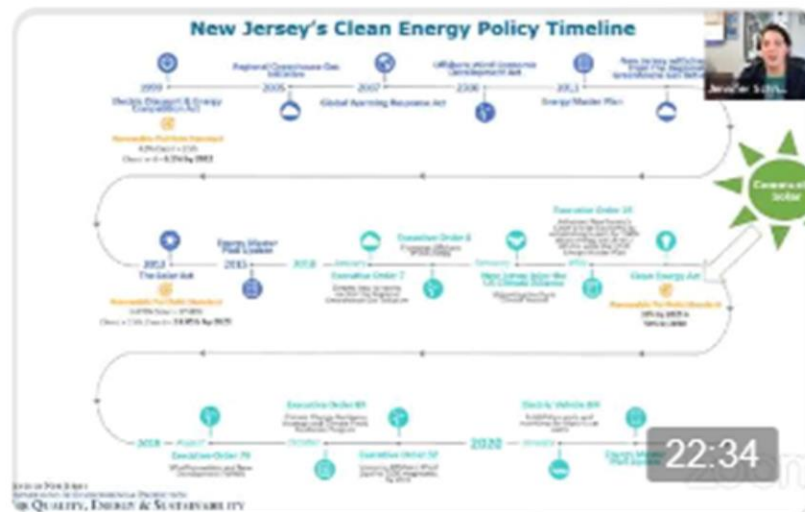
@Secaucus.Library



Like



Share



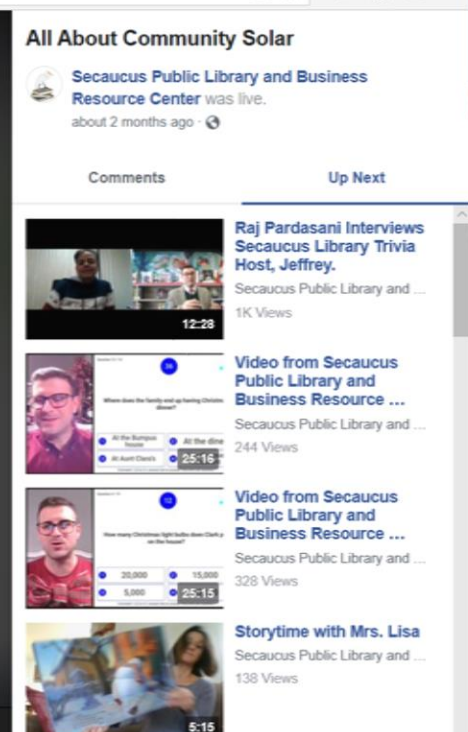
22:34

All About Community Solar

8 weeks ago · 122 Views



4





Explore your solar options today!

