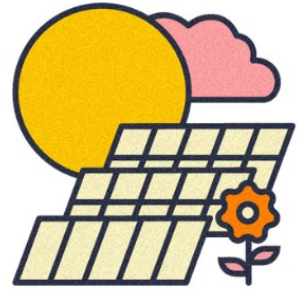


# Frequently Asked Questions about the State of Minnesota's Community Solar Garden Program



## What is Community Solar?

Community Solar helps renters and homeowners save on electricity costs even if they can't install solar panels due to things like upfront cost, roof space, or renting. Providers like US Solar build solar gardens across the state, bringing clean energy onto Xcel Energy's power grid.

Minnesota residents with electricity service from Xcel can join a solar garden and receive bill credits for participating. The monthly credit amount is based on how much energy the garden generates. In Minnesota, the program is overseen by the State's Department of Commerce.

## How does Community Solar benefit me?

Because your Community Action Partner has already qualified your household's income, the State of Minnesota's program requires that all Community Solar subscription costs not exceed the value of the bill credit, thus providing a guaranteed savings rate. When the solar garden starts generating energy, participants who select Utility-Combined Billing will see a credit automatically applied to their Xcel Energy bill. The average household in Minnesota is expected to save \$250 annually.

## Do I have to install anything on my property?

No, participation in Community Solar doesn't require any installation. The solar gardens are built elsewhere in the state, and the energy produced supports Xcel Energy's electric grid.

## Is there a cost to participate in Community Solar?

If you select Utility-Combined Billing, Xcel Energy will facilitate your Sunscription payment. You will never see a bill from Sunscription, only the regular Xcel bill credits.

Although a Sunscription fee is billed each month, the State's program requires that the value of your monthly bill credit always be more than your fee costs, resulting in a guaranteed savings rate.

## How much will my bill credit be each month?

Your credits will vary based on energy produced and your annual household usage. Winters in Minnesota are not as sunny, so the garden will produce less energy, resulting in smaller bill credits. During sunnier months, your share of the solar garden may generate more credits than you may need, allowing you to accrue and bank them to help offset winter costs.

