



Community Solar in New York:

The Ultimate Guide to Savings,
Sustainability, and Local Impact

Educate and Inform

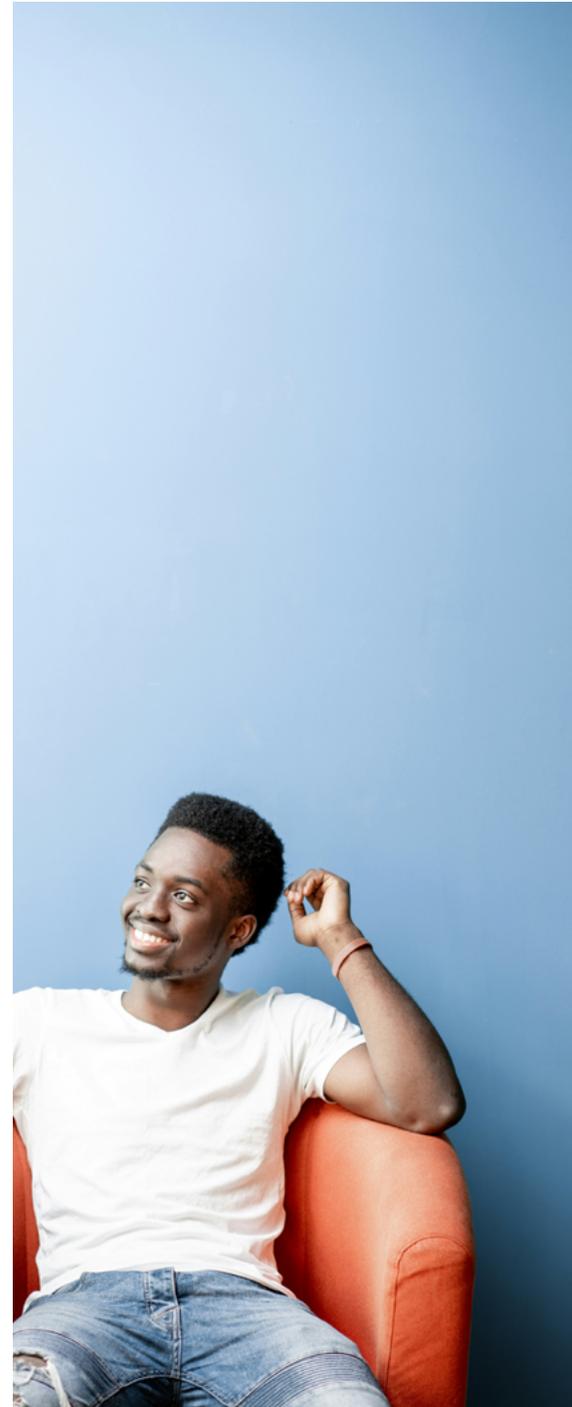
This Guide to New York Community Solar is designed to be a valuable resource for residents, businesses, and organizations across the state who are interested in participating in community solar programs or have questions about their current subscription.

Inside this guide, you'll find a comprehensive overview of what community solar means for New Yorkers, how it works within the state's energy framework, and the benefits it brings to participants and local communities. We also provide step-by-step instructions tailored to New York on how to join a community solar program, understand your utility bill savings with National Grid, RG&E or other local utilities, and explore additional reward programs available in the state.

The goals of this guide are twofold:

1. To help you make an informed decision about joining a New York community solar program
2. To give you a clear understanding of the ins and outs of community solar and how it supports New York's clean energy goals.

- Your Community Solar Team





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THE BASICS OF COMMUNITY SOLAR

Why Community Solar Is Transforming New York

New York is on a mission to lead the nation in clean energy adoption. With ambitious climate goals and a commitment to equity, the state has made renewable energy accessible to everyone—not just homeowners with sunny rooftops. Enter community solar, a program designed to democratize solar power.

Imagine supporting clean energy, lowering your electric bill, and strengthening your local economy—all without installing a single panel. That's the promise of community solar. In this comprehensive guide, we'll explore what community solar is, how it works, the benefits, enrollment steps, and its impact on jobs and communities. Whether you're a renter, homeowner, or business owner, this guide will show you why community solar is one of the smartest energy decisions you can make.

Community Solar Matters to New York

Community solar isn't just about saving money—it's about creating a more equitable energy system. Traditional rooftop solar excludes renters, condo owners, and those with shaded roofs. Community solar removes those barriers, making clean energy accessible to nearly everyone who pays an electric bill.

