



Illinois Shines and the Adjustable Block Program are administered by InClimate, Inc. on behalf of the Illinois Power Agency, an independent state government agency.

Illinois Shines Community Solar

What is Illinois Shines?

Illinois Shines is the brand name of the Adjustable Block Program, a state-administered program that creates incentives for the development of new solar photovoltaic (“PV”) projects. To help with that development, Community Solar projects that participate in the program receive payments in exchange for 15 years of Renewable Energy Credits (“RECs”) generated by the project.

Participating in Illinois Shines is the same thing as participating in the Adjustable Block Program.

What is community solar?

Community solar is an arrangement under which many customers subscribe to a single, large PV project. By subscribing, individual customers offset their own electricity use with a portion of the electricity generated by the community solar project. The project might be located near the customer or many miles away, but it must be in the same utility service territory as the customer. Community solar may be a good option for customers who don’t own their homes or who would prefer not to install solar panels at their homes.

Absent the support of subscribers, many community solar projects would never have been constructed—meaning that by subscribing to a community solar project, you are helping support the development of new solar energy generation in Illinois.

A subscription to a community solar project allows you to receive credit on your electric bill for the energy produced by that project. Through net metering, your electric bill will be credited for the community solar project’s energy production, although you may have to pay separately for your subscription.



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Community solar is not the same as “green” or “renewable” supply offers from an Alternative Retail Electric Supplier. Unlike community solar projects participating in Illinois Shines, those offers may rely on renewable energy projects outside Illinois and/or projects that were developed many years ago.

What is net metering and how do I enroll?²

Net metering measures the electricity a PV project produces and credits you for it on your electric bill. It is available both for customers who have PV projects located at their homes or businesses and for subscribers to community solar projects.

Energy use is offset at a customer’s energy supply rate, which your electricity supplier can inform you of. By subscribing to a community solar project, you will be automatically enrolled in net metering by the community solar provider. Some community solar providers may require you to choose a specific electricity supply option as a condition for enrollment.

If your subscription does not allow changing suppliers, and you subse-

quently change suppliers you may jeopardize your community solar subscription and may have to pay termination fees. Your electricity supplier (which can be either your utility or an alternative supplier) will calculate your net metering credits based upon your energy supply rate and the generation from your share of the community solar project.

You should review your electric bill to ensure the accuracy of those calculations. If you have questions about your community solar net metering credits or value, you should contact your electricity supplier. There may be a lag of a month or two before your net metering credits appear on your bill. Your subscription credits may not constitute your required payments for electric service from your utility. In addition to the subscription payments paid to the subscription provider, you will be billed for electricity distribution and related services.

What information will you receive before you sign a contract?

Along with this brochure, your subscription provider is required

When you subscribe to a community solar project, you are making a financial commitment: so exercise the same caution you would when making other decisions. If possible, compare offers from different community solar providers. Also, make sure to read and understand your entire subscription contract before signing it.

to provide you with an Illinois Shines Standard Disclosure Form. It includes contact information for everyone who has a part in your solar contract and information about your community solar subscription. Review this form carefully to ensure that it is consistent with the subscription offer before signing.

When deciding to participate in community solar, what are your subscription options?

Subscriptions vary. **Read your contract carefully to make sure you know what you will be paying and when.**

When deciding on the best option for you, consider:

- **If you're paying a monthly subscription fee, how much is that fee?** How does that fee compare to projected reductions in your monthly electric bill from net metering? Do you have to put money down at the start?
- **If you're making monthly payments, does your contract include an escalation clause that increases the amount of payments over time?** If so, by how much do payments increase?
- **If you're paying a fixed rate for each kilowatt-hour generated by the community solar project, how does that rate compare to your existing rate from your electric supplier?** You will receive net metering credits at your existing supply rate—so, assuming no other costs, a per-kilowatt-hour subscription cost that is lower than your supply rate may save you money.
- **Does your subscription require you to sign up to receive electricity from a specific electric supplier or utility default service?** If so, what rate will you be charged for electricity under that supply option?

