SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITY SHARED SOLAR

Working together to build a sustainable future is a responsibility we all must respond to.

SOLAR ENERGY – "Potentially the Greenest of all Renewable Power Sources", an Infinite Power Source that creates no Pollution and requires no Water to Generate the Electricity we all use

When you support Local Community Shared Solar, you are playing a vital role in preserving our planet for future generations. The use of solar energy directly offsets the need for fossil fuels like coal, petroleum, and natural gas, which are major sources of greenhouse gas emissions and other toxic pollutants.

Community Shared Solar is a Renewable Nonpolluting Distributed Generation Energy System. Electric power is produced locally using a renewable source, the Sun, then distributed and used locally eliminating the need for a portion of the power generated from the distant large utility fossil fuel burning, environmentally polluting power plants. Efficiency is much greater because power that is generated locally is used locally reducing the losses created by long distance power transmission.

Done appropriately, Community Solar blends harmoniously into the community landscape. Different Community Solar options exist, with a large scale "Solar Farm" occupying 10 to 40 or more acres or a smaller "Solar Garden" with a maximum size producing 2 MWAC on no more than 10 acres of land to supply up to 300 homes, apartments, farms, schools, and businesses.

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Supporting Community Shared Solar programs demonstrates support of local sustainability plans and measures by improving the health and wellbeing of the community and making the community a more pleasant and attractive place for businesses and individuals to live, work and play.

Community Shared Solar programs help meet and support the federal and state Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goals and mandates to increase the total electricity generation from Renewable Sources in the U.S. to 20% by 2030 and in New York State to 50% by 2030 reducing our use of polluting fossil fuels and promoting the use of renewable sources thus reducing the negative effects of climate change.

Shouldn't the Community take a role in following and supporting the federal and state policies and mandates on Renewable Power Generation to improve our local and global environment?

SOLAR FOR ALL

A local Community Shared Solar Garden can produce enough electricity to supply up to 300 homes, apartments, farms, schools, and businesses. Data shows that most of the customers who use electricity do not own, do not have proper solar access, or do not have the financial resources for their own solar systems. Local Community Shared Solar Systems can provide access to EVERYONE with the ability to use and support clean energy. Community members benefit economically by saving on their utility bills while reaping the environmental advantages.

What is Community Solar?

Community solar is a way for anyone to access solar power, even if they rent, own a condo, have a shaded house, or just can't afford to install a full solar array on their home.

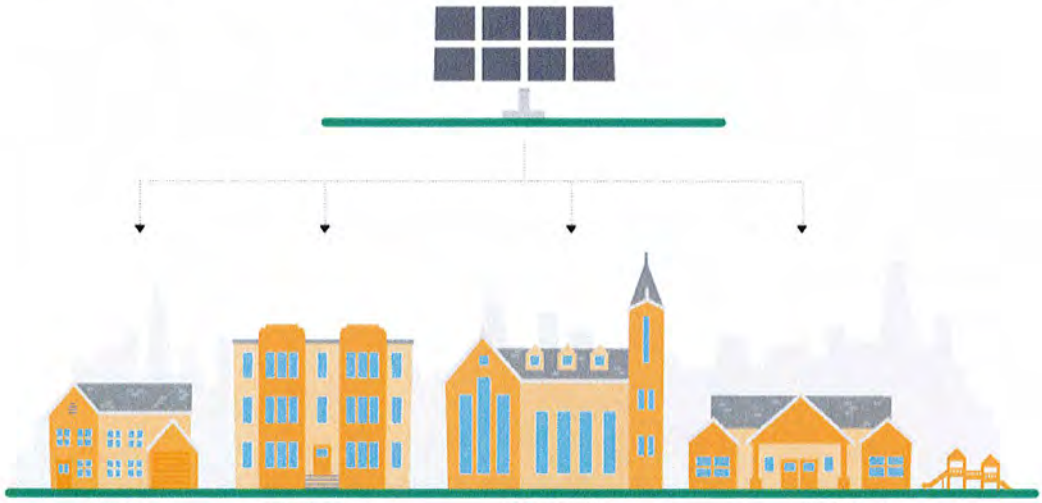
1. Solar panels are installed in a sunny location somewhere in the community.

2. Anyone with an electricity bill can subscribe to this community solar array and start accessing solar energy for their home.