It also supports grid resilience, reduces reliance on fossil fuels, and helps New York meet its renewable energy targets. By participating, you're part of a statewide movement toward sustainability.





Community solar is a shared renewable energy model, which means that everyone can participate and everyone can benefit. All you need is an account with your utility and to pay your electric bil.

What Is Community Solar and How Does It Work in Practice?

Community solar is a shared renewable energy model that allows multiple subscribers to benefit from a single solar farm. Instead of installing panels on your property, you subscribe to a portion of a solar project in your area. The electricity generated by your share is credited to your utility bill through virtual net metering.

How It Works in Practice

- **Subscription:** You sign up with a provider like PureSky Energy.
- **Energy Generation:** The solar farm produces clean electricity.
- **Bill Credits:** Your share of production is converted into credits on your utility bill.
- **Savings:** You pay for those credits at a discounted rate—typically 10% less than their value.

For example, if your credits are worth \$100, you pay \$90 and keep the \$10 difference. These credits reduce your utility charges, so you'll see real savings without changing your utility provider.

Who Can Participate?

- **Homeowners:** You don't have to install solar panels on your property to benefit from solar energy savings.
- **Renters:** If you have a utility account and pay your electric bill, then you are eligible to participate.
- **Businesses:** Depending on your electricity usage, we can create a tailored subscription for your needs plus employee programs.
- **Multifamily buildings:** Sign up your properties to save 10% on the electricity you pay.
- **Non-profits and public sector:** Savings are available to any size of government facility or charitable organization.

No roof panels are needed—and there are typically little or no upfront costs with subscription models.

What Are the Benefits of Community Solar for New Yorkers?



Financial Savings

Most subscribers save \$100–\$300 per year, with no upfront investment. Larger households or businesses can save even more. PureSky Energy guarantees a discount on solar credits, so your savings are predictable and reliable.



Support Clean Energy in Your Community

Every kilowatt-hour generated by solar means less reliance on fossil fuels. By joining, you help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support New York’s renewable energy goals.



Accessible for Everyone – No Upfront Costs

Community solar is perfect for renters, condo owners, and anyone whose roof isn’t suitable for panels. If you pay an electric bill, you can join.



Flexible – Easy to Transfer or Cancel

No long-term contracts or cancellation fees with PureSky Energy. If you move within the same utility territory, your subscription moves with you.



How Much Can New Yorkers Really Save with Community Solar?

When people first hear about community solar, the big question is usually simple: Is it actually worth it? The short answer for many New Yorkers is yes—community solar can deliver real, meaningful savings on your electric bill, with none of the hassle of installing solar panels at home.

Real Savings, Month After Month

Your savings with community solar depend on two main factors: how much electricity you use and the size of your subscription. But here's what many customers can typically expect:

- Average households can save \$100–\$300 per year on their electricity bills.
- Small businesses often save \$500 or more annually, depending on energy use.
- With PureSky Energy, customers receive a guaranteed 10% discount on their solar credits—meaning you pay less for the energy you use without any guesswork.

Across New York, community solar discounts generally range from 5% to 20% compared to standard utility rates. Those savings show up directly as bill credits on your regular utility statement, making the benefits easy to see and track.

No Upfront Costs, No Equipment Required

One of the biggest advantages of community solar is what it doesn't require. There's no upfront investment, no rooftop construction, and no maintenance responsibilities. You don't need to own your home, and you don't need a sunny roof—or any roof at all.

That makes community solar one of the easiest ways to lower your energy costs, especially for renters, condo owners, or homeowners who can't install rooftop solar due to shading or structural limitations.

Who Benefits the Most?

Community solar is designed to be inclusive, and some households stand to benefit even more:

- Low- and moderate-income (LMI) households can see significant savings through programs that offer enhanced or fixed discounts.
- Programs like Solar for All are specifically designed to provide guaranteed benefits to income-eligible New Yorkers, helping ensure clean energy savings are accessible to everyone—not just homeowners with solar panels.

Savings That Add Up—Without Changing Your Life

Once you're subscribed, community solar works quietly in the background. You keep your existing utility, your service stays exactly the same, and you simply pay less for the electricity you're already using—all while supporting clean, local solar energy.

If lowering your energy bills without upfront costs sounds too good to pass up, community solar may be one of the smartest—and simplest—choices you can make.