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



<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

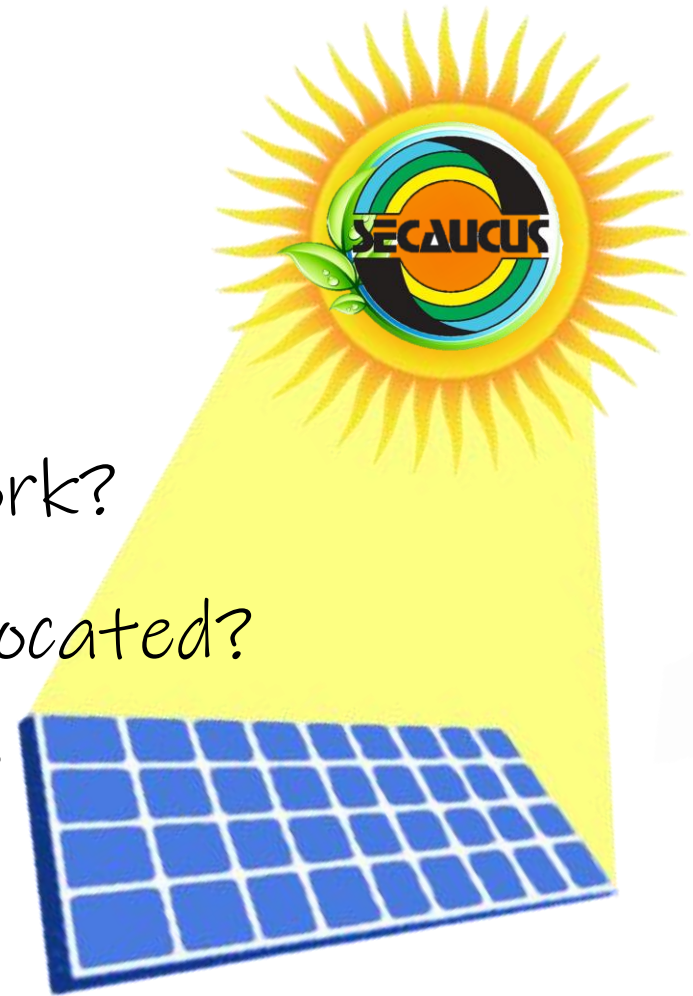
Upcoming News & Events

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**



Household on
Huber Street

Business on County Ave

Rental unit along
Meadowlands Parkway

Church on Paterson Plank Road



Monthly Newsletter

SECAUCUS



NEWSLETTER

December 2020

Secaucus Monthly Newsletter

www.SecaucusNJ.gov



Keep an eye out for Santa! He will be driving around The Town of Secaucus on Saturday Decemere 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.



Secaucus Police Officers Resuscitate 75-Year-Old Woman

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' (NJBP) 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).





TOWN OF SECAUCUS
NEW JERSEY



Monday - Friday
9:00 - 4:00



201.330.2000



1203 Paterson Plank Rd
Secaucus, NJ 07094

HOME GOVERNMENT ▾ DEPARTMENTS ▾ BOARDS ▾ RESIDENTS ▾ I WANT TO... ▾

Search



ENVIRONMENTAL

CONTACT

Environmental Coordinator:
[Jennifer Schneider](#)

Environmental Assistant:
[Ava Mroz](#)

Location:
Town Hall Annex
20 Centre Avenue, 2nd Floor
Secaucus, NJ 07094

Office Number:
(201) 86-GREEN(47336)

Hours:
Monday-Friday
9am-4pm

DEPARTMENT SUMMARY

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



Environmental Department Menu

Residents ▾

RECYCLING RIGHT

GO SOLAR

FREE ENERGY AUDIT





EV CHARGING STATIONS

OPEN SPACE

BUY FRESH BUY LOCAL



← → ↻ 🏠 <https://secaucusnj.gov/environmental-page-list/432-go-solar> ... 📄 ☆ 📱 📺 📶

 TOWN OF SECAUCUS
NEW JERSEY  Monday - Friday
9:00 - 4:00  201.330.2000  1203 Paterson Plank Rd
Secaucus, NJ 07094

HOME GOVERNMENT ▾ DEPARTMENTS ▾ BOARDS ▾ RESIDENTS ▾ I WANT TO... ▾ 🔍

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/>
 - PowerMarket: <https://hartz.powermarket.io/marketplace.html>

Will continuously update

"Go Solar" Webpage



**Connecting
LMI Residents**

SHA

SECAUCUS HOUSING AUTHORITY

700 COUNTY AVENUE SECAUCUS, NJ 07094



Jennifer Schneider

Environmental Coordinator

Secaucus Environmental Department

jschneider@secaucus.net

201-86-GREEN (47336)

