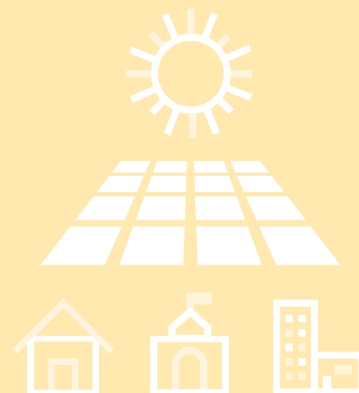


Community Solar Gardens

Get powered by solar without installing panels



Community solar gardens allow you to take advantage of solar energy without having to install your own system.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Solar is installed

Solar panels are installed in sunny locations to produce renewable electricity.

2. You subscribe

You pay a fee to the community solar operator. You can subscribe to enough solar to cover up to 120% of your annual electricity usage.

3. You're credited on your utility bill

Your utility bill is credited with the electricity created by your share of the solar garden.

It's important to understand the possible costs, commitment, and benefits of your subscription before you sign up.

If there are multiple community solar gardens available in the electric service territory where you live, find out which one offers the best plan for you:

- What is the term of the contract; are there any exit or late fees?
- How many kilowatts do you need to subscribe to to cover your monthly usage?
- Will the savings be the same each month or will they vary? How will this impact your overall electric bill?
- How will the fees change over time?
- Is the solar garden in development or in service? When will you start receiving invoices and credits?

WHERE TO FIND A COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN

Xcel Energy electricity customers

Melissa Hortman Community Solar Garden Program

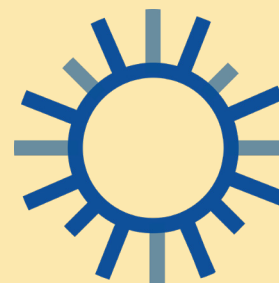
- **LMI-Accessible Community Solar Gardens**

Explore projects owned by private solar developers and approved by the MN Department of Commerce. Subscribers receive credits on their Xcel Energy bill.

Though anyone can subscribe, LMI households receive priority and are guaranteed savings on their electric bill.

- **Xcel's Solar*Rewards Community**

Projects offered by private developers and administered by Xcel Energy, based on garden availability.



Low- and Moderate-Income (LMI)

LMI includes households making 150% or below the area median income.

Example: In 2025, a 4-person household in Hennepin County with a total income at or below \$198,600 would be considered LMI.

Other Minnesota utility customers

Community solar gardens outside of Xcel electrical territory are owned and operated by the local electric utility, which offers subscriptions to their customers. Each utility sets its own rules for its gardens, including bill credit rates and subscription costs. Contact your utility to find out if they offer a community solar garden.



FIND COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDENS NEAR YOU

Find programs and more:

z.umn.edu/CSG123