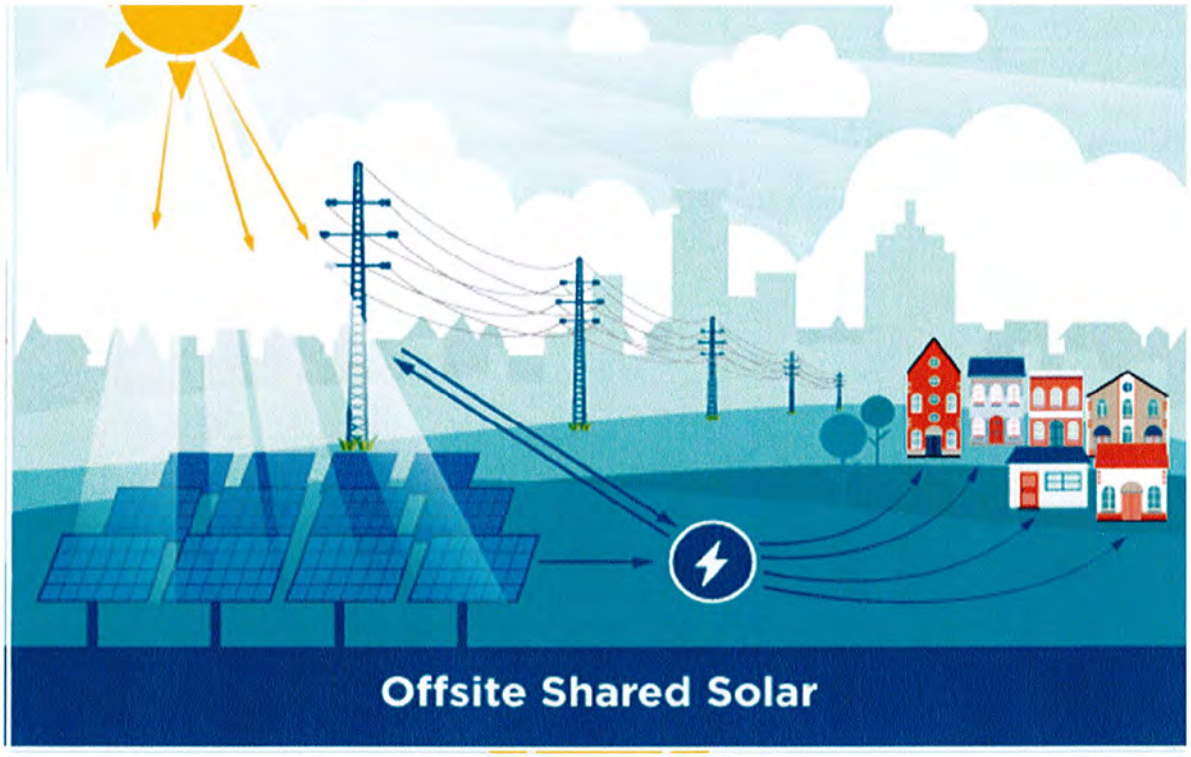
3. Each subscriber is credited with the electricity created by their share of the solar array right on their electric bill, regardless of where they live.

Making Solar More Accessible

Only one in four rooftops are suitable for solar. Community solar extends the possibility of solar to everyone. Solar arrays can be installed on rooftops or on vacant land and can provide clean, renewable electricity to anyone with an electricity bill.

