

# HOW DO WE MAKE SOLAR ACCESSIBLE?

Solar energy is now one of the lowest-cost energy solutions on the market and 84% of New Mexicans want solar. The trouble is, in New Mexico, the Investor-Owned-Utilities only provide 2% solar – despite the fact that our state is 2nd in the nation for solar capacity.



## COMMUNITY SOLAR IS OUR ANSWER!



**Community Solar is the answer to give New Mexico homeowners, renters, and businesses access to low cost, clean solar energy.**

Many homes and businesses are not suited to have solar on their roofs, and many cannot access financing for their own solar. Community Solar is the answer! Investor-Owned-Utilities, PNM and EPE, have consistently opposed legislation to allow the people an opportunity for energy democracy through Community Solar. Right now, Community Solar is illegal. With your help we are going to change that!

**WHAT IS COMMUNITY SOLAR?** A Community Solar Project, sometimes referred to as a solar garden, is a solar power-plant whose electricity is shared by more than one household.

Community members are able to purchase panels from the solar garden at a fixed cost and the energy produced is credited to local resident's electricity bill. Individuals and businesses receive a bill credit as if the panels were on their own roof using "virtual net metering".

**ACCESSIBILITY & AFFORDABILITY:** It is a great option for renters or homeowners who are unable to install solar panels on their roofs. Community Solar is affordable because of the economies of scale. Additionally, Community Solar is a hedge against continually rising utility rates.

Unlike electricity generated by coal and other fossil fuels, solar power does not create toxic air pollution, does not harm human health, does not poison land and water, and does not contribute to climate change. Plus, Community Solar creates family-supporting jobs.

# SOL FOR ALL!

To date, New Mexico's **INVESTOR OWNED UTILITY (IOU) MONOPOLIES**, PNM and El Paso Electric, have blocked multiple attempts by renewable energy advocates to pass Community Solar legislation. Yet recently, they've been making proposals for **UTILITY-OWNED Community Solar**.

Why the sudden change of heart? We wish we could say they've awakened to the need for climate action & economic justice, but actually, they are attempting to expand their monopoly control, eliminate competition, and corner the renewable energy market while increasing their profits.



**HELP US PASS COMMUNITY SOLAR LEGISLATION THAT SERVES OUR COMMUNITIES & MAKES THE COST-SAVING BENEFITS OF SOLAR AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE**

**Programs should be designed to benefit New Mexicans, not the 1% out-of-state shareholders.** UTILITY-OWNED Community Solar would eliminate positive market forces that act to ensure the best deal for the People, including quality and price, and would prevent the development of a robust and competitive renewable energy market in NM.

***New Energy Economy is currently winning a legal battle to stop the utilities from requiring that they own Community Solar in NM.***

***Nobody should have exclusive ownership of the power of the sun!***

**Higher Electricity Prices** result where monopoly IOU domination of Community Solar is allowed to exist.

Without competition, utilities charge a premium price (with a guaranteed nearly 10% profit on top of their costs) rather than passing savings of low-cost solar energy on to customers.

**New Energy Economy and our allies will be championing legislation during the 2019 New Mexico Legislative Session to win Community Solar and advance Energy Democracy. Connect! and join in this people's struggle for our besieged planet.**