

How to Participate in the Oregon Community Solar Program

THE OREGON COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM gives customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power and Idaho Power a new way to go solar. Customers can subscribe to a community solar project—such as a large solar system on a business, school or church—and receive a credit on their monthly utility bill for the electricity from their portion of the project.

Community solar projects are developed by project managers who develop, maintain and operate them. All project managers must be registered with the Oregon Community Solar Program and adhere to the program's code of conduct. Only registered project managers can manage community solar projects, and all community solar projects must be pre-certified by the Oregon Public Utility Commission.

How to Find and Choose a Community Solar Project

All pre-certified community solar projects are listed on the program website, www.oregoncsp.org. To view active projects, visit the Project Finder page under the Project dropdown of the main menu.

The Project Finder page includes information about each project, including the project manager, location, utility, size, expected date that the project will begin producing energy, subscription options, and pricing options. Some projects will also receive special designations that are listed on the Project Finder, either for committing to provide greater-than-required benefits to low-income customers, for making productive use of a brownfield site, for promoting dual use on farmland, or for supporting minority- or women-owned businesses.

To learn more about the pricing offered by a specific project, click on the project title in the Project Finder page to view more information about the project and subscription pricing in a standardized template. Keep in mind that you must subscribe to a project in the same territory as your electric utility, but the project doesn't need to be near your home or business.



WHEN COMPARING COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECTS, it is important to fully understand the terms of participation. Whether you learn about a project through the Project Finder on the website or by speaking with a Project Manager, some questions you should be sure to know the answers to are:

- What is the price and structure of the subscription?
- Does pricing change over time?
- Will payment be collected up front, on a monthly basis or some combination of both?
- Will payments be collected through your electricity bills or through a separate bill?
- What are the terms of the subscription agreement?
- Are there penalties or fees for early termination, late payment or transferring the subscription?
- What happens at the end of my contract?



How to Sign Up for a Community Solar Project

Once you select a community solar project that meets your needs, you should reach out to the project manager to sign up. To participate, you must sign a contract with the project manager that includes the cost and terms of your subscription. Along with your contract, you will receive a checklist that summarizes the key terms of the contract, and contracts with residential customers will follow a standard program-approved template. All community solar participation options require at least a ten-year agreement.

You may not subscribe to more community solar generation than you use in a year. To avoid oversubscribing, we recommend limiting your subscription to 80%-90% of the energy you used in the past few years. You can understand your past consumption by visiting your electric utility's customer portal, and a subscription sizing tool is available on the Participant Resources page of the program website at www.oregoncsp.org to help you understand how to size your subscription. Your project manager will also be able to help you size a solar subscription that is in line with your past consumption.

Once you've signed a contract and the project starts generating energy, you will begin to receive bill credits on your monthly utility bill. Note that there may be a delay before you start to see these charges and credits on your bill, particularly if you sign up for a community solar project before it becomes operational.



If you are income-qualified, the Community Solar Program Low-Income Facilitator can help match you with a project. You can learn about this service by emailing the Oregon Community Solar Program at info@oregoncsp.org or by calling 1-800-481-0510.

Addressing Issues

If you need to make a change to your subscription or if something appears to be wrong, such as your charges or credits not appearing correctly on your utility bill, your first point of contact should be your project manager. If your project manager cannot resolve your issue, or if you need support in addressing your concerns, the Oregon Community Solar Program Administration team is available to help, and can be contacted at 1-800-481-0510 or via email at info@oregoncsp.org.

1

Select a community solar project that meets your needs



2

Sign an agreement with the project manager



3

Pay your subscription fees and get bill credits back for your project's solar energy