Community Solar Options in New York

New York offers several program types to fit different needs:

NY-Sun Community Solar (Statewide) – Open Enrollment Subscription

Managed by NYSERDA, NY-Sun supports community solar development statewide and is the most common option, available to anyone who pays an electric bill. Guaranteed savings and flexible terms.

- Helps connect subscribers with community solar farms.
- Provides resources and guidance on choosing a community solar farm.
- Provides oversight of registered community solar providers.
- Anchor Tenant Shares: Larger shares for schools, municipalities, and businesses with high energy usage.

Statewide Solar for All

A flagship state program for income-eligible households, offering subscriptions to community solar farms.

- Offers targeted billing discounts.
- Applies to households below certain income thresholds.
- Projects participating in Solar for All sell generation differently to maximize benefits.

Local Community Programs

Some counties and municipalities implement solar programs that target their communities and offer savings combined with other assistance.

What Does PureSky Energy Offer in New York?

PureSky Energy has a large portfolio of community solar farms in New York that service both National Grid and RG&E utility areas.

We offer community solar subscriptions to both residential households and larger energy users such as businesses or municipalities.

In addition to the solar farms listed below, PureSky also participates in the Expanded Solar for All program. Those solar farms are only available to qualified households and access is through NYSERDA.

The remainder are available on our website. Simply follow the links below to learn more.

National Grid Community Solar Farms:

[Black Water »](#)

[Grand Island »](#)

[Clayton »](#)

[Heath Brook »](#)

[DeKalb 1 »](#)

[Quiet Meadows 1 »](#)

[DeKalb 2 »](#)

[Quiet Meadows 2 »](#)

[DeKalb 3 »](#)

[Sand Brook »](#)

[Gouverneur 1 »](#)

[Volney »](#)

[Gouverneur 2 »](#)

RG&E Community Solar Farms:

[Hume Wiscoy Solar 1 »](#)

[Mt. Morris Creek &](#)

[Hume Wiscoy Solar 2 »](#)

[Henderson 2 »](#)

[Mt. Morris Creek &](#)

[Mt. Morris Creek Nunda](#)

[Henderson 1 »](#)

[Solar »](#)

[View all New York Community Solar Farms »](#)



How to Choose a Community Solar Farm

1. Verify Provider Registration

Ensure the project sponsor is registered with the New York State Department of Public Service (DPS)—this helps avoid deceptive or exploitative offerings. PureSky Energy is registered with the DPS.

2. Compare Terms

Key things to review before signing:

- Estimated annual savings or discount rate
- Cancellation terms and fees
- Project status (active vs. construction)
- Whether credits appear on your utility bill or via separate billing.

3. Review Contracts Carefully

Make sure all important terms and disclosures are clearly explained, as required under state regulations.

4. Consider Moves & Portability

If you plan to move, check whether your subscription can stay with you (within the same utility area) or what happens if you relocate.

With PureSky Community Solar, if you move within the same utility area in New York, your community solar subscription can move with you. If you are moving to another utility area in New York, we can cover RG&E and National Grid utilities. In the future, we will also have community solar programs available in the NYSEG utility service area.

billing system, the customers receive a bill from their utility with solar credits, which reduces the amount they pay their utility. Then they pay the community solar company directly for community solar share.



How to Enroll

Switching to community solar is one of the easiest ways to reduce your energy costs while supporting clean, renewable power. The process is simple, quick, and designed to fit seamlessly into your routine. Here's how you can get started:

1. Check Your Eligibility

If you pay your own electric bill, chances are you're eligible to join a community solar program. There's no need for rooftop panels or complicated installations—community solar works for renters, homeowners, and businesses alike

2. Find a Solar Farm Near You

The next step is locating a solar farm in your area. PureSky can match you to a solar farm based on your utility and address.

3. Sign Up Online

Once you've selected a project, enrollment is entirely digital. Simply visit <https://pureskyenergy.com/> and fill out the form.

