

UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY SOLAR

Why the Utility Benefits

- Helps respond to unmet customer demand for solar
- Demonstrates utility's responsible environmental stewardship
- Improves customer relationships
- Direct control and monitoring of solar resources
- Economies of scale and scope for centralized array

Why the Customer Benefits

- Access to solar for customers that cannot or may not want to install rooftop solar
- Economies of scale mean lower costs for solar, and potential savings/credits from retail rate
- Simplicity in billing

Ownership Options

- Customer-owned: customers organize to develop and manage project directly
- Utility-owned: utility owns and develops project, allows for customer buy-in
- Third party ownership: Third party develops project, utility enters into power purchase agreement that establishes the rate for generation, then allows for customers to buy-in

Pricing and Credits

- Capacity-based: Participants own, lease, or subscribe to a certain number of panels and then receive a bill credit proportioned to share of the generation from the project
- Energy-based: Participants pay a per-kilowatt-hour charge which typically begins as a premium over the retail rate and then eventually falls below the retail rate



Learn more about community solar programs at PublicPower.org/Topic/Solar or contact the American Public Power Association at Policy@PublicPower.org.