

SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY SOLAR ACT - SB84 & HB106

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WHAT IS COMMUNITY SOLAR? Local community solar allows multiple participants to share the cost-saving benefits of a single large-scale solar array. It is a simple tool that provides everyone, regardless of income or property ownership, the opportunity to choose local, reliable, and cost-effective clean energy. 19 states have already passed laws enabling community solar programs.

Community members - individuals and businesses - are able to purchase a subscription for solar energy from a community solar facility. The energy produced is then credited to the subscriber's electricity bill. They receive a bill credit for the energy produced by their solar subscription.

ACCESSIBILITY & AFFORDABILITY: Community Solar is a great option for renters or homeowners who are unable to install solar panels on their roofs. Community Solar is affordable and a hedge against continually rising utility rates.

The Community Solar Act will help lower and stabilize electricity bills through affordable solar energy while breaking open a renewable energy economy that creates family-supporting jobs.

HOW WILL COMMUNITY SOLAR WORK IN NEW MEXICO?

With this law, Native American tribes and organizations, municipalities, counties, for-profit and nonprofit entities, including, importantly, low-income service organizations, will be authorized to transact business in New Mexico to construct, own and operate community solar generation facilities, or contract with others to do so.

The utility companies will distribute the electricity produced by the community solar facilities. Utility companies will use and maintain their grid systems to transfer the electricity produced by solar energy to our homes and business. Businesses, non-profit organizations (especially low-income housing providers or other low-income advocacy organizations), and pueblos, tribes, and other sovereign nations can be the subscriber organizations.

Individuals and organizations can subscribe to a community solar facility, leveraging up to 120% of their average annual electric power

consumption, and will get a bill credit for their solar energy subscription.

The Public Regulation Commission will adopt regulations implementing the Community Solar Act and establish a voluntary option of accessing solar energy by a community solar facility through a subscription process in accordance with standard rules.

The Public Regulation Commission will develop uniformity of standards, appropriate, but not oppressive regulations and more.

Additionally, and importantly, Energy Minerals Natural Resource Dept. (EMNRD) will evaluate the community solar program for several years to determine if there has been sufficient low-income access; gauge geographic diversity of projects across both urban and rural areas of the state; evaluate if there has been reasonable and timely interconnection with the utility's grid; and generally evaluate the effectiveness of the Community Solar program.



SICK & TIRED OF RISING ELECTRIC RATES?

PASS AFFORDABLE SOLAR FOR ALL!

WE WILL GENERATE MORE SOLAR POWER IN NM WITH COMMUNITY SOLAR.

MUNICIPALITIES, SOVEREIGN NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES WILL BE ABLE TO PRODUCE SOLAR ENERGY THAT COMMUNITY MEMBERS, INCLUDING RENTERS, CAN BUY INTO.

UNDER CURRENT LAW, THE UTILITY COMPANIES (PNM, EPE AND SPS) CONTROL THE SOLAR MARKET, AND IT IS ILLEGAL FOR A CITY, COUNTY OR TRIBE TO SET UP SOLAR FACILITIES WITHOUT THE UTILITY COMPANIES APPROVAL.



* Solar energy is now one of the lowest-cost energy solutions on the market

* 84% of New Mexicans want solar.

* New Mexico is 2nd in the nation for solar capacity.

* The maximum capacity of each community solar garden will be 5 MW at a single location, requiring a footprint of approximately 20 acres of land.