Frequently Asked Questions

Q&A Listed below were based on the rules published at: Community Solar Energy Program (CSEP) | New Jersey's Clean Energy Program | NJ OCE Web Site

All answers below are correct as of 3/30/2026. Interested Subscriber Organizations should review the current regulations for N.J.A.C. 14:8-9 for changes or updates.

Subscriber Organizations

Q1. – Who can participate as a subscriber organization?

A1. – "Community solar subscriber organization" or "subscriber organization" means the entity, duly registered with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) that works to acquire original subscribers for the community solar project and/or acquires replacement subscribers over the lifetime of the community solar project and/or manages subscriptions for a community solar project. The community solar subscriber organization may or may not be organized by the community solar developer, community solar owner, or community solar operator.

Q2. – How do subscriber organizations apply for participation?

A2. – A subscriber organization must first submit an application form to the BPU during an annual application process. Applications for projects that are approved by the BPU for participation in the Pilot Program will need interconnection approval from the electric distribution company (EDC) and must begin construction in accordance with the BPU's rules. Program information is available at the NJ CleanEnergy website at Community Solar Energy Program (CSEP) | New Jersey's Clean Energy Program | NJ OCE Web Site

Q3. – Can existing solar generating systems be part of the program?

A3. – No. Existing solar projects may not apply to requalify as a community solar project. An existing solar project, as defined in N.J.A.C. 14:8-9.2, means a solar project having begun operation and/or been approved by the Board for connection to the distribution system prior to February 19,2019.

Q4. – Are there restrictions on where community solar projects can be located?

A4. – Under the program, unless modified by Board Order or by a waiver granted by the Board, a community solar project may be located on: A rooftop, a carport or canopy over impervious surfaces, A contaminated site or landfill, and where associated disturbed areas constitute a maximum of 10 percent of the total area dedicated to solar development. Projects are not permitted on preserved farmland. Community solar projects may have subscribers anywhere in the EDC service territory in which they are located, unless they have indicated otherwise in their application to participate in the pilot program. Projects that have elected, in their application, to place a geographic restriction on the subscribers to the project must maintain that restriction for the lifetime of the pilot program. The Board may consider waiving this restriction during the project's operational period upon special request. Projects and subscribers must both be located within the same EDC territory. The following siting restrictions shall apply to community solar projects:

Q5. – What are the consumer protection policies that subscriber organizations must follow?

A5. – Community solar subscriber organizations must comply with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations governing advertising, marketing and fair business practices. Additionally, all consumer protection measures contained within N.J.A.C. 14:8-9.10 apply to all subscriber organizations, and any agent, contractor, subcontractor, or affiliated person.

Q6. – What happens after the three-year pilot program ends?

A6. – The pilot program runs for a period of no more than 36 months, divided into Program Year 1 (PY1), Program Year 2 (PY2), and Program Year 3 (PY3). PY1 begins February 19, 2019, and lasts until December 31, 2019. Subsequent program years begin on January 1 and last for the full calendar year. While no new projects will be accepted into the program after the end of the three-year application period, a subscriber organization can continue to operate a community solar project. The BPU will adopt rules to convert the pilot program to a Community Solar Energy Program by January 1, 2022.

Q7. – What happens to excess energy generation from a Community Solar Pilot Project if the energy from that project is not fully subscribed?

A7. – Any generation delivered to the grid that has not been allocated to a subscriber may be "banked" by the project operator in a dedicated project EDC account for up to 12

months. The banked credits may be distributed by the project operator to any new or existing subscriber during that 12-month period, in conformance with subscription requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:8-9.6. At the end of the up to 12-month period, any remaining generation credits will be compensated at the EDC's or BGS provider's avoided cost of wholesale power, calculated at the nearest node to the point of delivery of the community solar project. (PJM Locational Marginal Price).

Q8. – Is there a minimum or maximum number of subscribers a Community Solar Pilot Project must have?

A8. – Yes. There is a minimum of 10 subscribers per Community Solar Project with a maximum of 250 subscribers per mega-watt of project installed capacity, prorated to project capacity.

Q9. – Where can a subscriber organization find utility community solar programs and interconnection applications?

A9. – For more information or to apply, visit https://njcleanenergy.com/renewable-energy/programs/community-solar