

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT COMMUNITY SOLAR SUBSCRIPTION PLANS**

### **How does subscribing to a community solar project work?**

Subscribers are allocated a percentage of the solar production based on their usage history. Each month, electricity generated from the project offsets energy used by the subscriber and is purchased at a 10% discount. If more is generated than used, the subscriber 'banks' the excess to be used during months when the opposite occurs. The goal is to cover most of your electricity load.

**All of the Community Solar Companies listed on this flyer offer 10% savings, so how should I choose a Community Solar Project?** Contact the companies and see which project is likely to be ready to 'go live' soon. You are eligible for any Community Solar project anywhere in NYSEG Zone C\*. In fact, some projects are open to all who live in any NYSEG utility zone. Call and learn what is available for you.

### **What if I'm already signed up with a third party ESCO (Energy Supply Company) for my electricity?**

Your relationship with your ESCO remains the same. The credits applied to your bill through your participation in a Community Solar program simply offset the electricity costs that appear on your NYSEG bill. If your bill is "consolidated" (meaning that your supply costs through your ESCO appear on your NYSEG bill), your Community Solar credits can offset these costs as well. If your bill is not consolidated, you can request that your ESCO consolidate your bill before the solar project you are participating in "goes live." Otherwise, you can still participate in the Community Solar project, but your supply costs will not be offset. You'll continue to pay them to your ESCO directly, without a discount, through your Community Solar program.

**What if I already have solar panels on my property?** Unfortunately, at this time, if your panels are grid connected, you are not eligible to enroll in a Community Solar project. If you require more electricity than your panels produce, consider enrolling with a 100% renewable ESCO to meet the remainder of your needs. [Call 607-342-3159 and ask for a chart of 100% Renewable ESCOs to be sent to you.]

### **Will I still be served by NYSEG?**

Yes. Your current electric service will not be interrupted and you will still receive your electricity from NYSEG, as you do now.

### **How long must I wait to get my electricity supplied by the solar company after I enroll?**

It depends on the status of the Community Solar projects. If a project is built and 'live' (connected to the grid) and not yet filled with subscribers, it will take just a month or two to see the credits appear on your NYSEG bill. Your solar company can estimate your wait time.

### **How will the billing work?**

You will see solar credits on your NYSEG bill and subsequently be invoiced by the Community Solar company for 90% of the value of the credits.

### **What happens if my situation changes such as needing more or less electricity or wanting to cancel for any reason?**

Contact your Community Solar company to make the change as soon as you can, as it may take a few months to make the necessary adjustment.

### **Could I save even more money by purchasing, rather than subscribing?**

Yes, there are Community Solar projects that offer solar panels for you to purchase. Call Renovus Solar at 607-277-1777 or visit [www.renovussolar.com](http://www.renovussolar.com).

**\*Utility Zones:** See: [www.tinyurl.com/NYSloadzones](http://www.tinyurl.com/NYSloadzones) for specific counties and municipalities in Zone C.

## **Steering Clear of Scams and Confusion**

### **Please watch for electricity scams:**

ESCO (Energy Supply Company) reps are not necessarily honest.

If you receive a phone call or a door-to-door sale:

- Do not show your NYSEG bill.

- Do not give out your electricity account number.

- Know that most electricity ESCOs supply the 'traditional grid-mix with just 20% or less renewable energy).

- Know that a few provide 100% renewable electricity for nearly the same price.

To find low cost 100% renewable electricity ESCOs, go to [www.SolarTompkins.org](http://www.SolarTompkins.org) under the Solar and Renewable tab and see the options that are updated monthly.

### **Flyers, Calls, FB posts, oh my!**

Which community solar farm to join? How do the companies differ?

- The amount of discount offered off the utility rate. (5% vs.10%)

- The contract term (1 year to 25 years or more)

- Whether or not a credit score check is required

- Whether or not one of their community solar farms is available now

- The type of billing accepted (auto-pay via checking account or credit card or paper billing)

- Whether the company is solely a marketer, or is also manager and/or developer

To learn details about the best Solar Farm opportunities, go to [www.SolarTompkins.org](http://www.SolarTompkins.org) under the Solar and Renewables tab.