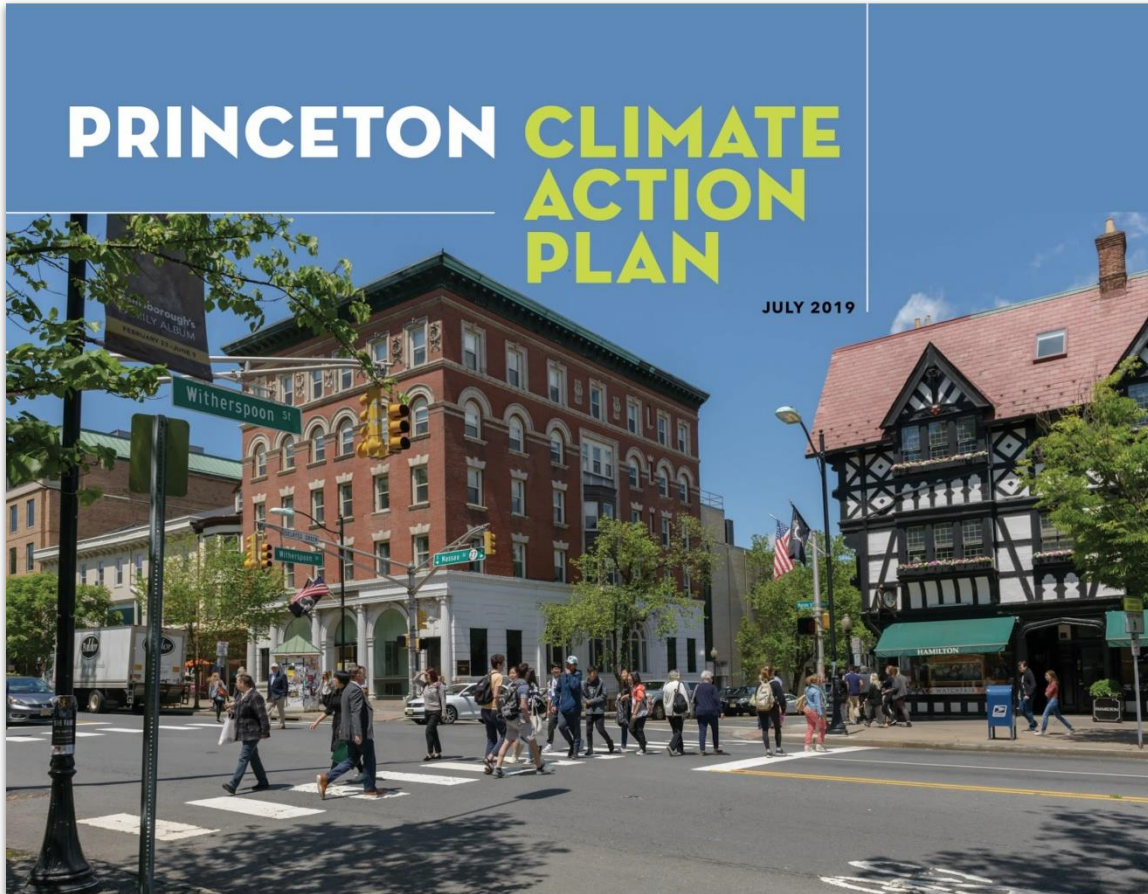




Sustainable Jersey: Too Good to be True?
Reducing Energy Costs with Community Solar
Webinar
December 16, 2020

SUSTAINABLE
PRINCETON.

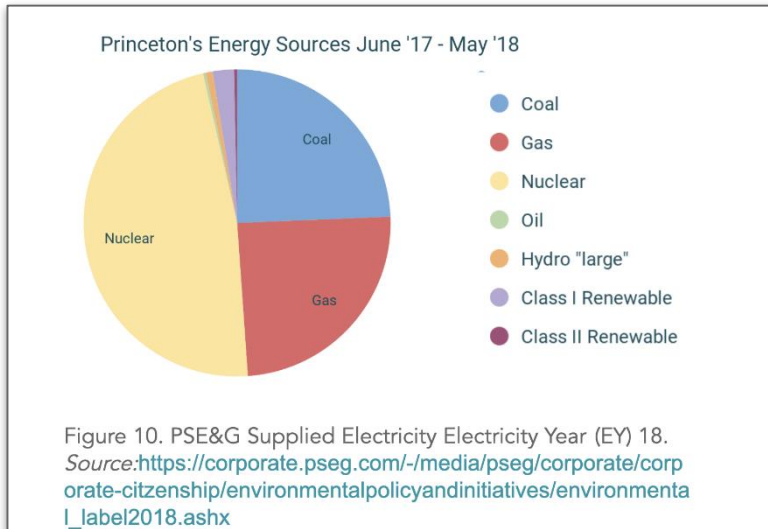
Why Community Solar in Princeton?