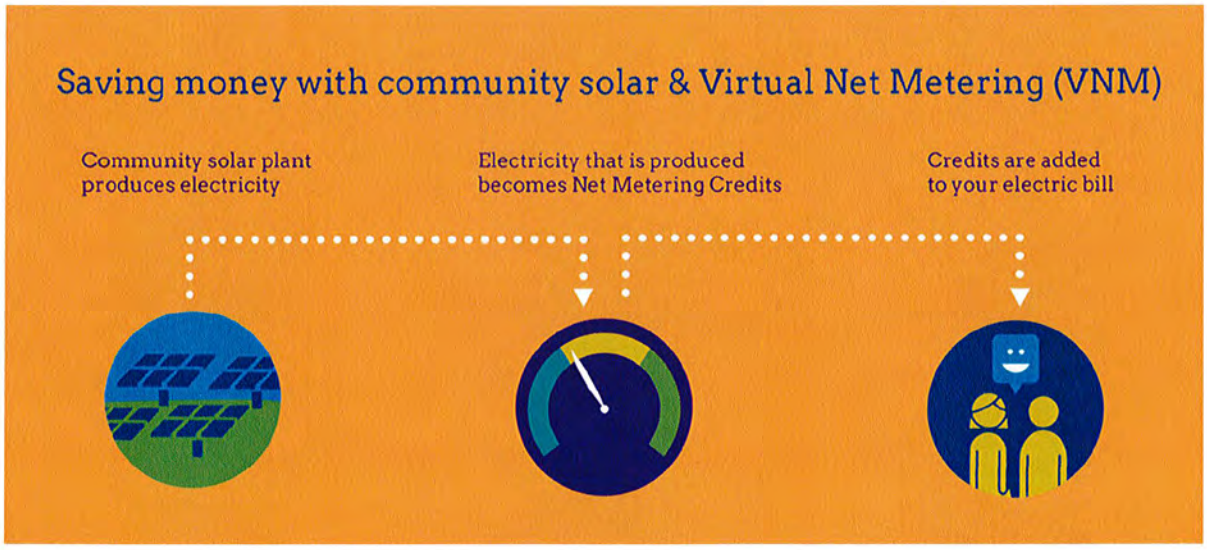


A Bright Future



HOW COMMUNITY SHARED SOLAR WORKS

Local Community Shared Solar systems generate electricity that flows into the local electrical grid that is metered as Energy Credits (kWh) and flows out to feed the local homes, apartments, farms, schools, and businesses. Each entity that has signed up with the Local Community Solar Shared System receives their portion of the produced energy credits offsetting the amount they used and reducing the amount they must pay to the utility company. They will be required to pay the Local Community Solar administrator the reduced cost associated with their portion of the energy credits. This is called Virtual Net Metering.



PROPER SITING AND LAND USE

Community Shared Solar Systems differ in size, configuration, and location. As communities review zoning regulations and consider changes, there are important factors to consider. Siting the project appropriately is extremely important for the Community. Smaller "Solar Gardens" (up to 2 MWAC and 10 acres) may be appropriately located in the Restricted Agricultural, Rural, Commercial, Industrial, or in other appropriate zoning districts. In communities that depend on and support Agriculture, Solar Gardens could be limited to areas that are not considered active "prime farmland" and may be located on land that may be vacant or difficult for other uses. Solar Gardens could also be setback from the road frontage and screened from some of the view if necessary. To assure continuity with the character of the community, Solar Gardens should be subject to all the current Special Use Permit requirements and approvals, storm water management plans, and environmental assessments already established and regulated by the state and local government. Since these systems are not considered permanent structures, Solar Gardens can be removed after their useful life, recycled (more than 90% is recyclable) and the property restored preserving the property for future use.

Community Shared Solar Systems are great neighbors. They are quiet, they don't produce any pollution, waste, dust, or contaminants, they require very little traffic and parking, they are safe, they can be sited to blend into the community landscape, they don't require water or other natural resources except for the sun light, they can help improve the local economy, they are non-reflective and non-glare, and they have a positive environmental impact. Community Shared Solar Systems can be much better neighbors than many other allowed uses.

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"BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE"

Reforming the Energy Vision REV

REV GOALS

- Making energy more afforable for all New Yorkers
- Building a more resilient energy system
- Empowering New Yorkers to make more informed energy choices
- Creating new jobs and business opportunities
- Improving our existing initiatives and infrastructure
- Supporting cleaner transportation
- Cutting greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050
- Protecting New York's natural resources
- Helping clean energy innovation grow

REV is a strategy to build a clean, resilient, and affordable energy system for all New Yorkers.

REV is transforming New York State's energy policy and initiatives to make sure energy efficiency and clean, locally produced power are at the core of the State's energy system.

REV is changing the way government and utilities work to make clean energy financially beneficial to everyone. And most importantly, REV is putting customers first by designing new initiatives to impact real people and provide individuals and communities with the opportunity to take an active role in achieving the following State energy goals by 2030.

40% Reduction in GHG emissions from 1990 levels

Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the energy sector—power generation, industry, buildings, and transportation—is critical to protecting the health and welfare of New Yorkers and reaching the longer term goal of decreasing total carbon emissions 80% by 2050.

50% Generation of electricity from renewable energy sources

Renewable energy sources, including solar, wind, hydropower, and biomass, will play a vital role in reducing electricity price volatility and curbing carbon emissions.

23% Decrease in energy consumption in buildings from 2012 levels

Energy efficiency results in lower energy bills and is the single most cost-effective tool in achieving energy objectives. 600 trillion British thermal units (TBtu) in energy efficiency gains equates to 23% reduction in energy consumption by buildings.

ny.gov/REV4NY

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