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# YOUR WAY TO SMART HOME ENERGY SAVINGS!



## GET A **FREE** PROFESSIONAL HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENT AND QUALIFY FOR :

1. **EMPOWER NEW YORK**– Provides incentives For families making below 60% of the state median income (\$57,564 for a family of 4). This covers **100%** of the cost of qualified Energy Efficiency Improvements, **Up to \$7000**, such as insulation, air sealing, new refrigerator and lighting
2. **WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**– Provides Additional Energy Improvements such as heating units at no cost
3. **ASSISTED HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR**– For families making below 80% of the state median income (\$73,568 for a family of 4) This covers 50% of Additional Energy Improvements such as additional insulation and a heating system up to \$4000.

## GET RENEWABLE HEAT INSTALLED FOR ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES

Renewable Heat NY incentives are available toward the installed costs of high-efficiency, low emission wood heating systems for customers not currently using natural gas

- **WOOD PELLET STOVES**– Get \$1500 - \$2500
- **WOOD PELLET BOILERS**– Get up to \$41,000
- **CORD WOOD BOILER**– Get up to \$12,000
- **AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP**– Get up to \$1000/12,000 BTU - Provides heating AND cooling
- **GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMP**– Get up to \$15,000/ \$500,000 - Provides Heating AND cooling



## GET COMMUNITY SOLAR– GET YOUR SOLAR FROM A LOCAL SOLAR FARM!

1. **SOLAR FOR ALL**– Save \$10 avg/mo. Eligible households can subscribe to community solar for free. Income eligibility based on families making below 60% state median income (\$55,176 for a family of 4).
2. **SUBSCRIPTION SOLAR**– Get 5-10% off the current electric rate
3. **PURCHASE**– Get solar energy credited to your utility bill monthly from panels you purchase for your own property or on a community solar farm. Get tax credits and rebates that cover up to 60% of the cost-or more.

For questions or if you would like a **FREE** Home Energy Assessment, Contact one of our Community Energy Advisers:

**Broome, Tioga, Chemung, Chenango Counties:** Eileen Hanrahan t. 607.366.0833 eeh85@cornell.edu

**Delaware County:** Valerie Dudley t. 607.865.6531 vsd22@cornell.edu

**Schuyler, Steuben Counties:** Phil Cherry t.607.535.7161 pc526@cornell.edu

**Tompkins County:** Karim Beers t. 607.272.2292 kwb6@cornell.edu



Cornell Cooperative Extension Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans and Individuals with Disabilities and that provides equal program and employment opportunities.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE PROGRAMS AT [WWW.SMARTENERGYCHOICES.ORG](http://WWW.SMARTENERGYCHOICES.ORG)

## Subscription Community Solar in NYSEG Utility Zone C

Community Solar is open to electric utility customers who own or rent their dwellings.

Community Solar Company	Delaware River Solar (DRS)	Nexamp
Main Office	Callicoon, NY	Boston, MA
Website	<a href="https://www.delawareriversolar.com/">https://www.delawareriversolar.com/</a>	<a href="https://www.nexamp.com/">https://www.nexamp.com/</a>
Discount from NYSEG rates	10%	10%
Phone	845-414-3491	800-945-5124
Contract	One year Automatic renewal Free cancellation anytime	Up to 25 years. No cost to sign up. No cancellation penalty. Available to all. No minimum credit requirement.
Current Status	Now enrolling for projects completing in 2019	Now enrolling any NYSEG customers for solar farms located in Lansing and Erin NY. Expecting the next solar farm to be completed this fall and online early 2020.
Additional Information	<p>NYSEG Zone C customers are eligible to enroll in the Freeville project. NYSEG customers in any zone are eligible to enroll in the Owego project. Customers are allocated to the first available project for which they are eligible.</p> <p>DRS offers a \$50 grocery card to anyone who signs up through the GreenStar Coop or mentions the coop (member or not). They are also assisting GreenStar with their capital project and make a donation to the fund for each person signing up who mentions GreenStar. In addition, DRS offers other incentives which change on a monthly basis.</p>	<p>Any NYSEG customers are eligible for the Lansing and Erin farms. These will be Nexamp's 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> projects in the NYSEG area, the first of which is piloting a sheep-grazing program that supports local farmers and introduces an environmentally friendly landscaping alternative to gas-powered landscaping equipment.</p> <p>Please call 800-945-5124 to see if Nexamp is offering any additional promotions at this time.</p>