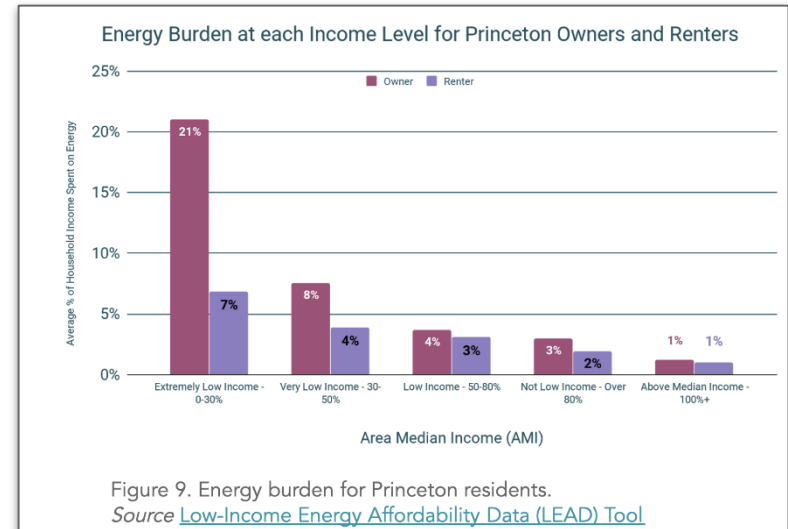
Climate Action Plan
adopted July 2019

**SUSTAINABLE
PRINCETON.**

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.

**SUSTAINABLE
PRINCETON.**

Community Solar As An Energy Priority

Community Solar Action

ENERGY | Objectives and Actions

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

		Co-Benefits	GHG Reduction Potential	Timeframe/Status	Leader/Partner(s)	Lever	Related Plans	Potential Funding Sources
2.1	Pursue community solar and ensure maximum participation of low- to moderate-income households	⚖️ 💰 ➕	Medium	Short-term/Initiated	PC/SP,PCH, PHA	Education, Policy, Management	NJ Energy Master Plan	
2.2	Pursue Renewable Government Energy Aggregation (R-GEA) at a price lower than the default electricity rate for residents	⚖️ 💰	High	Short-term/Initiated	PC/SP	Education, Policy	NJ Energy Master Plan	
2.3	Increase adoption of low-carbon, on-site power generation, e.g., rooftop solar, ground source heat pumps	⚖️ 💰 ⚡️	N/A	Short-term	SP	Education	NJ Energy Master Plan	
2.4	Implement microgrids at Princeton's critical facilities, e.g., police and fire stations	⚖️ 💰 ➕ ⚡️	N/A	Short-term	PC/PPS, SP	Infrastructure Management	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.

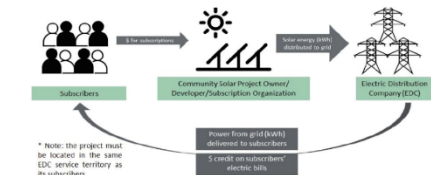


Image Source: <http://njcleanenergy.com/renewable-energy/programs/community-solar>

