



# Does the community need solar power generation

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.

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.

What are the benefits of community solar?

Community solar can allow all households and businesses to access the benefits of solar energy, such as lower electricity costs, regardless of whether they're able to host a system on their own roof. And, in areas where solar power is less expensive than fossil-generated electricity (most places), consumers can save money on their monthly bills.

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.

Can community solar projects save money?

Community solar projects and programs can increase household savings for their subscribers. The 2022 Sunny Awards required that projects provide at least 20% electricity bill savings.

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.)

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Web: <https://publishers-right.eu/contact-us/>

Email: [energystorage2000@gmail.com](mailto:energystorage2000@gmail.com)

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