If you sign up for community solar, what factors affect whether you save money?

You are not guaranteed to save money unless your contract includes

an explicit savings guarantee. The questions below will affect whether you save money. You can answer some questions yourself, while others can be answered by the subscription provider or the sales agent.

- **What is the estimated monthly cost of your community solar subscription?** Are there also upfront fees? Does the cost change over time?
- **How much do you currently pay per kilowatt-hour for your electricity supply?** By subscribing to a community solar project, you will receive a credit for your share of that project's output on the supply portion of your electric bill (not the distribution portion of your bill).
- **Will you save more through net metering bill credits than you will pay in subscription fees?** Compare the size of your subscription and your electricity supply rate (which may change over time) to the cost of your subscription to determine if your bill credits will exceed your subscription cost. Does the subscription contain extra fees that could reduce savings or cause you to pay more than if you did not subscribe?
- **How much electricity will you receive from the community solar project? Is this the right amount, given how much electricity you use?** If your subscription provides more electricity than you use over the course of a year, you may not receive credit for all the electricity generated.
- **How likely are you to move out of the service territory of your utility before your community solar contract expires?** If you move within your utility service territory, you will be able



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to keep your community solar subscription. If you move out of that territory, you may need to find someone else to take over your subscription, or you may need to pay a termination fee.

Consumer rights

You have the right to maintain your subscription if you move to a different home or business location in the same utility service territory. You also have rights to assign or sell the subscription to another customer within your original utility service territory without having to pay a fee to the subscription provider. Some restrictions apply.

Every community solar project participating in Illinois Shines involves an Approved Vendor that has been approved by the Illinois Power Agency. Your community solar subscription provider is identified on your disclosure form. Your subscription provider may or may not be your Approved Vendor. Your subscription provider must respond to issues related to your subscription.

Complaint procedures

If you have a problem related to the project or the sales process, **first try to resolve it with your community solar subscription provider or the Approved Vendor** (these may or may not be the same entity).

If you can't agree about how to solve the problem, **you may contact the Illinois Shines/Adjustable Block Program Administrator** by emailing admin@illinoisshines.com or by calling (877) 783-1820.

If you have been subject to fraudulent or deceptive sales practices, the Illinois Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division may be able to help. Customers can contact it at:

Chicago
800-386-5438 | TTY: 800-964-3013

Springfield
800-243-0618 | TTY: 877-844-5461

Carbondale
800-243-0607 | TTY: 877-675-9339

Spanish Language
866-310-8398

For more information, go to www.illinoisshines.com

1 RECs represent the environmental value of the electricity generated from solar panels, but not the electricity itself. Utilities must acquire RECs to meet their obligation to supply a certain amount of power from renewable energy. The RECs from your community solar project will be transferred to an Illinois electric utility. For more information on RECs, see a video at <https://vimeo.com/113250210>.

2 This brochure is designed primarily for customers of Ameren Illinois Company, Commonwealth Edison Company, and MidAmerican Energy Company. For consumers in electric cooperative, municipal utility, or Mt. Carmel Public Utility territories, net metering policies may vary. Contact those utilities for details.



Community Solar Standard Disclosure Form

This form gives consumers who are considering subscribing to a community solar project clear information about their subscription. While the purpose of this form is to provide you with clear and accurate information about terms of your community solar subscription, this form is not a substitute for your contract. Do not rely exclusively on this form; read your subscription contract closely before you sign it. The information on this form should be consistent with the contract offered to you.

Community solar is an arrangement by which multiple customers share the economic benefits from electricity produced by a solar photovoltaic (“PV”) system located in the same utility service territory as the subscribers. If you subscribe to a community solar project, you will receive bill credits (measured in dollars) from your energy supplier for the electricity output (measured in kilowatt-hours) attributable to your subscription.

Do not sign this disclosure form unless you have received and read this form and the informational Illinois Shines brochure found on pages 1-2 of this document.

