

Community Solar NY

Round 1: Open until January 30, 2015 for Solarize campaigns launching in spring 2015



New York's comprehensive suite of solar offerings are now under one unified banner – NY-Sun initiative.

NY-Sun Incentive Program

offers incentives to residents and businesses to install solar electric.

Community Solar NY and K-Solar

bring together communities and schools to realize the benefits of group purchasing and education.

New York's Unified Solar Permit

streamlines the permitting and inspection processes.

Balance-of-System research and development projects reduce the overall cost of going solar.



NYSERDA invites local governments, school districts, and other community partners to participate in Community Solar NY, a new effort to make solar easier and more affordable through community-driven initiatives.

In 2015, NYSERDA will be supporting community solar projects known as “Solarize” campaigns. These short term (approximately 6-9 months, including planning and outreach), local efforts bring together groups of potential solar customers through widespread outreach and education, and help customers choose a solar installation company that is offering competitive, transparent pricing. Community-driven Solarize campaigns around the State and country have resulted in thousands of new solar installations and significant cost reductions and environmental benefits.

Bringing together multiple solar customers within a community provides opportunities for solar installers to realize economies of scale, and for customers to save money. By educating the local community, streamlining marketing efforts, and aggregating sales, Solarize campaigns help make solar a more accessible and affordable energy option.

How NYSERDA supports your community initiative

NYSERDA will provide marketing materials and technical assistance for qualifying campaigns, as well as funding for campaign expenses. This support is available to all eligible applicants who meet program qualifications and commit to program requirements.

Funding

- NYSERDA will provide support up to \$5,000 for campaign expenses. Projects within a region may, with NYSERDA's approval, pool some or all of their funding for shared expenses.
- Support through this program may not be used for the direct costs of solar installations, but participating building owners remain eligible for all NY-Sun solar incentives.
- School districts that lead or partner on a Solarize campaign AND register for a free assessment of school facility solar potential at nypa.gov/k-solar will receive a \$2,500 bonus upon successful completion of the Solarize campaign.

Materials and technical assistance

- NYSERDA will provide participating campaigns with templates for print and online marketing materials, media communications, and customer education materials.
- Technical guidance and document templates for the installer selection process.
- Regular calls and webinars with Solarize campaign teams statewide.
- Other assistance as deemed necessary by NYSERDA.

Participating campaigns will be recognized on the NY-Sun website and in State and local media releases.

Schedule

Round 1 of Community Solar NY, which is meant for projects launching in spring 2015, will be open through January 30, 2015. Applications will be accepted up until that date, and will be reviewed as they are received.

Eligibility

New York State local governments, school districts, and not-for-profit community organizations are eligible to participate. Partnerships among these entities are strongly encouraged to strengthen local campaigns. Schools that have registered for a facility assessment through K-Solar (nypa.gov/k-solar) are especially encouraged to act as public outreach and education partners.

One entity must be designated the lead organization, with an individual designated as Project Manager. The lead organization is responsible for completing the application, contracting with NYSERDA, and completing all deliverables.

Campaigns cannot also be supported with other NYSERDA-funding projects or activities.

Qualifications

To qualify for participation in Community Solar NY, communities must demonstrate through the application form:

- A clear commitment and ability to conduct community-wide education and outreach around solar energy.
- Local support and interest in a Solarize campaign.
- Engagement, capacity, and preparation by the applicant and partners.
- Commitment of local jurisdiction to streamlining planning and permitting for solar.
- Commitment of local schools to consider solar through K-Solar and/or engagement of schools that are already registered for K-Solar (nypa.gov/k-solar).
- Ability to achieve campaign goals for new solar installations and cost reductions in the community and geography served.
- Commitment to follow all program rules and requirements.

Next steps

- Sign up for program updates at ny-sun.ny.gov/community-solar/updates
- Visit the Community Solar NY website for further information and resources at ny-sun.ny.gov/community-solar
- Review the Community Solar NY Community Agreement sample at ny-sun.ny.gov/-/media/NYSun/files/solarize-agreement-sample.pdf
- Apply through the online Community Solar NY application at ny-sun.ny.gov/community-solar/apply

Contact information

For program questions, please email communitysolar@nyserda.ny.gov

Visit ny-sun.ny.gov or call 1-866-NYSERDA to learn more about Community Solar NY and how NY-Sun is significantly expanding the growth of solar energy across all sectors in New York State.

The NY-Sun initiative, a dynamic public-private partnership, will drive growth in the solar industry and make solar technology more affordable for all New Yorkers. The NY-Sun initiative brings together and expands existing programs administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), PSEG Long Island, and the New York Power Authority (NYPA), to ensure a coordinated, well-supported solar energy expansion plan and a transition to a sustainable, self-sufficient solar industry.