



Community Solar

What is Illinois Solar for All?

Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) is a state program that brings the benefits of solar energy to income-eligible households, non-profit organizations, and public facilities.

The State of Illinois offers this program to meet its renewable energy goals and to bring the expansion of solar energy to income-eligible and environmental justice communities. The program reduces the impact of climate change in communities and across the state.



What is community solar?

Illinois Solar for All: Community Solar lets income-eligible homeowners and renters benefit from solar savings without having to install solar panels on their property. Non-profit organizations and public facilities can also participate. Here's how it works:

- Solar companies, approved by ILSFA, build large solar arrays.
- Residents subscribe at no or low cost to a solar array installed in the territory of their electric utility.
- Subscribers earn solar credits on their electricity bill based on their share of the electricity generated by the solar array.
- ILSFA participants are guaranteed savings. How the credits appear on your bill may vary depending on your electric utility.

Who can participate?

- Households with income that is 80% or less of the Area Median Income.
- A single non-profit or public facility can serve as an "anchor subscriber" and receive the

same savings as low-income households. Anchor subscribers have a larger portion of the solar project, but not more than 40%. They may also host the community solar project on their property, but this is not required.

Interested participants will have their income eligibility verified by the solar company or the Program Administrator. If a resident is not eligible for ILSFA, the Illinois Shines program may be an option. Learn more at IllinoisShines.com.

What are my options to participate?

ILSFA ensures that all qualified subscribers see no upfront costs and that any ongoing costs and fees are no more than half the value you receive in energy from your subscription share. Before subscribing, participants will receive information on their options, costs, and anticipated savings. While there are many different subscription options, these are the most common:

Panel lease

Subscribers lease panels and the energy produced from those panels is credited on their electricity bill. The lease agreement must have no upfront costs and meet minimum savings requirements.

Power purchase agreement

Subscribers pay the system owner a set rate per kilowatt-hour in exchange for bill credits. The agreement must have no upfront costs and meet minimum savings requirements.

How much can I save with ILSFA?

ILSFA ensures that all qualified participants see savings with their community solar subscription. Participants will receive credits on their electric utility bill for their share of the energy produced by the community solar system.

Some solar companies offer no-cost subscriptions, and other companies offer subscriptions with a monthly fee.

Flip over →



Community Solar

In this example, the customer would save \$30 a month.

Electricity Bill Before Solar

Supply	\$80
<small>800kWh x \$0.10</small>	
Delivery	\$45
Fees	\$8
Total	\$133

Electricity Bill With Solar

Supply	\$80
<small>800kWh x \$0.10</small>	
Community Solar Credit	-\$60
<small>600kWh x \$0.10</small>	
Total supply	\$20
Delivery	\$45
Fees	\$8
Total	\$73

Community Solar Bill

Monthly Subscription Cost	\$30
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Your monthly solar subscription fee can be no more than 50% of your community solar credit. Some solar providers offer no-cost subscriptions. You can use the standard disclosure forms from approved solar companies to compare community solar offers. The savings example is based on average electricity supply rates. Individual savings will vary.

If your subscription has fees, you'll receive a separate monthly subscription bill from the solar company. In that case, your subscription costs and fees will be no more than half the value of your share of the energy produced by the community solar system.

Above is an example of how a community solar subscription can save you money on your monthly bills.

If your monthly credits are greater than your total electricity supply bill, those credits may roll over to the next month or may be applied to other portions of your electric bill. Check with your utility or electricity supplier for specific rules in your area.

How does ILSFA ensure safe and fair business practices?

ILSFA vets all solar companies that participate in the program. The companies are called Approved Vendors or Approved Vendor Designees. Approved Vendors have the necessary

technical skills and follow stringent guidelines to ensure a transparent, safe, and positive experience for every participant. They provide protections to all participants, including:

No upfront costs

Subscribers do not have upfront costs or fees to participate in Community Solar, regardless of how they choose to subscribe.**

Savings

Savings will vary based on the community solar project, the subscription model, and your share of the project. ILSFA ensures savings by requiring Approved Vendors to set your costs to be no more than half the value you receive from the energy generated from your share. That can mean significant savings.

Standard disclosure forms

Approved Vendors are required to present and have you sign a standard disclosure form before you sign a contract. These disclosure forms provide important details on exactly

how much you will pay and how much you will save. You can use disclosure forms to compare offers from multiple Approved Vendors.

Transferring your subscription

If you move and are still within the same electric utility territory, you have the right to keep your subscription or transfer it to another subscriber. If you move out of the electric utility territory, you have the right to cancel your subscription.

Complaints

If you have a complaint related to the system or the program, you can first try to resolve the problem with your Approved Vendor. If you can't agree on how to solve the problem, please contact the Program Administrator at info@IllinoisSFA.com or 1-888-970-ISFA (English or Spanish). If you have been subject to fraudulent or deceptive sales practices, the Illinois Attorney General's office may be able to help: IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/Customers

How is the community involved?

Community members have a voice in the development of ILSFA community solar projects. Approved Vendors must engage the local community on project locations and how subscribers can participate. This helps to ensure that communities see greater benefits and play an important role in the development process.

Learn more or get started with Illinois Solar for All:

IllinoisSFA.com
1-888-970-ISFA (4732)
info@IllinoisSFA.com

**Solar companies may offer community solar projects that include energy sovereignty, where an eligible subscriber can take an ownership stake. These projects may have limited upfront costs.

The Illinois Solar for All program is administered by Elevate Energy (Elevate) on behalf of the Illinois Power Agency, an independent state government agency.