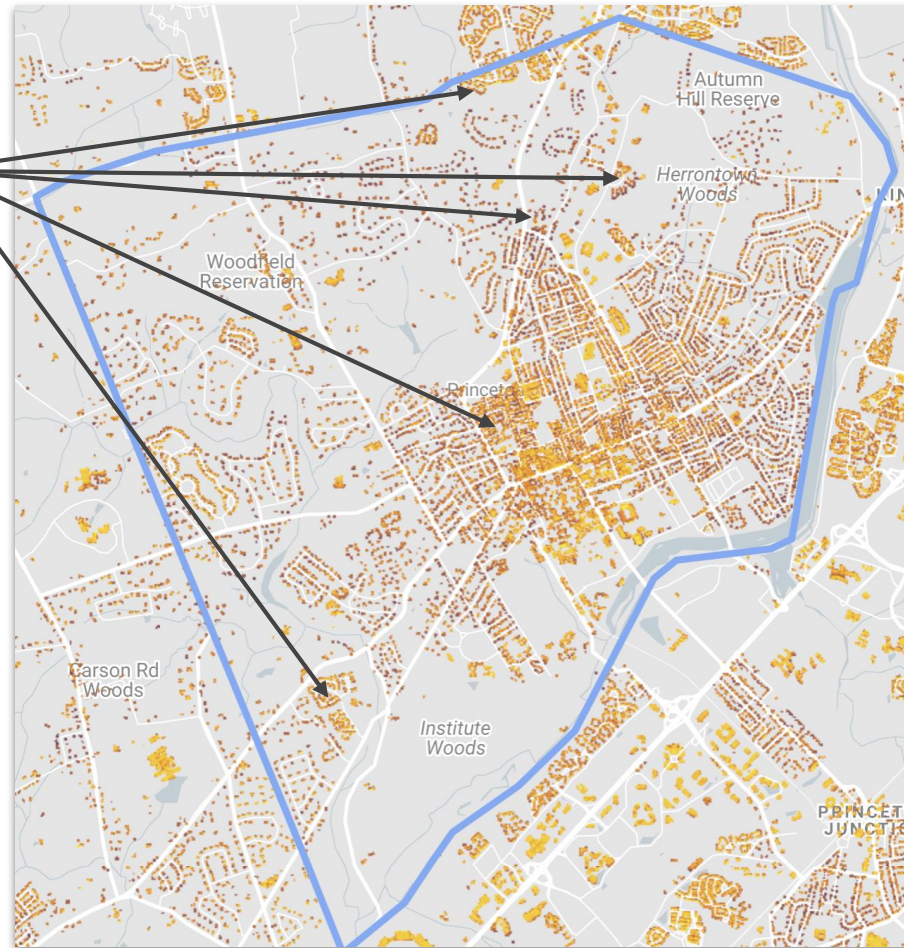


⚖️ Promotes Equity 💰 Fosters Economic Sustainability ⚡️ Improves Local Environmental Quality ➕ Enhances Public Safety and Health 🌱 Builds Resilience



Why Community Solar in Princeton?

Multifamily housing



Historic Districts

Mixed-use

Low- & Moderate-
Income

SUSTAINABLE
PRINCETON.

Community Solar Toolkit Grant - Jan 2019

\$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 \$4.9 million in grants to New Jersey schools and municipalities to help make their communities more livable, environmentally friendly and prosperous.



Mercer

Princeton


\$10,000

A Municipal Toolkit for Community Solar:

Princeton will create and demonstrate a step-by-step toolkit to educate municipal officials and residents on the benefits of community solar. They will identify priority array sites in Princeton and build the momentum necessary to get subscribers signed-on, with particular focus dedicated to engaging low- and moderate-income residents.

SUSTAINABLE PRINCETON.

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, homeowners 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.

How does it work?

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.

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/](http://sustainableprinceton.org/blog/what-is-community-solar?/)

Front Page

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 communicates with the utility company to make sure the solar energy is credited to each customer and provides 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	COMMUNITY SOLAR INVOICE	NET RESULT
Electric Charges - PSE&G (\$100)	Community Solar Credits (\$100)	You pay \$90 instead of \$100 while supporting a local source of clean energy!
Community Solar Credits (\$100)	Guaranteed Discount 10%	
TOTAL \$0	TOTAL \$90	

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

REMEMBER

A more energy-efficient home means more cost-effective solar!

Learn more:
sustainableprinceton.org/your-home/

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SUSTAINABLE PRINCETON.

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

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Community Solar Subscriber Tip Sheet

TIPS FOR SUBSCRIBING TO A COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT

SUSTAINABLE PRINCETON.
LEADING COMMUNITY CHANGE

Interested in community solar? Here are some key questions you should ask before signing a subscription commitment. Before subscribing to any project, be sure to ask for and review the subscriber agreement.

WHAT SHOULD I ASK BEFORE I SIGN UP?

Basic Subscription Terms

- What subscription models are available?
- How long is the agreement term, and what happens if I move or need to end the agreement?
- Can I change my share of the solar project in the middle of my agreement?
- What will it cost me on a monthly or annual basis, and how do you determine that cost?
- How much money do you estimate I can save over the whole subscription term?

Understanding Prices and Fees

- Is there a financial penalty if I end the agreement early?
- Is a payment or deposit required to hold my spot?
- Are there any additional fees or penalties?
- Are there any credits, rebates, or incentives available?

Company and Project Details

- Where will the community solar project be located?
- Will I be able to visit the system?
- How long have you been in business?
- How many community solar projects have you installed or managed?
- Who handles my subscription, and whom do I call if I have questions?
- What is the date of commercial operation, or estimated date of commercial operation if the project is not yet operational?

Power Generation

- Will I be able to monitor how much electricity my subscription generates?
- Do you guarantee the amount of electricity generated by my subscription? If not, what happens if that amount is not reached?
- Who is responsible for the maintenance and care of the community solar project? What if there are issues such as major storm damage?