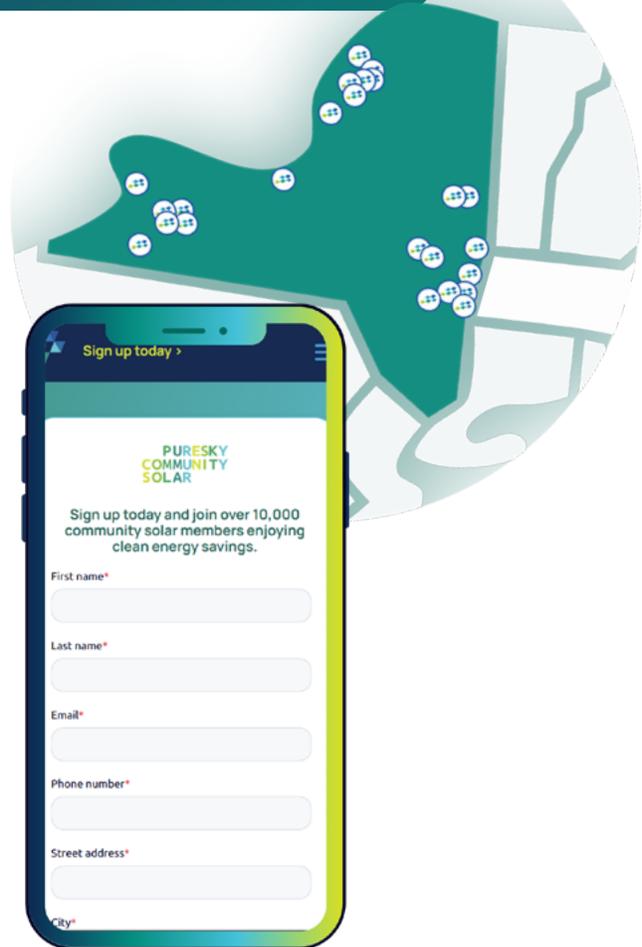
Provide your utility account information and complete the process with a secure electronic signature. No paperwork, no hassle—just a few clicks and you're on your way to clean energy savings.

4. Start Saving

After you enroll, solar credits will begin appearing on your electric bill within one to three billing cycles for active community solar farms. For community solar farms under construction, it will take one to three billing cycles on average after the solar farm goes online for the credits to appear.

These credits reduce your monthly energy costs, allowing you to save money while supporting renewable energy in your community.

You don't need to own your home or office to benefit from community solar. If you pay a utility bill, then you can participate.



Tips Before You Join

Ask yourself and the provider:

- What is the estimated annual savings and how is it calculated?
- Are any fees charged if I cancel, and what are the terms?
- Will credits show directly on my utility bill?
- Do I qualify for Solar for All or income-eligible incentives?

Watch out for offers that promise too-good-to-be-true savings—scrutinize contracts and choose verified providers. (Some online discussions note mixed experiences with billing and promotions.)

A Few Extra Basics on Community Solar

Is there a limit to how many subscribers can join a community solar program?

All solar farms have a limit on the number of subscribers they can take. The good news is community solar is growing across the nation and more farms are constantly being developed. If there isn't a community solar program available near you, we will keep your contact information and reach out once there's availability at an existing farm or a new one that will start operating in the near future.

Community solar is expanding rapidly and with that growth, the number of people who can benefit is also growing. Let us know that you're interested and we will put you on the top of our list for when space becomes available.

What happens to my subscription if I move?

Most solar subscriptions can move with you. If you are planning to move, let us know so we can check availability at your new location.

New home isn't eligible? While we never want that to happen, we make it easy to cancel and have no cancellation fees for households. We recommend cancelling as soon as possible. While we make it a policy to move as quickly as possible, it has been our experience that it can take some time for the utilities to update their records. If a new community solar program does open up in your new area, we will reach out and let you know in case you would like to join again.

Most solar subscriptions can move with you. Let us know if you are planning to move so we can check availability.

How is my subscription size determined and what if my usage changes?

Our community solar specialists analyze the annual electricity usage of your residence to determine the subscription size. **We understand needs change, so we'll adjust your subscription to maximize your savings at any time**

How do I cancel services?

We would of course prefer that you stay with the program, but we do make it easy for you to cancel. Simply call us or email us to cancel.



REAPING THE FINANCIAL BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY SOLAR

Understanding Community Solar Billing in New York

Once you enroll in a community solar program, you'll start seeing solar credits applied to your utility bill. These credits represent your share of the solar energy produced by the community solar farm and help lower your monthly electricity costs. In New York, there are two primary billing models for community solar customers: Dual Billing and Consolidated Billing.

Dual Billing: Two Separate Statements

Under the dual billing model, you receive two bills each month:

Your Utility Bill: This shows your regular electricity usage and charges from your utility company.

Your Solar Provider Bill: This includes the cost of the solar credits you receive. These credits reduce the amount you owe to your utility, but you pay your solar provider separately for the discounted energy.

While dual billing ensures transparency, it can feel inconvenient because you have to manage two payments each month.

