



# COMMUNITY SOLAR

Community solar refers to a small solar array located within a community where multiple customers like households, small businesses, churches, schools, and local governments can subscribe to a portion of the solar array and receive a credit on their utility bill for their share of the power the solar panels produce.

## COMMUNITY SOLAR

- *Expands access to solar*
- *Lowers upfront costs of solar*
- *Provides alternatives to solar ownership*

Many residents and businesses across Wisconsin cannot place solar systems on their property because they rent their space, have roofs that cannot host solar systems due to shade or type of structure, or they don't have the funds for the upfront costs to install their own system.

Wisconsin has a limited number of utility-sponsored community solar programs, most are fully subscribed, and some utilities in the state don't offer these programs at all. We need legislation in Wisconsin to offer community solar to all residents who want access to affordable renewable energy. Presently, 21 states have policies supporting community solar, with subscribers seeing immediate bill savings. Community solar provides cost-effective renewable energy, strengthens the resilience of the grid, and spurs economic opportunity.

# COMMUNITY SOLAR LEGISLATION: AB 258 / SB226

Sen. Stroebel (R-Saukville), Rep. Scott Krug (R-Nekoosa), and 13 co-sponsors have introduced legislation ([AB 258](#), [SB 226](#)) in 2023 that would allow Wisconsinites access to community solar projects from non-utilities.



This legislation would allow subscribers to participate in community solar projects and receive credit on their electric bill from their utility based on the energy generated by the panels. Twenty-two other states already have similar laws in place.

Under this legislation, a community solar project must have at least three subscribers, with no single entity holding more than 40% of the system capacity. The size of the project is limited to 5MW (usually under 26 acres) and must be within one utility service area. The subscribers receive a bill credit for the solar generation as determined by the PSC.

Allowing community solar projects provides direct electricity savings, which is especially relevant amid rising utility rates. This legislation would provide access to solar generation for small businesses, churches, renters, non-profits, and others.