For additional information visit:
[www.sustainableprinceton.org/blog/what-is-community-solar/](http://www.sustainableprinceton.org/blog/what-is-community-solar?/)
bit.ly/SustainableJerseyEnergyGuidebooks

Front Page

COMMUNITY SOLAR SUBSCRIPTION WORKSHEET

SUSTAINABLE PRINCETON.
LEADING COMMUNITY CHANGE

This worksheet will help you make note of the terms offered by a community solar project. Be sure to read your contract thoroughly so that you fully understand the terms.

SUBSCRIPTION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

BASIS SUBSCRIPTION TERMS

What subscription models are available? _____

How long is the agreement term, and what happens if I move or need to end the agreement? _____

Can I change my share of the solar project in the middle of my agreement? _____

UNDERSTANDING PRICES AND FEES

What will it cost me on a monthly or annual basis, and how do you determine that cost? _____

How much money do you estimate I can save over the whole subscription term? _____

Is there a financial penalty if I end the agreement early? _____

Is a payment or deposit required to hold my spot? _____

Are there any additional fees or penalties? _____

Are there any credits, rebates, or incentives available? _____

COMPANY AND PROJECT DETAILS

Where will the community solar project be located? _____

Will I be able to visit the system? _____

How long have you been in business? _____

How many community solar projects have you installed or managed? _____

Who handles my subscription, and whom do I call if I have questions? _____

POWER GENERATION



Will I be able to monitor how much electricity my subscription generates? _____

Do you guarantee the amount of electricity generated by my subscription? If not, what happens if that amount is not reached? _____

Who is responsible for the maintenance and care of the community solar project? What if there are issues such as major storm damage? _____


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bit.ly/SustainableJerseyEnergyGuidebooks




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Community Solar Webpage

ABOUT USTAKE ACTIONEVENTSGET INVOLVEDCONTACT USDONATE

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?

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.

Community Solar is for anyone that 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, homeowners 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.

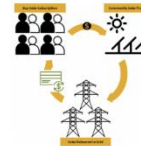
Why community solar?

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 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
- Expands solar access low-to-moderate income customers
- A stronger, distributed, and more resilient electric grid

How does it work?



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 the subscription fee, customers can expect to see a 10% 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.



Community
Solar
Basics Fact
Sheet



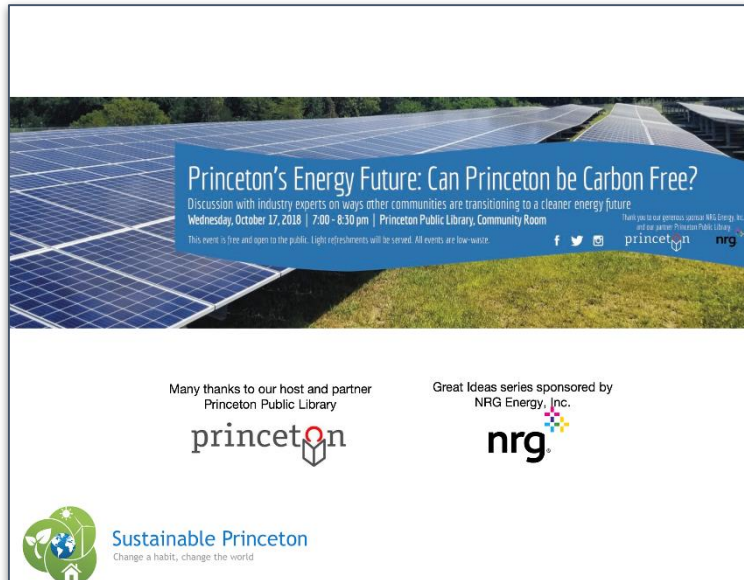
Community
Solar
Subscriber
Tip Sheet

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SUSTAINABLE PRINCETON.

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,
400 Witherspoon Street, Community Room
Time: 7:00 - 8:15 pm

f t i

sustainableprinceton.org

This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. All



Climate Concerned, but
What Can I Do?



 Sustainable Princeton
Change a habit, change the world

Presentation prepared for the
Community of Constitution Hill
May 20, 2018

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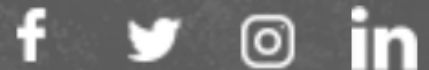
Thank You!