Consolidated Billing: One Bill for Everything

To simplify the process, many providers—including PureSky Energy—have adopted consolidated billing. With this model, everything appears on a single utility bill. Here's how it works:

Your utility bill displays both your electricity usage and the solar credits applied to reduce your charges.

The cost of those credits is included in the same bill, so you make one payment to your utility company instead of two.

This streamlined approach eliminates extra paperwork and makes it easier for customers to track savings. PureSky Energy has moved all its community solar farms to this one-bill system, ensuring a more convenient experience for participants.

What You'll See on Your Bill

On a consolidated bill, solar credits typically appear as a line item labeled "Community Solar Credit" or similar. These credits reduce your total due, reflecting the clean energy your share of the solar farm generated. The amount of savings can vary month to month based on production and your energy usage, but the process is automatic—no extra steps required.

Why It Matters

Consolidated billing makes community solar participation simple and stress-free. By combining charges into one statement, customers enjoy transparency and convenience while continuing to support renewable energy.

One Bill Example

EXAMPLE BILL	
NATIONAL GRID	
July	
DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
Total Current Charges	\$110
CDG Credit - Current Month Transfer	\$100
CDG Credit - Applied to This Bill	-\$100
CDG Subscription Fee	\$90
AMOUNT DUE: \$100	

Two Bill Example

EXAMPLE BILL	
NATIONAL GRID	
July	
DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
Total Current Charges	\$110
CDG Credit - Applied to This Bill	-\$100
AMOUNT DUE: \$10	

EXAMPLE BILL	
PureSky Energy	
August	
DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
Community Solar Credits	\$100
Discount on Solar Credits	-\$10
AMOUNT DUE: \$90	

Other Commonly Asked Questions about Billing

How much money can I save on my utility bill?

We guarantee 10% savings on your community solar credits. The amount of money you will save on your utility bill depends on your size of the solar farm and your energy usage, but the average savings is typically around 10%. For instance, if your portion of the solar farm generates \$100 worth of electricity and your discount rate is 10%, you would pay us \$90 for the \$100 solar credit. You receive significant savings while supporting renewable energy.

How much does it cost to sign up?

There are no fees to sign up for Community Solar. This is a savings program designed to make clean energy accessible to everyone, allowing you to support renewable energy while saving money on your electricity bill.

Why isn't there a subscription or cancellation fee?

There isn't a subscription or cancellation fee for community solar because it is a savings program designed to provide clean energy to more people. States receive government funding to help increase their clean energy generation, and developers and solar farm owners benefit from this funding through tax breaks. As a result, subscribers receive a discount on their bills. The goal is to incentivize states and individuals to join community solar and contribute to America's carbon-zero goals. Community solar is a savings program that provides clean energy to more people.

Do I need to cancel services with my utility carrier?

You don't need to cancel or switch utility companies. We work directly with your utility provider to ensure that solar credits are applied to your bill. In most cases, these solar credits will appear directly on your utility bill, making the transition seamless and hassle-free for you.

You don't need to cancel or switch utility companies, we work with the utility company to provide solar credits.

What if I have a third-party supplier?

In most cases, we can cover your third-party supplier charges in your community solar subscription.

If the third-party supplier charges you on your electric bill, we can include those charges. But if you receive a separate bill from your third-party supplier, we cannot cover those charges.

Another note about third-party suppliers and the cost of your electricity. The cost of community solar credits remains stable over time, and you would not see a sudden cost increase on your bill. If you do see a sudden increase in your electricity costs, typically your rate increases with your supplier or your utility.

How does seasonality affect solar and the credits I receive?

Seasonality significantly impacts solar energy production and the credits you receive. Solar farms generate more electricity in the summer due to longer sunlight hours, resulting in higher savings during these months. Conversely, in the winter, solar production decreases with the shortened days, leading to slightly lower savings. However, any extra community solar credits accumulated in the summer are saved and used for the winter. It's like pre-paying for your electricity at a discounted rate in the summer to use during the winter months.

Don't worry, any extra community solar credits received in the summer will be saved and used for winter. Think of this as pre-paying for your electricity at a discounted rate in the summer to use over the winter.



CONTACT US

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RESOURCES

PureSky Energy Website

[What is Community Solar?](#)

[Find a Solar Farm Near You](#)

[Our Solar Farm Projects](#)

Additional Resources

[Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator | US EPA](#)

[SEIA | Resources](#)

[Coalition for Community Solar Access](#)

[NYSERDA | NY-Sun](#)