

## **Clark Community Solar Garden Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. Why is Clark Electric Cooperative building community solar?**

A segment of the Clark Electric Cooperative membership has expressed a significant interest for a cooperative-owned source for renewable energy. The purpose of the program is to provide Clark Electric Cooperative members with an affordable option to acquire locally produced renewable energy.

### **2. How do I participate in the Community Solar Garden project?**

You must sign a Solar Subscription Agreement and make a one-time payment for subscription unit(s) in the amount of the current rate per unit. As of January 1, 2018 the current price is \$ 752.00.

### **3. Are there any restrictions or limitations on who may subscribe to Clark Electric Cooperative's community solar project?**

Yes, the subscribing member must have a single-phase account with Clark Electric Cooperative. Time-of-Day will not qualify under this program.

### **4. What size is the solar array and where is it located?**

The Clark Community Solar Garden is a 53.3 kW array located at the Clark Electric Cooperative headquarters facility, Greenwood Wisconsin.

### **5. Why doesn't Clark Electric Cooperative just install solar without payment from members?**

Obtaining power from small scale renewable generation sources costs more today than traditional sources. Many of our members indicated they do not want to pay more for renewable generation. However, some of our members are willing to invest in this technology. This project was identified as a way to meet the needs of members that want their generation from a renewable resource.

### **6. What is a subscription unit?**

A subscription unit represents 360 watts of energy producing capacity. The energy producing capacity of Clark Community Solar Garden totals 53,300 watts (53.3 kW). The Cooperative will offer 140 units for sale. Five percent of the total energy producing capacity of the Solar Garden is being reserved to fund routine operation and maintenance.

**7. How much will each 360 watt subscription unit cost?**

The cost is currently \$752.00 per 360-watt unit based upon on a 53.3 kW installed system. This cost is updated annually.

**8. Is there a limit on how many units a member can buy?**

Units are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. The subscription period will start January 26, 2015.

**9. Do I pay the full price per unit price in advance?**

As the solar array is now operational, the full amount is due upon purchase of the subscription unit.

**10. If I buy more than one unit, is there a price reduction for additional units?**

No. Since the benefit of each unit purchased is equal in energy production, and to make available the best pricing for every member, there will be no discount for multiple unit purchases.

**11. How can I pay the deposit and final payment?**

Cash, personal checks or money order. Credit cards will not be accepted for this payment.

**12. I can't afford to purchase a subscription unit(s) all at once. Is there financing available?**

Forward Financial may provide financing for qualified customers.

**13. Can I file and collect the federal tax credit to cover a portion of the cost of my participation as a subscriber?**

Based on recent IRS guidance, the Cooperative does not believe that the purchase of subscription units according to the terms of the Subscriber Agreement would qualify for a federal residential tax credit. However, the Cooperative is not in a position to provide tax advice and therefore interested members should consult their personal tax advisor.

**14. By participating, do I own part of the Clark Community Solar Garden?**

No, members are purchasing the capacity to produce renewable energy, not the hardware or components of the actual solar array. There are no rebates or tax benefits for participating.

**15. Are there additional annual costs to participate in the Clark Electric Community Solar project for the first 25 years?**

No, not directly. For a period of 25 years following the in-service date (August 1, 2015), no additional out-of-pocket fees or charges will be assessed to the member participants except those specified in the Solar Subscription Agreement. The cost of insurance and maintenance will be paid from a separate account established by the Cooperative. In the event of unanticipated maintenance or repair costs (not covered by the manufacturer's warranty), the Subscription Agreement allows for the Cooperative to reserve up to 10% of the energy production capacity of the Solar Garden, which would proportionally reduce the net metering credit allocated to participants.

**16. How is the monthly energy production attributed to a subscribers account calculated?**

It shall be determined by dividing the monthly kWh energy production attributable to the available capacity of the solar facility in the prior month by the number of total subscription units. The resulting amount will be the credits in kWhs allocated per subscription unit. Each participating member's account is credited the kWh for each unit they own, offsetting energy purchase in that month on a kWh for kWh basis, in effect lowering the monthly electric bill by the amount of renewable energy produced per unit.

**17. Will one subscription unit cover my entire electric bill?**

No, each unit will generate approximately 470 kWh annually. Energy production will vary based on total sunshine and time of year. Solar credit (kWh) over subscriber's monthly usage will be "banked" and credited to the subscribers account as provided in cooperative Policy No. 417 – Distributed Generation

**18. Can the subscriber sell his/her subscription units?**

Yes. The subscriber may sell all of their subscription units to the Cooperative at a surrender value to be determined according to the number of years elapsed from the start-up date at the time of repurchase. The unit can also be transferred to another one of your qualifying accounts or sold to another qualified Clark Electric Cooperative member.

**19. What if I move?**

Subscribers will have 4 options:

- Sell the subscription unit(s) back to the Cooperative

- Keep the subscription unit(s) with existing home if the new member wants to purchase them.
- Sell the subscription unit(s) to another qualified member that is already served by the Cooperative.
- Transfer the unit to another one of your qualifying accounts.

## **20. What is the term of the Subscription Agreement?**

The term of the agreement will continue until July 31, 2040, subject to early termination if Subscriber elects to surrender the Subscription Units as provided in the Solar Subscription Agreement.

## **21. What is the life expectancy of the system?**

25 years from the date of installation with an end of life date of July 31, 2040. The modules are warranted for the same duration. Over time, the electric production will decrease approximately .1% per year according to the manufacturer.

## **22. Will the panels be upgraded as the technology changes?**

This project is a stand-alone project. Subscribers will fund the up front investment to install 50.4 kW of solar panels. Since the cost of the panels will be incurred at the time of construction, it is not likely that future enhancements to solar panel technology will be great enough to economically justify discarding what was already purchased and installed. We anticipate that, future Clark Electric Cooperative community solar projects will be able to take advantage of the newest technology available at the time of construction.

## **23. Where does the electricity go when the system is producing energy?**

This system is interconnected with the grid, so its output goes directly onto our distribution system.

## **24. What company manufactured the solar facility?**

The solar array is from tenKsolar. You can visit their web site at [www.tenksolar.com](http://www.tenksolar.com).

**25. Is there another option for supporting renewable energy?**

Yes. You can enroll in Clark Electric Cooperative's Evergreen Program. For as little as \$1.00 per month added to your electric bill, you can support renewable energy by helping offset the additional generation costs.