

# Community Solar with Illinois Shines

off-site solar serving multiple subscribers



## What Is Illinois Shines?

Illinois Shines is a state-administered incentive program to support the development of new solar projects. Community solar developers receive incentive payments through Illinois Shines, which allows them to offer affordable community solar subscriptions to customers.

## What Is Community Solar?

Community solar allows participants, also called subscribers, to benefit from solar energy and support renewable energy development without installing panels on their own property.

When you sign up for community solar, you subscribe to a share of a community solar project. You receive dollar credits on your electric utility bill based on how much electricity your share of the community solar project generates. Then you pay a subscription fee to your community solar provider. You can see savings if that subscription fee is less than the bill credits that you use.

Traditional community solar projects in Illinois Shines offer subscriptions to solar projects located anywhere within a customer's utility territory. A new type of community solar project within Illinois Shines is known as "Community-Driven Community Solar" (CDCS). These are community solar projects that provide direct and tangible benefits to the local community. You can ask your community solar provider whether a community solar project is a Traditional or Community-Driven project.

Community solar is not the same as "green" or "renewable" supply offers from an Alternative Retail Electric Supplier (ARES). Signing up for a community solar subscription is not the same as changing your electric supplier, although some community solar providers may require you to choose a specific electricity supply option as a condition of enrollment.

## How Do Community Solar Bill Credits Work?

You will receive monetary credits on your electric utility bill based on how much electricity your share of the community solar project generates. Once you subscribe, and the community solar project is operating, it may take a few months before the credits appear on your bill.



You can view an ADA accessible version of this document at [www.illinoisshines.com/accessible](http://www.illinoisshines.com/accessible).



For customers in **Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) territory**, community solar bill credits are applied to your entire electric bill—that is, they can be used to "buy down" all charges on your electric bill. Bill credits roll over month-to-month and only expire if you move out of ComEd territory.

For customers in **Ameren territory**, until November 2023, community solar bill credits are only applied to the supply charges on your electric bill. After November 2023, bill credits will apply to your entire electric bill. Bill credits roll over month-to-month and only expire if you move out of Ameren territory.

When you subscribe to a community solar project, you are making a financial commitment. If possible, compare offers from different community solar providers. Also, make sure to read and understand your entire subscription contract before signing it.

## How Much Will My Community Solar Subscription Cost?

Subscriptions will vary by community solar project and Approved Vendor. You are not guaranteed to save money unless your contract includes an explicit savings guarantee. **Read your contract carefully to make sure you know what you will be paying and when.**



Illinois Shines Program Administrator  
admin@illinoisshines.com  
(877) 783-1820

Illinois Shines is administered by Energy Solutions on behalf of the Illinois Power Agency, an independent state government agency.

Many community solar subscriptions are priced based on the amount of bill credits that the customer receives. That is, the subscription fee may be a set percentage of the bill credits. For example, your community solar charge might be set at 80% or 90% of the value of the bill credits that you receive. The bill credits (which are based on the amount of electricity generated by your share of the solar project) will vary month-to-month, so the subscription charge will also vary.

If your community solar subscription price is set a different way, make sure that you compare the subscription price and any other fees to the amount of bill credits that you expect to receive.

Carefully review your Disclosure Form and contract to understand other applicable fees, including whether there is a fee for early termination of the subscription.

### How Is My Subscription Sized?

Most community solar subscriptions are sized so that the subscription's generation in kilowatt-hours (kWh) roughly matches the customer's electric usage in kWh over the course of the year. Your subscription size will be included on your Disclosure Form. If your subscription size is too large, meaning the subscription size of the project you are subscribed to will produce more kWh of electricity than you use in a year, it is possible that you may pay for more bill credits than you are able to use. Keep in mind that the solar project will generate more electricity in the summer than in the winter.

#### Other Considerations:

*Does your subscription require you to authorize the community solar provider to act as your agent with respect to your electric utility account?* If so, the community solar provider may pay your utility bills on your behalf and make changes to your utility account.

*Does your subscription require you to sign up to receive electricity from a specific electric supplier or utility default service?* If so, what rate will you be charged for electricity under that supply option?

### Consumer Protection

Your community solar provider is required to provide you with this informational brochure and a standard Disclosure Form, which you must sign before you sign a subscription contract. The Disclosure Form includes information about the Program and consumer rights, contact information for your community solar provider,

and information about costs and savings. Review this form carefully and use it to compare offers from other community solar providers.

#### Other Illinois Shines consumer protections include:

- You have the right to keep your subscription if you move to a different home or business location in the same utility service territory.
- You also have rights to assign or sell the subscription to another customer within your original utility service territory without having to pay a fee to the subscription provider. Some restrictions apply.
- Illinois Shines sets out requirements for what information and terms must be included in your subscription contract.
- Only Approved Vendors may submit project applications to Illinois Shines; these companies are vetted by the Program Administrator. Your community solar provider may be an Approved Vendor or they may be a Designee who works with customers on behalf of an Approved Vendor. Designees must be registered with Illinois Shines.
- Dedicated Program Administrator staff answer questions and assist customers in resolving complaints.

### Complaint Procedures

If you have a problem related to your solar project or the sales process, first try to resolve it with your installer or the Approved Vendor. If you can't agree about how to solve the problem, you may contact the **Illinois Shines Program Administrator** by emailing [complaints@illinoisshines.com](mailto:complaints@illinoisshines.com) or by calling 877-783-1820.

