

# Community Solar Projects



Installing solar panels for low-cost electricity is an excellent choice for many homes and businesses. However, rooftop or on-site solar systems aren't an option available to everyone, such as renters, low and moderate-income families, and many multi-family or corporate buildings for various reasons.

Community solar projects expand access and allow subscribers like households, businesses, educational institutions, municipalities, and more to experience the same benefits of solar power without having a system on-site.



## How do community solar projects work?

Once a project developer builds a community solar project, these solar arrays can produce electricity for hundreds or even thousands of nearby homes and businesses. Residents and companies can join a community solar project by subscribing to a portion of the solar project's monthly output.

The energy generated from the community solar array is often discounted compared to typical utility company rates. As a result, subscribers may have the opportunity to significantly lower their electricity bills. Although the details vary by project, many require no upfront investment and allow for flexibility when you move within the same electric utility territory.

Once you join a community solar project, there is no interruption to your service, and you'll continue to receive your normal electric utility bill. But now, you'll see a new section on your bill with your community solar credits for your share of the solar project's produced electricity, therefore reducing your electric bill. You'll also receive a second monthly statement for your community solar subscription, and the combined two bills enable you to see your savings on your overall electricity costs.

## About AES

The AES Corporation is a Fortune 500 global energy company accelerating the future of energy. Headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, AES has developed and operates over 4,400 MW of renewable energy projects across 22 states. Together with our project partners and local communities, we're improving lives by delivering the greener, smarter energy solutions the world needs.

# Community Solar in New Mexico



The Community Solar Act was signed into law in April 2021 and will help New Mexico residents, businesses, and others access affordable renewable energy. While the final program details are still being developed by the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, AES anticipates the program to be available to New Mexicans as early as 2023. It is our intention to inform the community early and generate interest so that we can provide access to community solar to fellow New Mexicans as soon as possible.



## How do community solar projects work?

Community solar installations provide many direct benefits to the communities they serve, including:

- Generating fuel-free renewable energy
- Requiring no water to operate, prioritizing water conservation
- Offering opportunities for savings on electric bills to a wide variety of project subscribers
- Providing a new, reliable revenue stream for landowners, and tax payments to the county governments
- Creating construction and operations jobs

A University of New Mexico study\* estimates that a robust community solar program in New Mexico would provide:

- Provide \$2.9 million annually in tax revenue
- Produce \$517 million in economic benefits
- Create 3,760 high-quality jobs over the next five years



### Step 1

Community Solar Projects generate clean, renewable energy that feeds into the existing utility grid. They are large efficient solar arrays.

### Step 2

Subscribers can participate in community solar. It's an easy way to save money on their utility costs and support local renewables.

### Step 3

Each subscribers bill will receive monthly credits based upon the amount of energy their subscribed portion of the project produces.

## Why haven't I heard about community solar before?

Community solar is not new, but it is new to New Mexico, so you may not have heard of it before. However, there are thriving community solar programs in more than 19 states across the country that have been providing savings to project subscribers for many years, some for over a decade. More states like New Mexico are developing community solar legislation of their own.

Learn more about community solar legislation in New Mexico by visiting the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission at : [www.nm-prc.org/utilities/community-solar/](http://www.nm-prc.org/utilities/community-solar/)

\*\*"The Potential Economic Impact of Community Solar in New Mexico," prepared for The Coalition for Community Solar Access by the University of New Mexico Bureau of Business and Economic Research, January 2021

Interested in more information about community solar or to sign-up for the wait list?  
Contact us:

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