

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?

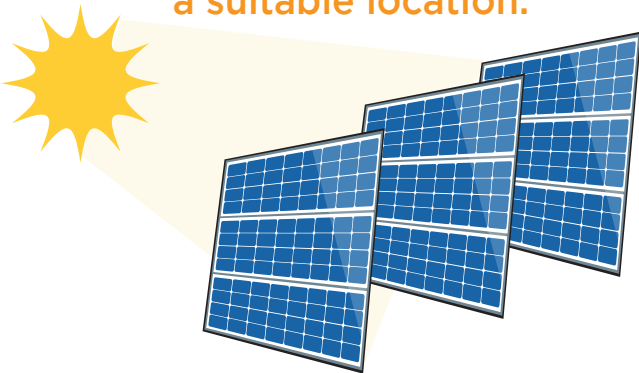
The **benefits of subscribing to a Community Solar project are two-fold: you'll save money and will be supporting New Jersey's transition to cleaner energy.** Your home will not be directly connected to the solar array nor will you receive your personal household energy from its generation. Your subscription 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?/](https://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 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%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$90</b>	

**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/](https://sustainableprinceton.org/your-home/)

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



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PRINCETON.**

For additional information visit:

[www.sustainableprinceton.org/blog/what-is-community-solar?/](https://www.sustainableprinceton.org/blog/what-is-community-solar?/)  
[bit.ly/SustainableJerseyEnergyGuidebooks](https://bit.ly/SustainableJerseyEnergyGuidebooks)

# TIPS FOR SUBSCRIBING TO A COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT



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](http://bit.ly/SustainableJerseyEnergyGuidebooks)

# COMMUNITY SOLAR SUBSCRIPTION WORKSHEET



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? \_\_\_\_\_

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