



New Jersey Community Solar Project Finder



Community Solar Glossary and FAQ

Glossary

Automatic Enrollment Program

Starting in 2025, New Jersey's Community Solar Program allows municipal governments to select a group of residents to participate in an automatic enrollment program. This group of residents could be a census block track a neighborhood or even a single multi-family building where at least 80% of the residents qualify as low or moderate income.

If a resident does not want to participate in the Community Solar program for any reason, instructions for opting out of the program will be included with the notification received. Participants can opt-out of the program at anytime without having to pay a fee or penalty.

Community Solar Bill Credit

The credit that community solar subscribers receive directly on their electric utility bill for the electricity generated by the solar panels associated with their community solar subscription. The electric utility bill will show the cost of the electricity used by the customer and the credit from the community solar subscription. The value of the community solar bill credit is based on the retail rate of each customer that has subscribed to a community solar project.

Consolidated Billing

Beginning in 2025, community solar participants will see both the community solar billing credit and the subscription fee listing on their electric bill. Because the subscription fee is always lower than the bill credit this will result in a savings for the resident.

Fee Escalator

A contract term that allows the base price of the subscription to increase over the course of the contract.

Low- and Moderate-Income (LMI)

As defined by the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program, a low-income household has an adjusted gross income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. A moderate-income household has a total gross annual household income over 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, but no more than 80% of median income, as determined by the U.S. HUD annual income limits.

Residents with household incomes below the income limits should inquire about enhanced savings offers for LMI residents.

To see the household income limits for LMI Households, visit the [NJ BPU Self Attestation Form](#) which lists the LMI Household income limits by county.

Master Meter

A single meter that measures the electric, water, or natural gas usage of multiple housing units, such as in multifamily housing facilities. Not all community solar projects offer subscriptions to master-metered buildings.

Frequently Asked Questions

Community solar sounds too good to be true, how do I know if a project is a good choice?

In order to be approved as a Community Solar Project operating in one of New Jersey's Investor-Owned Utility (Atlantic City Electric, Jersey Central Power and Light, Public Service Electric and Gas, and Rockland Electric) service territories*, all projects are reviewed by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPUB). However, the Board does not guarantee any specific level of savings. Prior to signing up for community solar, potential subscribers are encouraged to carefully review the subscription contract details to make sure that all the contract terms, including any cancellation fees or price escalators, are considered.

* Municipal Electric Companies may also have community solar projects, but those projects are not subject to approval or oversight by the NJBPUB.

How do community solar bill credits work?

Community Solar projects are large solar arrays that provide a utility bill savings to subscribers based on their subscription size. Utility customers can subscribe to a project within their utility area for up to the amount of electricity their home uses. The subscriber will continue to receive an electric bill, which will now include two new line items:

- 1) **Community Solar Billing Credit** from the solar power generated by the community solar project
- 2) **Subscription Fee** the cost of being subscribed to the program

The subscription agreement is structured such that the customer will always keep a set percentage of their community solar bill credit as a savings, while the remainder of the community solar bill credit is applied as a savings on the electric bill.

The percentage of savings retained by the customer will vary based on the subscription agreement. Often there are multiple percentages of savings available for a single project, based on the subscriber type, such as whether the subscriber is a low- and moderate-income (LMI) resident.

The New Jersey Community Solar Project Finder lists the available percentage of savings by customer type for each contract. While we strive to keep the project information up to date, some elements may no longer be accurate. All users are responsible for contacting the project representative and reviewing the terms of subscriber contracts.

Steps to Participating in a Community Solar Project

STEP 1 Enroll in a Community Solar Project

There are two pathways to joining a project:

- 1) Potential subscriber selects a community solar project. The project finder allows potential subscribers to see projects that are serving their municipality.
- 2) Resident is enrolled in a project via a Municipal Automatic Enrollment Project, see glossary for more automatic enrollment projects.

STEP 2 Receive the savings on your electric bill

Subscriber receives a community solar bill credit and subscription fee on their electric bill. The subscription fee is typically a set percentage of the credit, which means the subscriber will always see a credit on their electric bill.

The example below shows how the community solar bill credit will appear on your bill (numbers are examples only).