

SOLAR AND CLEAN ENERGY HELP FOR HOUSES OF WORSHIP, HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Houses of worship want to go green and help low to moderate-income households and affordable housing who wish to access energy options including solarization.

The state of New York is advocating for these initiatives which advance climate justice. It is hard, however, for the public to know how to work with the many actors and vendors doing this work.

New York State Energy Resource and Development Authority (NYSERDA) virtually overnight created a market that allows property owners or renters to subscribe to community solar companies. Through a new Inclusive Community Solar Adder program, the agency just set aside \$52.5 million in incentives for low-and moderate-income (LMI) households and communities to subscribe to solar developers. This incentive advances the New York State Climate Leadership Community Protection Act (CLCPA). The act requires that disadvantaged communities receive 35% of state-wide energy investments and benefits with the goal of 40%. Community solar companies are presently seeking out property owners to participate in their projects as subscribers, as well as targeting low and middle-income households.

Our Role:

The New York State Council of Churches (NYSCOC) and Crauderueff and Associates (C&A) to offer no-cost clean energy technical assistance to faith-based organizations and affordable housing providers. Supported by a NYSERDA pre-development grant program, we do the following:

- A. Serve as consultants to help faith communities explore their clean energy options and make a plan to converting their building to clean energy.

As consultants we work with the leaders of congregations charged with building care and social justice to:

- Review compliance requirements with local laws for their property
 - Introductions to reputable vendors for energy efficiency
 - Consideration of financing options for energy efficiency
 - Introduction to how a faith-based community can sell community solar subscriptions
 - Access to C&A's community solar subscription platform
 - Concept solar design and financial modeling, and community solar programming
- B. Help social justice committees advocate for low and middle-income homeowners or renters and affordable housing development owners to get the best access to solar energy. We offer assistance to congregations wishing to run their own community solar subscription campaigns.
 - C. Help create and support social justice committees to advocate for environmental, climate and housing justice in their communities by working with renters, homeowners, and affordable housing developments to cost effectively serve their mission while improving their energy use, including the use of solar, for their property.

For property consultation for any New York house of faith, please call The Reverend Peter Cook, Executive Director of the New York State Council of Churches at 508-380-8289 or Pcook@nyscoc.org or Rob Crauderueff at 347-889-4875 rob@crauderueff.com. The Council also offers with the Interfaith Affordable Housing Collaborative, to help congregations consider repurposing their property to build affordable housing (see www.IAHC.org); Contact Kevin Ritter, Project Manager at Kevin@judson.org for New York City Properties.

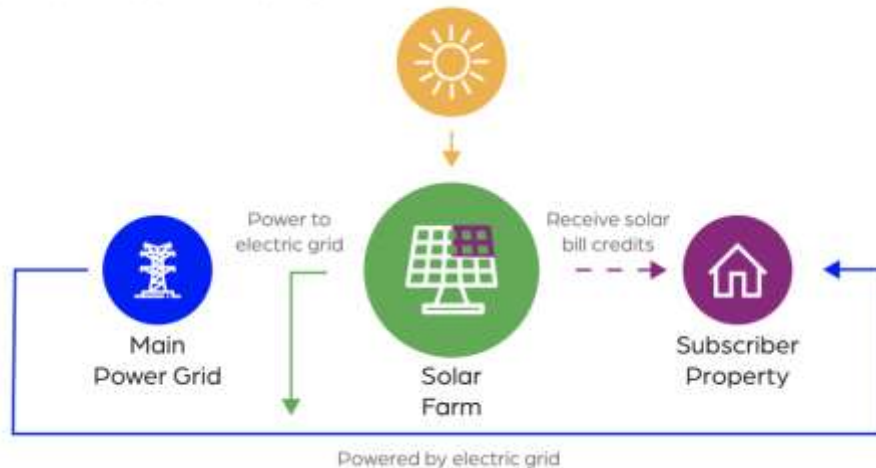
Contact Drew Oldfield if you have additional questions or would like to be connected with a City Specialist from the Mayor's Public Engagement Unit (PEU) to discuss the Landlord Locator program or consider getting involved. We encourage landlords in New York City to learn more about accepting Federal Emergency Housing Vouchers

through the Interfaith Landlord Locator Project (see www.nyscoc.org/take-action/housing-justice). Drew Oldfield, ILLP Project Coordinator Drew@iahh.org / 332-203-0571.

Community Solar Explained:

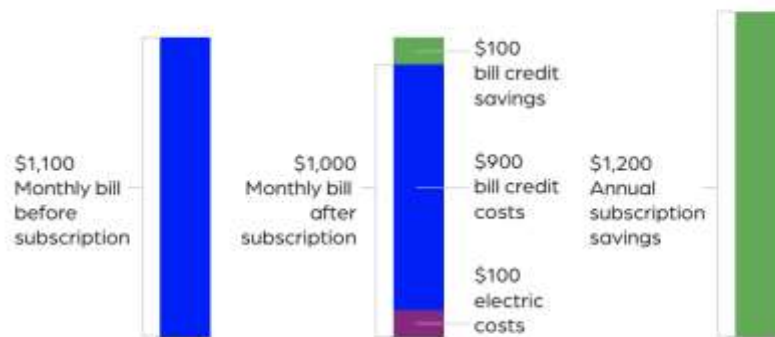
When you as a faith community, homeowner, renter, or owner of rental property subscribe to a community solar project, you are agreeing to purchase bill credits from the solar developer at a guaranteed discount. A **bill credit** is the dollar value of the electricity generated by the community solar project. When you first subscribe, the developer will allocate a certain number of solar panels to your property's electric account, depending on your history of energy consumption. It's worth noting the NYS Public Service Commission has strict requirements for these subscriptions, so organizations and households may join these projects confident that strong consumer protections are in place.

COMMUNITY SOLAR FLOW CHART



In a community solar arrangement, the property continues to be powered by the main electric grid. The solar farm generates electricity, which is sent to the state's power grid. In exchange for this power, the owner of the solar farm receives bill credits for each kilowatt-hour of electricity it sends to the grid. These bill credits are then sold to the property or subscriber at a discount.

EXAMPLE CUMULATIVE SAVINGS OF A COMMUNITY SOLAR SUBSCRIPTION



How it works

1. We help you subscribe to one or more community solar projects. Solar panels of the projects are then assigned to you.
2. Receive a monthly credit on your electric bill based on the value of the solar generated by your solar panels. On the same bill, pay Community Solar 90-95% of the bill credit value to the utility.
3. Keep the remaining 5-10% as savings.