

What is community solar?

The U.S. Department of Energy defines community solar as any solar project or purchasing program, within a geographic area, in which the benefits flow to multiple customers such as individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and other groups. In most cases, customers benefit from energy generated by solar panels at an off-site array.

Can community solar power 5 million households by 2025?

This guide provides strategies and solutions that have been demonstrated by projects and programs recognized by the Sunny Awards. It provides a blueprint to help power the equivalent of five million households with community solar by 2025.

Who owns a community solar project in Washington?

Washington's community solar rules allow for ownership of community solar projects up to 75 kW that are either jointly owned by individuals, businesses, and non-profits or owned by a utility and voluntarily funded by the utility's ratepayers. Participants receive production incentives based on their proportional share of the output of a project.

Why do communities want a community solar project?

Communities may be interested in a community solar project for a variety of reasons, including wanting to reduce pollution in their community, wanting more control over their energy sources, wanting to participate in the financial benefits of clean energy, and/or wanting more jobs or economic development through locally sited clean energy.

Can a community solar project be a business?

To take advantage of the tax incentives available to commercial solar projects, organizers may choose to structure a project as a business. In most states, there is a range of business entities that could be suitable for a participant-owned community solar project. (Please see Appendix A for more in-depth descriptions of these business entities.)

Should a utility manage a community solar project?

First of all, utilities are likely to have the legal, financial and program management infrastructure to handle organizing and implementing a community solar project. Second, many utilities are actually governed by their member-customers and can be directed to pursue projects on their members' behalf.

Solar panels on a rooftop in New York City Community solar farm in the town of Wheatland, Wisconsin [1]. Solar power includes solar farms as well as local distributed generation, mostly on rooftops and increasingly from community ...

Community Distributed Generation (CDG), is a New York State program which makes cleaner energy

accessible to more people. Renters, co-op/condo owners, business owners and homeowners all have an equal opportunity to save ...

This includes (but is not limited to), solar panels, wind farms, hydro power, rural heat networks, electric vehicle charging points, car clubs and fuel poverty alleviation schemes.

Community solar provides homeowners, renters, and businesses equal access to the economic and environmental benefits of solar energy generation regardless of the physical attributes or ownership of their home or business. It expands ...

When it comes to solar power generation, a community solar garden has gained much popularity in recent years. Usually, solar installations consist of a relatively large and privately owned solar panel array. For ...

Also referred to as solar farms, shared solar, solar gardens, or roofless solar, a community solar project is a large, central power plant that generates electricity for the grid. Unlike utility-scale solar, private developers ...

This guide is designed as a resource for those who want to develop community solar projects, from community organizers or solar energy advocates to government officials or utility ...

Community solar allows residents, small businesses, organizations, municipalities and others to receive credit on their electricity bills for the power produced from their portion of a solar array, offsetting their electricity costs.

The Community Power Accelerator(TM) connects developers and organizations to investors, lenders, and philanthropies to finance and deploy solar + storage projects in communities across the country. We provide training, resources, ...

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