If you have been subject to fraudulent or deceptive sales practices, the Illinois Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division may be able to help.

**CHICAGO:** 800-386-5438 | TTY: 800-964-3013

**SPRINGFIELD:** 800-243-0618 | TTY: 877-844-5461

**CARBONDALE:** 800-243-0607 | TTY: 877-675-9339

**SPANISH LANGUAGE:** 866-310-8398

For more information, go to [www.illinoisshines.com](http://www.illinoisshines.com)

**Illinois Solar for All**, another incentive program, is available for income-eligible customers and includes savings guarantees. Learn more at [www.IllinoisSFA.com](http://www.IllinoisSFA.com).

# Illinois Shines Community Solar Disclosure Form

Illinois Shines is a state solar incentive program. Your community solar provider is required to provide you with this Disclosure Form so that you have clear information about the community solar subscription. You can contact the Illinois Shines Program Administrator by emailing [complaints@illinoisshines.com](mailto:complaints@illinoisshines.com) or by calling (877) 708-3456. More information about Illinois Shines is available at [www.IllinoisShines.com](http://www.IllinoisShines.com) and a guide to understanding your disclosure form is available at <https://illinoisshines.com/consumer-protection/disclosure-form-resources>

Your subscription entitles you to a share of the electricity generated from the community solar project. You will receive monetary credits for this electricity on your utility bill.

## Contact Information

Customer Information		Community Solar Provider*	
Name	Example Name	Legal Name	United States Solar Services LLC
Address	123 Street, City, IL 60625	Marketing Name	
Phone	111-111-1111	Phone	612-260-2230
Email	email@email.com	Email	info@us-solar.com
Service utility	ComEd	Website	<a href="https://www.us-solar.com/">https://www.us-solar.com/</a>
Utility Account#	1112223333		

\*may be different than project owner/developer

## Project Information

Your Community Solar Provider has not yet determined to which specific community solar project you will be subscribed, but will send you a notice with the project name, location, size, and Approved Vendor once you are subscribed to a specific project.

## Subscription Information

Subscription Size <i>(may vary by the greater of 5kW or 25%)</i>	24.99 kW AC	Estimated first year production <i>(production level will decrease over time)</i>	61,810.00 kWh
		Guaranteed minimum level of production	no guarantee
Term of your subscription	20 years	Estimated start date for bill credits	November 2025

## Rate and Payment Information

Enrollment fee or amount due at contract signing	\$0.00
Subscription structure and rate	Payment equal to 90.00% of community solar credits on your utility bill
Frequency of payments and start date	Monthly, one month after energization.
Format of bill	Electronic
Payment details	Autopay not required

### Early Termination of Subscription

Your community solar subscription will terminate if you move out of your current electric utility's service territory. Advance notice requirements and/or a penalty or fee may apply.

Additional circumstances under which you may terminate your subscription early	See Additional Details
Advanced notice for early termination	180 Day Notice
Penalty or fee for early termination	See Additional Details

### Value of Electricity and Savings Estimates

With your community solar subscription, **you will receive monetary credits on your electric utility bill** for the electricity generated by your share of the solar project.

Below are estimates of the bill credits your subscription will generate in the first year and over the term of your subscription (how much less you will pay in electric bills). The form also provides estimated savings in year one and over the subscription term. These estimates are based on the current rate for community solar bill credits for residential customers in your service utility territory.

**If you are a non-residential utility customer, your crediting rate may be different. The below estimates are NOT a guarantee; bill crediting rates are subject to change.**

For more information on savings estimates, visit <https://illinoisshines.com/cs-disclosure-forms/>

Estimated bill credits for first year		Estimated subscription payments for first year		Enrollment fee		Estimated total savings for first year
\$6,274.33	-	\$5,646.90	-	\$0.00	=	\$627.43
Estimated first year production of electricity from your share of the solar project, multiplied by the bill crediting rate 10.151 cents/kWh		Your subscription fee is 90.00% of your bill credits		Enrollment fee or amount due at contract signing fee		Make sure to also consider any other fees or costs disclosed above

Most community solar subscriptions are sized so that the subscription's generation in kWh roughly matches the customer's electric usage in kWh over the course of the year. If your subscription size is too large, it is possible that you may pay for more bill credits than you can use. Keep in mind that the solar project will generate more electricity in the summer than in the winter.

For more information, visit <https://illinoisshines.com/consumer-protection/disclosure-form-resources>

### Additional Information from Community Solar Provider / Approved Vendor

If cancelled prior to Year 5 due to relocation or other material changes, and you elect not to sell or transfer, and no Eligible Transferee is found within 60 days, the Cover Cost would then equal the NPV of the difference between the Projected Subscriber Payments under the original agreement and the Projected Payments to be made at the Unsubscribed Energy Rate. If cancelled after Year 5 due to relocation or other material changes, and no Eligible Replacement found, the Cover Cost would be equal to your Actual Savings for the 48-month period prior to cancellation. See section 10.1; 10.3 and Cover Cost Definitions in the Agreement.

### Signature

By signing this disclosure form, you certify that you received and read this form and had the opportunity to ask questions about it.

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_