

Frequently Asked Questions

Interested Subscriber Organizations please review the regs. at COMAR 20.62 at www.dsd.state.md.us/COMAR/subtitle_chapters/20_Chapters.aspx

Subscriber Organizations

Q1. – Who can participate as a subscriber organization?

A1. – We expect solar developers, non-profit energy assistance groups, homeowners associations, community organizations, commercial businesses, utilities, retail electricity suppliers to apply for participation in the community solar program.

Q2. – How do subscriber organizations apply for participation?

A2. – A subscriber organization must first be granted admission to the program by the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC). After receiving an ID number, the subscriber organization must then apply with the electric company serving the location of the project. The capacity of each project must not exceed two MW.

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

A3. – A subscriber organization may apply to convert all or a portion of an existing solar generating system of 500 kw or less to the community solar program – if that system began operating before May 15, 2016. After the end of the first year of the community solar pilot program, if a service territory has less than five MW of program capacity, existing projects up to two MW may apply to the community solar program.

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

A4. – Under this pilot program, multiple community solar projects owned by the same entity or affiliate cannot be located on the same or adjacent properties unless they are:

- On the rooftops of buildings
- In areas zoned for industrial use
- On a brownfield (but with a combined capacity not exceeding six MW)
- Over parking lots of roadways, or
- On a multi-level parking structure.

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

A5. – Subscriber organizations are not allowed to use marketing tactics that are unfair, false, misleading or deceptive. Agents may not market door-to-door unless they have had a criminal background check and have been properly trained in local, state and federal laws governing marketing activities. In addition, there are minimum requirements for a subscription contract as well as a contract disclosure form that must be presented to every subscriber before a contract is signed. The PSC does not regulate community solar rates.

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

A6. – While no new projects will be accepted into the program after the end of the three-year period, a subscriber organization can continue to operate a community solar project that was established during the program until September 30, 2044, or 25 years after the organization has been authorized to operate – whichever comes later.

Q7. – What happens to the CSEGS energy if the CSEGS is not fully subscribed?

A7. – Potomac Edison will pay the subscriber organization for all unsubscribed energy. Compensation will be at the PJM Locational Marginal Price (LMP), adjusted for ancillary services.

Q8. – Is there a minimum number of subscribers a CSEGS must have?

A8. – Yes. A CSEGS must have at least two Subscribers at all times.

Q9. – Where can I find utility community solar programs and interconnection applications?

A9. – For more information or to apply, visit

<https://www.firstenergycorp.com/feconnect/potomacedison/community-solar-md.html>.