



BRINGING COMMUNITY SOLAR OPPORTUNITY TO NEW MEXICO

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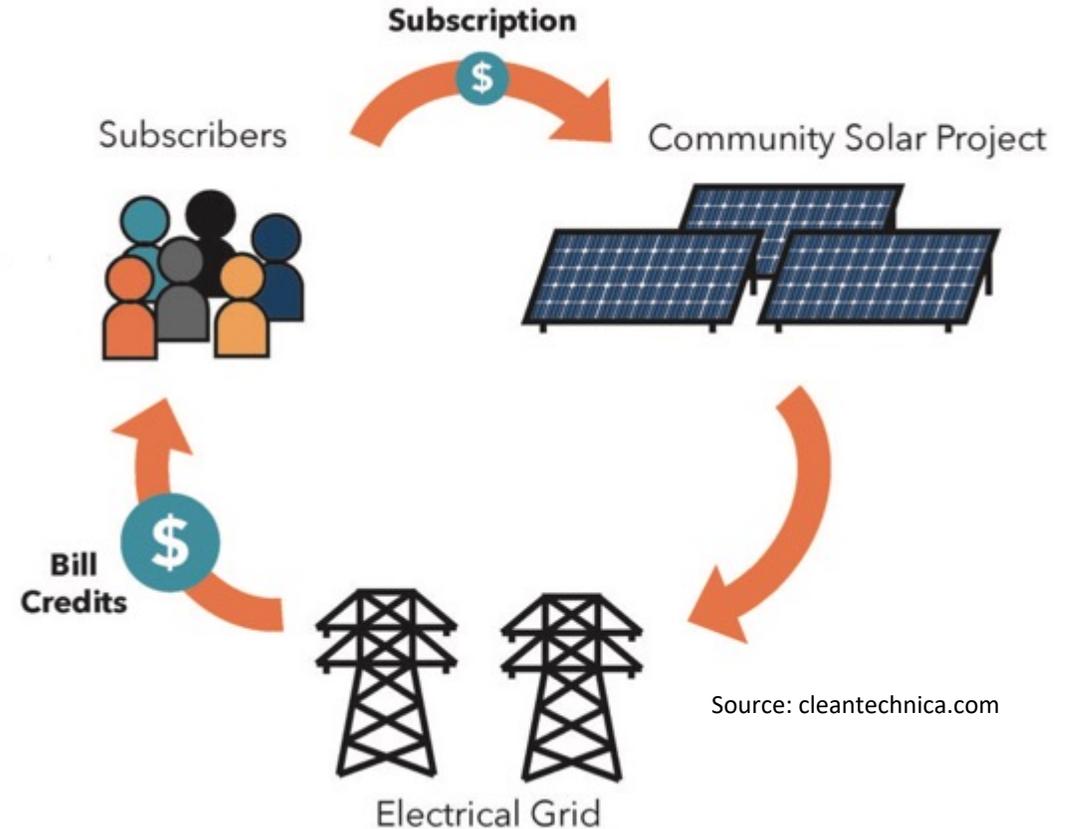
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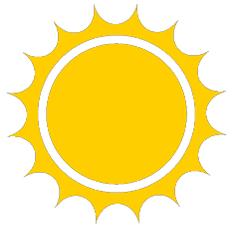


VOTE SOLAR

WHAT IS COMMUNITY SOLAR?

Community solar refers to local solar arrays shared by individual community members who receive credits on their electricity bills for their portion of the power produced. The power is connected to the electrical grid.





Step 1

A community solar project generates clean, solar energy



Step 2

Individuals, local businesses, schools and others sign up to receive the energy from a certain number of panels, up-front or pay-as-you-go



Step 3

Community solar subscribers receive a credit on their bill based on the amount of energy produced by their community solar panels



Step 4

Signing up for community solar should provide tangible economic benefits and savings on your utility bill.

WHY IS COMMUNITY SOLAR A PREFERRED OPTION?



A homeowner may be restricted from installing solar on their property



The roof may be too shaded or will need re-roofing in the next few years



Some commercial buildings have equipment on the roof, obstructing an installation



The customer is not eligible for standard financing solutions



Renters may be prohibited from installing solar on the property



Drives private investment into a state



Creates local, well-paying solar jobs



Creates new local property tax revenues



The size, type, or orientation of the roof may be improper for on-site solar



A homeowner or business is concerned about maintaining their rooftop system



A homeowner is planning to move in the near to mid-future



An affordable housing property owner cannot provide on-site solar energy to multiple individually-metered tenants



Multi-tenant dwellings or businesses may not own their rooftop

WHY CHOOSE COMMUNITY SOLAR?

