



Community Solar

What is Illinois Solar for All?

Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) is a state program that brings the benefits of solar energy to income-eligible households, non-profit organizations, and public facilities.

The State of Illinois offers this program to meet its renewable energy goals and to bring the expansion of solar energy to income-eligible and environmental justice communities. The program reduces the impact of climate change in communities and across the state.

What is community solar?

Illinois Solar for All: Community Solar lets income-eligible homeowners and renters benefit from solar savings without having to install solar panels on their property. Non-profit organizations and public facilities can also participate. Here's how it works:

- Solar companies, approved by ILSFA, build large solar arrays.
- Residents subscribe at no or low cost to a solar array installed in the territory of their electric utility.
- Subscribers earn solar credits on their electricity bill based on their share of the electricity generated by the solar array.
- ILSFA participants are guaranteed savings. How the credits appear on your bill may vary depending on your electric utility.

Who can participate?

- Households with income that is 80% or less of the Area Median Income.
- A single non-profit or public facility can serve as an "anchor subscriber" and receive the same savings as low-income households. Anchor subscribers have a larger portion of the

solar project, but not more than 40%. They may also host the community solar project on their property, but this is not required.

Interested participants will have their income eligibility verified by the solar company or the Program Administrator. If a resident is not eligible for ILSFA, the Illinois Shines program may be an option. Learn more at IllinoisShines.com.

What are my options to participate?

Below are the most common subscription options that community solar providers may offer; however, options may vary by provider.

Fixed

You pay a fixed amount per kWh of electricity generated by your subscription. For example, you pay \$0.03 kWh and receive a \$0.06 per kWh hour bill credit. Your rate may include an annual escalation rate. This subscription option agreement must have no upfront costs and meet minimum savings requirements.

Percent Savings

This option refers to a guaranteed percent savings, even if your cost of energy changes. For example, a 50% guaranteed savings might refer to a cost of \$0.03 per kWh for community solar generation, when you receive \$0.06 per kWh of credits on your bill. If the bill credits increase to \$0.08 per kWh, your community solar fee increases to \$0.04 per kWh. If the bill credit rate decreases, then the community solar subscription rate you have decreases. This subscription option agreement must have no upfront costs and meet minimum savings requirements.

As another example, if the subscription fee is 50% of the bill credits, and the customer receives \$50 of community solar bill credits in a billing period, their community solar subscription fee would be \$25.

Panel Lease

Subscribers lease panels, and the energy produced from them is credited to their electricity bill. Your bill credits will change seasonally as system production changes. The lease agreement must have no upfront costs and meet minimum savings requirements over the course of a year.

How much can I save with ILSFA?

ILSFA ensures that all qualified participants see savings with their community solar subscription. Participants will receive credits on their electric utility bill for their share of the energy produced by the community solar system.

Some solar companies offer no-cost subscriptions, and other companies offer subscriptions with a monthly fee.

Your subscription costs and fees will be no more than half the value of your share of the energy produced by the community solar system. The following page demonstrates how a community solar subscription can save you money on your monthly bills.

If your monthly credits are greater than your total electricity supply bill, those credits may roll over to the next month or may be applied to other portions of your electric bill. Check with your utility or electricity supplier for specific rules in your area.



Community Solar

In this example, the ILSFA participant would save \$30 a month.

Electricity Bill Before Solar

Electricity Bill With Solar

Supply	\$80
800kWh x \$0.10	
Delivery	\$45
Fees	\$8
Total	\$133

Supply	800kWh x \$0.10	\$80
Community Solar Credit	600kWh x \$0.10	-\$60
Total supply		\$20
Monthly Subscription Cost*		\$30
Delivery		\$45
Fees		\$8
Total		\$103

Your monthly solar subscription fee can be no more than 50% of your community solar credit. Some solar providers offer no-cost subscriptions. You can use the standard disclosure forms from approved solar companies to compare community solar offers. The savings example is based on average electricity supply rates. Individual savings will vary. *This may be a separate bill from the community solar provider.

How does ILSFA ensure safe and fair business practices?

ILSFA vets all solar companies that participate in the program. The companies are called Approved Vendors or Approved Vendor Designees. Approved Vendors have the necessary technical skills and follow stringent requirements to ensure a transparent, safe, and positive experience for every participant. They provide protections to all participants, including:

No upfront costs

Subscribers do not have upfront costs or fees to participate in Community Solar, regardless of how they choose to subscribe.**

Savings

Savings will vary based on the community solar project, the subscription option, and your share of the project. ILSFA ensures savings by requiring Approved Vendors to set

your costs to be no more than half the value you receive from the energy generated from your share. That can mean significant savings.

Standard disclosure forms

Approved Vendors are required to present and have you sign a standard disclosure form before you sign a contract. These disclosure forms provide important details, such as how much you will pay, how much you are expected to save, and what to do to renew or end your subscription.

Transferring your subscription

If you move and are still within the same electric utility territory, you have the right to keep your subscription or transfer it to another subscriber if they live in the same electric utility territory. If you move out of the electric utility territory, your subscription will be terminated. Some providers may require advance notice and/or a penalty or fee may apply.

Complaints

If you have a complaint related to the subscription or the program, you can first try to resolve the problem with your Approved Vendor. If you can't agree on how to solve the problem, please contact the Program Administrator at info@IllinoisSFA.com or 1-888-970-ISFA (English or Spanish). If you have been subject to fraudulent or deceptive sales practices, the Illinois Attorney General's office may be able to help: illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/File-A-Complaint.

How is the community involved?

Community members have a voice in the development of ILSFA community solar projects. Approved Vendors must engage the local community on project locations and how subscribers can participate. This helps to ensure that communities see greater benefits and play an important role in the development process.

Learn more or get started with Illinois Solar for All:

IllinoisSFA.com
1-888-970-ISFA (4732)
info@IllinoisSFA.com

**Solar companies may offer community solar projects that include energy sovereignty, where an eligible subscriber can take an ownership stake. These projects may have limited upfront costs.

The Illinois Solar for All program is administered by Elevate Energy (Elevate) on behalf of the Illinois Power Agency, an independent state government agency.