

SUSTAINABLE WESTCHESTER: COMMUNITY SOLAR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How Much Can I Save?

Community Solar subscribers save up to 10% off their electricity bills. You will receive solar credits on your utility bills and then be charged a discounted rate for those solar credits. If the community solar project you enroll in provides a 10% discount, your savings will always equal 10% of the value of the credits. No matter what the amount of the solar credits is, you will always save 10% on them.

How Do I See My Savings?

The solar farm generates electricity throughout the year, and you will receive bill credits representing your portion of the value of the energy produced that will offset charges on your electric bill. After receipt of the credits, you pay the owner of the solar farm a discounted amount for them. You will receive an email notification each month informing you of the credits you received on your most recent utility bill and telling you when your bank account will be debited to make the discounted payment for the credits.

Do I Still Get Power from my Utility?

Yes, you will still receive your electricity from the utility as you do now. Community Solar simply provides a bill credit resulting in savings on your electricity costs.

Who Can Participate in Community Solar?

Almost anyone can participate in community solar!

- All homeowners
- Houses of worship and faith institutions
- Businesses
- Non-Profits
- Those on budget billing or Time of Use rates may enroll
- Those participating in ESCOs or CCAs (like Westchester Power)
- Even those outside of Westchester can enroll – as long as they have an active electricity account with ConEd or NYSEG!

Can I join Community Solar if I Have Solar Panels on my Property?

Unfortunately, not. We are thrilled for all those that do have solar installed!

What Information Do I Need to Complete my Enrollment?

Enrollment takes about seven minutes and you will need your:

- Utility Account Number (if a NYSEG customer, your Point of Delivery (POD) ID number found on the 3rd page of your NYSEG bill as well)
- Bank Details (bank routing number and account number) to set up automated payment for your solar credits.

Why Do I Have to Provide my Bank Details and How Is that Information Secured?

Most solar developers require automated payment from a bank account to make the discounted payments for the solar credits. This lowers transaction costs and increases security. Your payment details will be encrypted and secured on a Citibank server and will not be accessible to anyone involved in managing this project.

How Does Community Solar Benefit Local Communities?

Construction of community solar farms generates local clean energy jobs. The financial savings on community members' electricity bills also keep more cash within your community. In addition, they reduce the amount of energy required fossil fuel plants, improving our energy security, and air quality.

Is it Safe to Enroll in Community Solar during the COVID-19 Pandemic?

Yes! Community Solar is 100% digital and contact-free. Enrollment is completed online and no one will come to your home.

Please email communitysolar@sustainablewestchester.org or call Claire Kokoska at 914-242-4725 ext. 112 with any questions about community solar or how to enroll!