For more information, contact Gerri Wiley 607-342-3159 [gerriwiley@yahoo.com](mailto:gerriwiley@yahoo.com)

November 5, 2019

**Disclaimer:** This listing features Community Solar companies that offer the best available savings and about which we have no specific concerns. This is not a complete list of all available Community Solar companies. While good-faith efforts are made to keep this list up-to-date and accurate, neither Gerri Wiley nor Solar Tompkins nor any of its representatives assert that it is correct after the time of publication. Potential customers are responsible for making inquiries and verifying contract terms before choosing a community solar plan.



## ESCOs Offering 100% Renewable Electricity in UTILITY LOAD ZONE C\*\* for NYSEG's Residential Customers

Electricity Supply Company	Phone #	Website	Energy source	Location of energy source	Length of plan	Type of plan	Cancellation Fee	Cents per kWh on 11-5-19	Comments
DEFAULT NYSEG	800-572-1111	<a href="http://www.nyseg.com">www.nyseg.com</a>	40% gas 36% nuke 14% hydro 3% coal 3% wind	Regional	0 Month	Variable	None	3.97 cents	Less than 18% of NYSEG's plan is renewable energy as of 2017. The trend has been an increasingly fossil and nuclear-based fuel mix.
Energy Coop of America (based in NYS)	800-422-1475	<a href="http://www.ecamerica.org">www.ecamerica.org</a>	46% biogas 27% hydro 27% wind	New York State	0 Month	Variable	None	4.71 cents	Leave your phone # and your call will be returned. Although it is a variable rate, ECA is a co-op, based in NYS and provides local 100% renewable energy at a good rate if you don't need a fixed plan. <b>Be sure to tell them you want the 100% renewable plan, not their fossil plan.</b>
Clearview Energy	800-746-4702 8:30 - 5:30 M-F	<a href="http://www.clearviewenergy.com">www.clearviewenergy.com</a>	100% hydro	New York State	12 Month	Fixed	\$50	5.19 cents online; 5.39 cents by phone (plus \$4.50 monthly base fee by phone)	ClearGreenGuarantee12 is Clearview's lowest cost, fixed rate plan - <b>available only via their website.</b> There is a higher kWh rate plus a monthly fee if you sign up by phone. Also <b>NO MONTHLY FEE</b> if you sign up online. Thus, there are two good reasons to <b>sign up via the website!</b>

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\* Disclaimer: This listing features ESCOs that Gerri Wiley considers reasonable cost/kWh, and which have a track record of integrity during the past 2+ years of analysis. This is not a complete list of all available ESCOs. While good-faith efforts are made to keep this list up-to-date and accurate, neither Gerri Wiley nor Solar Tompkins nor any of its representatives assert that it is correct after the time of publication. It is intended as an educational resource and people should make their own inquiries and verify current rates before making a choice for electricity supplier.

\*\* Load Zone C: [www.nyseg.com/SuppliersAndPartners/electricityescos/isomaps/default.html](http://www.nyseg.com/SuppliersAndPartners/electricityescos/isomaps/default.html)

Contact Gerri Wiley at 607-342-3159 [gerriwiley@yahoo.com](mailto:gerriwiley@yahoo.com) for more information.