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.

Community Solar: Is it for you?

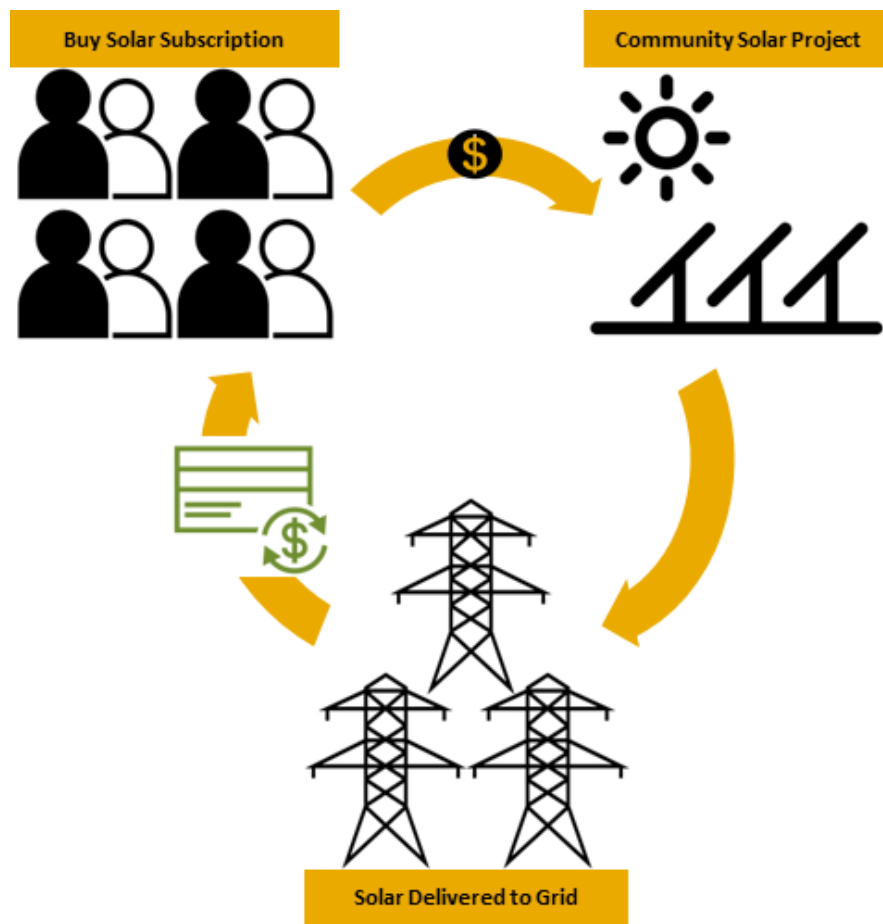
NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

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



History of Community Solar in NJ

NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

- **Community Solar Energy Pilot Program** established pursuant to the Clean Energy Act of 2018.
- **Pilot Program Rules** published on February 19, 2019.
- Three-year Pilot Program (2019, 2020, and 2021) followed by a permanent Community Solar Energy Program.

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).

PY1 Applications

NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

252 total applications received (approx. 652 MWdc)

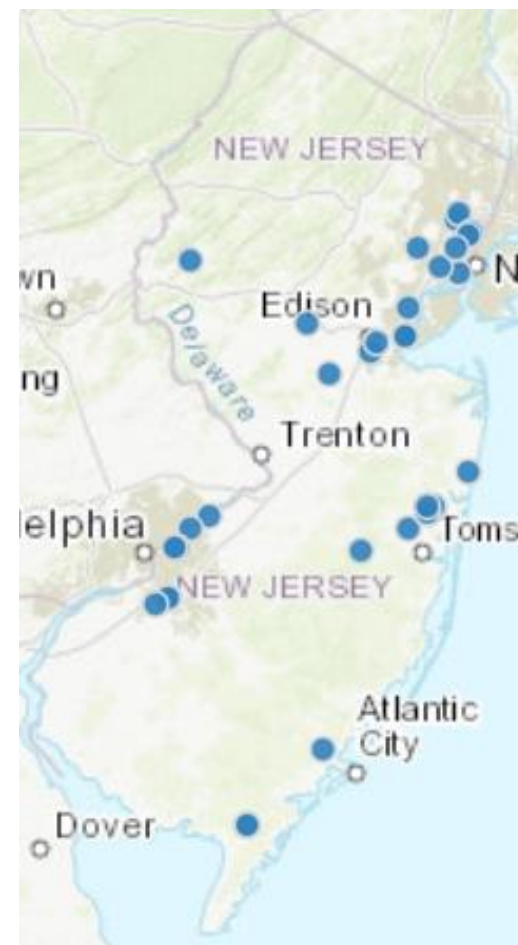
- 232 applications for LMI projects (approx. 600 MWdc)
- 112 applications for projects sited on rooftops
- 54 applications for projects sited on brownfields, landfills, parking canopies
- 75 applications for projects sited in part or in whole on farmland

