# Community Solar Frequently Asked Questions

# What is Community Solar?

A community solar project is a single site solar installation that is shared by multiple consumers (termed "subscribers"). Each subscriber receives credits for their share of the electricity generated by their community solar installation (termed "net metering credits"). These net metering credits reduce the amount of electricity billed to the subscriber's account each month to yield cost savings. With community solar, subscribers can reduce their monthly bills with solar without installing or maintaining any equipment on their property.

# What is the CS<sup>2</sup> Residential and Small Commercial Program?

The CS<sup>2</sup> Program is a program developed by the north shore communities of Deerfield, Glencoe, Highland Park, Lake Bluff, Lake Forest, Northbrook and Skokie to provide a simple and effective way for residents to support renewable energy development in northern Illinois while reducing the cost of electricity.

# What is the Illinois Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA)?

FEJA refers to legislation passed in 2016. FEJA made many changes to how energy policy works in Illinois, including enabling community solar. FEJA also includes new state administered programs called the *Adjustable Block Program* and *Solar for All* that help support community solar development, however community solar projects are not obligated to participate in these state programs.

### How does Community Solar work?

Community solar projects generate electricity, and that power is delivered into the electric grid of the utility. Consumers can sign up ("subscribe") to a community solar project and receive monthly net metering credits based on the size of their subscription. "). These net metering credits reduce the amount of electricity charged to the subscriber's account each month to yield cost savings.

# What are the benefits of Community Solar?

It is an easy way to support clean energy generation located within Illinois. Supporting these types of projects helps reduce the dependence on fossil fuels and support clean energy generation. In addition, you do not have to invest in a solar asset on your rooftop, which may not be right for everybody. You will receive a net metering credit on your monthly ComEd electric utility bill for your share of the generation created by these projects. The CS<sup>2</sup> Program does not have upfront costs, will not lock you into a long-term contract, and will provide savings if the subscriber follows a few simple steps.

### How does the billing work?

The CS<sup>2</sup> Program uses a two-stage subscription billing process.

First, after successfully completing the enrollment process, you will receive the net metering credits on your monthly ComEd electric utility bill for your share of the generation created by your Community Solar project under the utility's default electricity supply tariff service. The invoice examples below show you how this works.

				Issued	7/21/20 Acco	unt # 1234567890	
For Questions, Support, a	I.800.334.766I)	Tota	I Amount Due by	8/5/20	\$221.22		
		.800.955.8237) 572.5789 (TTY) us/session/new	t			the value of your share nerated by your commun	
METER INFORMATION			5	olar farm (net	metering ci	euitsj	
Read Dates Meter Number   6/23-7/21 111111111	<u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>	ting Type Pr tal kWh 37498	Actual	Present 39396 Actual	Difference Multip 1898 x 1		
RENEWABLE COMMUNIT	Y SUPPLY DETAIL	S This is where	e the commur	ity solar net metering cr	edits appear on you	r ComEd statement.	
Generation Period	Project Name	Phone Numbe	er	Generation kWh	Rate	Total	
6/1 - 7/1 Community S	olar Project	312.000.123	4	252.21	-0.05668	-\$14.30	
Residential - Single 6/23/20 - 7/21/	20 (29 Days)	\$118.05	Total Amo			\$221.22	
Electricity Supply Charge Transmission Services Charge Purchased Electricity Adjustment Renewable Community Supply Credit	1,898 kWh X 0.05168 1,898 kWh X 0.01305 1,898 kWh X 0.03586 1,898 kWh X 0.00122 1,898 kWh X 0.00122 1,898 kWh X 0.00189 1,898 kWh X 0.00132	\$112.00 \$98.09 \$24.77 \$9.49 \$14.30 \$86.39 \$11.43 \$4.58 \$68.06 \$2.32 \$16.78 \$0.72 \$3.59 \$3.70 \$2.51	cor mo bet sup mo Coo Coo Coo Coo Coo Coo Coo LCC Coo E LL The hell cor	ICE TO COMPARE: Th npare is 6.473 cents per thtly purchased electrici ween +\$0.005 and -\$0.0 piler offers visit https:// re information on ComE mEd.com/UnderstandBil MED COVID-19 RESP mEd.com/Coronavirus NT GET SCAMMED: V irmation about your Com paid cash cards. Learn i VS TO PAY: Looking for mEd.com/PAY INOIS COMMERCE CC consumer Services Di o tesotve disputes with 0 tact ComEd before seel at due balances are subj	kWh. This price do ty adjustment factor 05 per kWh. For m www.pluginillinois.org d bill line items go to II. ONSE: For informat Ve will never ask for Ed account or dem more: ComEd.com/S or ways to pay your to DMMISSION CONS vision is available at ComEd. However, cu cing assistance from	es not include a that may range ore information and gritedrate.aspx. For ion, visit personal and payment using ScamAlert bill? Visit UMER DIVISION: 800-524-0795 to istomers should	
State Tax		\$6.26					
Service Period Total		\$221.22	1.	ComEd analia	vour not m	netering credit	

Then, after you have received you net metering credits from ComEd, MC Squared Energy Services, LLC. will bill you for 80% of the net metering credits – leaving you with 20% of all net metering credits. Your monthly bill from MC Squared Energy Services, LLC will also report how your participation impacts the environment each month.



### Is Community Solar available now?

Most community solar projects in Illinois are still under development and expected to be placed into operation in late 2020 through 2022.

# When will the CS<sup>2</sup> Program start?

The CS<sup>2</sup> Program was launched in October 2020. North Shore residents can sign up now to reserve space on one of the community solar projects participating in the CS<sup>2</sup> Program. Once community solar projects are completed, residents on the reservation list will be informed that they can enroll in a subscription on a fist come-first served basis. There is no cost to place your name on the reservation list, and you can remove your name at any time.

What do you mean that solar subscriptions will be first come-first served basis?

Each community solar project can support approximately 300 residential and small commercial accounts. Residents on the waitlist will be contacted as new community solar subscription opportunities become available through mc<sup>2</sup> as subscription agent for the project developer.

### Do I Need to Receive Electricity Supply Service from ComEd?

Yes, accounts must receive electricity supply from ComEd or Ameren utility to be eligible for the CS<sup>2</sup> Program. If accounts are currently served by a retail energy supplier, the CS<sup>2</sup> Program staff can assist you in enrolling your accounts with their local electric utility on the default supply rate by the time their assigned solar farm is placed in service to avoid cancellation fees.

### What are Renewable Energy Credits?

Renewable Energy Credits (REC's) are attributes generated by Community Solar projects. Under the Illinois Shines program, Community Solar owners sell the RECs generated from our Community Solar farms to Illinois utilities to help the state of Illinois reach required renewable energy targets set by The Illinois Renewable Portfolio Standard.

### What is Illinois Shines?

Illinois Shines, or the Adjustable Block Program, is a state-administered program for new solar PV systems. You can learn more about Illinois Shines by reading <u>this brochure.</u>