Customer Benefits

- **Equal Access:** Gives ALL consumers equal access to solar energy, regardless of housing type or income level.
- **Tangible Economic Savings:** Customers should save money on their electric utility bill, and receive stable energy bills and predictable energy prices
- **Hassle free clean energy:** Customers can sign up to participate in a community solar project without having to worry about on-site contractors, permits, or maintenance.
- **Flexibility:** Community solar allows customers to move within the utility territory and still retain their participation in the community solar project, making it an easy, portable energy solution.

WHY CHOOSE COMMUNITY SOLAR?

Socio-Economic Benefits

- **New investments:** Economic development strategy that spurs new development and impacts local economies.
- **Job creation:** Local workers gain new employment opportunities and in some cases, job training.
- **Economies of scale:** Larger projects provide a lower cost per watt than other types of solar projects.
- **Energy burden:** Low-income families, households of color, multifamily and renting households spend a much larger percentage of their income on energy bills than the average family.
- **Community engagement and ownership:** Community involvement, ownership and participation in local solar

WHY CHOOSE COMMUNITY SOLAR?

Grid and Environmental Benefits

- **Environmental Goals:** Community solar allows multiple people to benefit from clean energy, helping to expedite the transition away from fossil fuels while positively benefitting electric ratepayers.
- **Local and Resilient Grid Resource:** Community solar is a clean and reliable resource located directly within communities, with opportunities to pair with community storage solutions.



SENATE MEMORIAL 63

Sponsors: Senator Stefanics & Representative Roybal Caballero

- Creates a **process for a working group** of stakeholders on community solar
- **Composition:** representatives from EMNRD, PRC, State Land Office; utility companies; rural electric cooperatives; renewable energy industry representatives; environmental organizations; Native American nations, tribes and pueblos; low-income service providers; local governments, cities, counties; and interested community members from throughout the state.
- **Inclusive** and open to those who wish to participate
- NM Legislative Council arranged for a **third-party facilitator** to convene Working Group, to review statewide community solar initiatives, and to develop recommendations for the implementation of those initiatives.
 - **Paul Biderman** was confirmed as the third-party facilitator.
- The working group will **report** its findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative committees in Fall.

WORKING GROUP STAKEHOLDER CATEGORIES

- **Citizens**
- **Consultant/Technical experts**
- **Investor-Owned Utilities**
- **Rural Electric Cooperatives**
- **Government**
 - Legislators/Candidates, EMNRD, SLO, Governor's Office, Political Parties
 - Tribal Governance
- **Renewable Industry**
 - Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA), Renewable Energy Industry Association (REIA), Industry Members
- **Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) Housing**
 - Housing Authorities
- **LMI and Immigrant NGOs**
 - Prosperity Works
- **Green NGOs**
 - 350.org, Conservation Voters New Mexico (CVNM), Sierra Club, Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC), Western Resource Advocates (WRA), New Energy Economy (NEE), Environment NM, SF Green Chamber, Renewable Taos, etc.
- **Tribal NGOs**
 - Western Leaders, Native American Voters Alliance (NAVA), Five Pueblos Coalition, etc.
- **Other NGOs**
 - Coalition of Sustainable Communities (CSCNM), Vote Solar, Earthcare

TRIBAL COMMUNITY SOLAR TASK FORCE

- **Goals & Objectives:**

- Serves as a subgroup of the state facilitated working group of SM 63
- Develops **tribal consultation** and outreach processes to develop firm **policy recommendations** for the SM 63 Working Group and interim legislative committees
- Continually prepares for and debriefs from larger SM 63 Working Group Meetings
- Composed of designated Tribal representatives and Tribal members across New Mexico who have capacity to take responsibility of the education and policy details of community solar.

CURRENT STATUS & NEXT STEPS

- What can the Climate Action Plan Task Force do?
 - Support community solar in the next legislative session so that it can be a real opportunity for the City of Albuquerque!

For more information, visit:

<https://www.sol-utionnm.org/>

Action alerts directed toward Governor Lujan Grisham and state legislators so they know community solar is supported on the ground. Stay up to date with more information!



THANK YOU!



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