PY1 Awards

NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

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

PY1 Awards: LMI

NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

Summary of LMI Projects and Subscribers (1)

State	Installed LMI MWac	Pending LMI MWac	Average Subscription Size (Household/MWac)	Potential Subscribers (if all pending LMI MW are installed)
Colorado	4.9	9	170 (R-C)	2480
Connecticut	0.8	1.8	170 (E)	442
Maryland	6.3	4	170 (R-C)	1730
Washington, D.C. ^[a]	2.3	4.5	910 (R-C)	6246
New York	7.3	21	150 (R-C)	4245
California ^[b]	-	32	380 (R-C)	12300
Illinois	-	13	170 (E)	2210
Massachusetts	-	14.9	170 (E)	2533
New Jersey	-	39.3	170 (E)	6681
Oregon	-	16.1	170 (E)	2737
Total	21.6	155.6		41604
Rhode Island ^[c]	3.3	22.2	NA	NA

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.

NREL |



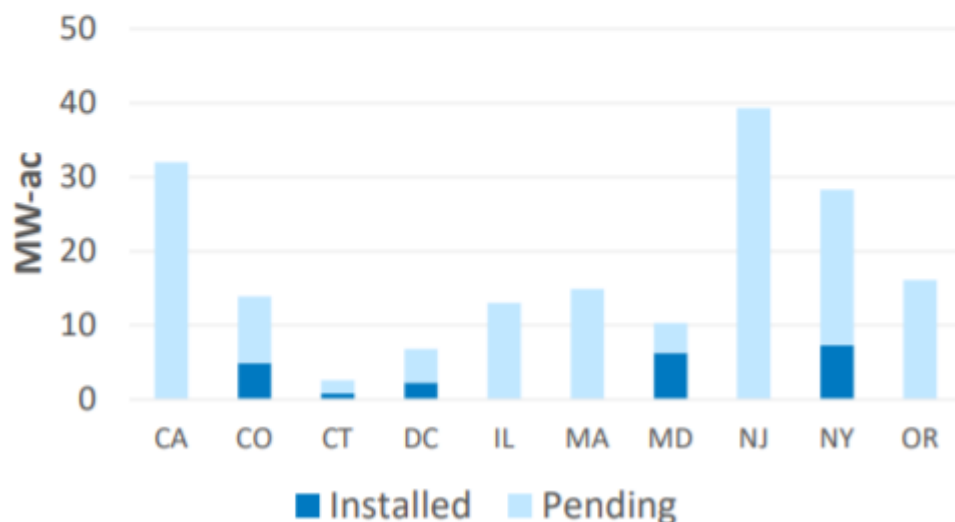
Source: NREL "Community Solar 101"
<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy20osti/75982.pdf>

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.

PY2 Application Period

NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

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.

Product Offering Higher preference: guaranteed savings >20%, flexible terms* Medium preference: guaranteed savings >10%, flexible terms* Low preference: guaranteed savings >5% No Points: no guaranteed savings, no flexible terms* *Flexible terms may include: no cancellation fee, short-term contract	15
Other Benefits 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)	10
Geographic Limit within EDC service territory Higher preference: municipality/adjacent municipality Medium preference: county/adjacent county No Points: any geographic location within the EDC service territory	5
Project Maturity Higher preference: project has received all non-ministerial permits; project has completed an interconnection study	5

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

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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

Action counts
towards
Sustainable
Jersey Gold Star
Standard in
Energy.



Contacts

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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](#)

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