

What is Community Solar?

Community solar projects enable individuals, businesses, or organizations to subscribe to a nearby solar installation and receive credits on their electric bills for the energy their share of the solar project produces.

Why community solar?

• **Energy freedom and competition:**

- Community solar offers customers more choices for meeting their energy needs, allowing customers to lower their electric bills and use renewable, local energy.
- Solar businesses gain access to new consumer markets, bringing new jobs and investment to our state.
- Allowing diverse ownership of solar projects infuses competition into the marketplace and lowers program costs.
- Community solar projects are created through private investment rather than government subsidies.

• **Energy fairness:**

- Community solar would allow all West Virginians to enjoy the benefits of local solar energy, including low-income, Black, and Brown communities that the renewable energy transition has traditionally left behind.
- Community solar is an option for customers who live in an apartment or condo, rent or lease their home/office, have a roof that is unsuitable or shaded, or are not able to afford rooftop solar.

• **Reliability and resilience:**

- Harvesting sunshine to produce clean, homegrown electricity close to where it's needed strengthens the grid while lowering costs for every electric customer, reducing carbon and emissions pollution, and creating economic opportunities in communities around the state.
- A program that incentivizes incorporating batteries into project design can make an even bigger impact.

• **Affordable energy future:**

- Customers who subscribe to community solar see bill savings as if the solar panels were on their roofs.
- Each project creates 50-100 family-sustaining local jobs, producing more than 1,630 direct jobs and 2,500 related jobs.