

## **Community Solar: Frequently Asked Questions**

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### **What is community solar?**

Community solar is a way to get solar power without installing panels on your home. Instead, you "subscribe" to a shared solar project nearby. The company that owns the solar panels is called a “subscriber organization,” and you are the “subscriber.”

Each kilowatt-hour of energy output purchased through a “subscription” with a community solar subscriber organization results in one less kilowatt-hour of electricity charged to the customer by the customer’s electricity supplier. Each subscriber gets a portion of the energy, and most projects have many subscribers.

### **Who can join community solar in Maryland?**

If you're a customer of BGE, Delmarva Power, Pepco, or Potomac Edison, and you have an electric meter, you can sign up. You must live in the same utility area as the solar project you’re subscribing to.

### **How will this affect my electric bill?**

Your utility will apply credits to your electric bill based on how much energy your share of the solar project produces. These credits will reduce how much you owe on your electric bill. The utility applies these credits as either a dollar or kWh credit to reduce the kWh charges on the customer’s bill.

## **How do I pay for community solar?**

You'll get a separate bill from the community solar project. This is different from your regular utility bill. How you pay, and how much, will be explained in the contract you sign with the community solar project.

## **How is community solar different from rooftop solar?**

Rooftop solar uses panels installed on your home. Community solar is shared and doesn't require any equipment on your property. It's a great option for people who rent or can't install panels on their roof. You can even have both rooftop and community solar. The credits for community solar impact the subscriber's bill in the same way that electricity produced by rooftop solar impacts the homeowner's bill.

## **How is community solar different from choosing a retail energy supplier?**

Retail suppliers sell you electricity, which could come from any source (like fossil fuels or renewables). Community solar gives you bill credits based on solar energy produced at a local solar farm. You can sign up for both if you want.

## **How many community solar projects are there in Maryland?**

As of July 1, 2022, there are 43 community solar projects:

- BGE: 27 projects
- Delmarva Power: 3 projects
- Pepco: 9 projects
- Potomac Edison: 4 projects

More are expected in the future.

## **How do I know if a community solar project is legitimate?**

Legitimate projects must follow consumer protection laws. Always read your contract carefully. A trustworthy project will include a subscriber organization number and other details in its marketing. You can check the list of approved projects on your utility's website.

## **How do I know when a project starts running?**

The utility's list of projects will show the expected start date. But delays can happen, so contact the project directly if you want updates.

## **What if I move?**

- If you move within the same utility area, your subscription can move with you.
- If you move to a new utility area, your subscription will end, but you can sign up for a new project in the new area.
- You can't be charged unfair fees to cancel your subscription if you move.

## **What should I ask before signing up?**

Community solar projects are required to provide residential customers with detailed terms and conditions as well as a summary of key subscription contract provisions.

Make sure you understand:

- How long the contract lasts
- How much it costs each month
- Whether there are any fees for canceling early

## **Where can I find a list of community solar projects?**

You can visit the [Maryland Energy Administration](#) website for the latest list of approved community solar providers.

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