Contact Details

Subscriber	Community Solar Provider*
Name: John Doe	Legal Name: ABC Solar
Address: 123 First Street Chicago, IL 60667	Business Address: 1018 Second Street Chicago, IL 60622
Phone: 773-777-4444	Phone: 773-555-8888
Email: john.doe@gmail.com	Email: abcsolar@abc.com
Subscriber’s Electric Utility: ComEd	Name Used for Marketing: N/A
Subscriber’s Utility Account Number: 11111	Approved Vendor Program ID # or Designee Program ID #: 101
Subscriber’s Meter Number: 2345678	Website: ABCDSolar.com
Subscriber’s Energy Supplier (if different from Electric Utility): N/A	

**Your Community Solar Provider is the entity that manages subscriptions to your community solar project and serves as your primary subscription contact. Your Community Solar Provider may not be the same entity as the owner/developer of your community solar project.*

Project Specifications

Project Name:	123 Solar Project – Lake County
Located at:	1512 Lake Street [Address], Mundelein [Municipality] in Lake County [County], Illinois [State]
Estimated total size of the community solar project is:	900 kW AC
Has construction of the community solar project begun?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Has the community solar project been energized and granted permission to operate by the utility?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
The expected date of project energization is:	June 21, 2021
If the community solar project is not completed or energized by December 3, 2021 [date], you will receive a full, partial, or N/A refund of the sum of your community solar payments to date from your community solar provider:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Your refund will be issued:	December 4, 2021 <i>Date or schedule for issuance</i>
Estimated annual production decrease of the community solar project:	0.5 %
Approved Vendor Name and ID # (if different from the Community Solar Provider):	ABCD Solar, 101 <i>The Approved Vendor is the entity that receives incentive payments from the Illinois Shines program to support the development of this community solar project.</i>

Subscription Specifications

Size of subscription:	8 kW AC
Estimated first year annual electricity production for your subscription:	12,000 kWh
Is there a guaranteed minimum level of electricity production?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Term of your subscription:	10 years and 10 months

Estimated date when you will start receiving bill credits:	July 21, 2021
Deposit, down payment, or initial amount owed at contract signing:	\$0.00
Format of your invoices will be:	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Choice between electronic or paper invoices

Your subscription is structured as a **per-kilowatt-hour rate schedule** for the bill credits generated from a portion of a community solar project over time.

The per kWh rate for each payment is:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Known <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet known (i.e., variable)
If your per kWh rate is presently known:	<p>The first subscription payment is 5.262 cents/kWh and is due 30 days after system interconnection (for example, 30 days after system interconnection).</p> <p>The final subscription payment is 5.262 cents/kWh and is due 10 years after the first subscription payment (for example, 20 years after the first subscription payment).</p>
A full \$/kWh rate schedule for all subscription payments and when each payment is due is:	Monthly
The frequency of subscription payments is:	Monthly
Will there be an annual escalation rate?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If a payment is made more than 5 days after due date, you will be charged:	\$20 OR late payments accrue interest at 5% annually.
Is early termination of your subscription permitted for reasons other than moving outside of your electric utility service territory?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
The circumstances under which you are permitted to terminate your subscription early are:	Change in electricity supplier.
Your community solar provider will or will not impose a fee or penalty for early termination of the subscription?	<input type="checkbox"/> Will <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Will not

All other fees associated with your community solar subscription, including the amount of each fee and when it is due:

Costs and Fees		
Fees:	Amount:	When It's Due:
Maintenance	\$10	First of month

Information regarding your subscription and your electricity provider and supply rate:

Does your subscription require you to receive service from a specific Alternative Retail Electric Supplier (ARES)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
The method and formula that will be used to determine the energy supply rate over the full term of your community solar subscription is:	Default supply rate for electric utility minus 10 percent

**Your subscription payments may not constitute your required payments for electric service from your utility. In addition to the subscription payments paid to the community solar provider, you may be billed for electricity distribution and related services.*

Savings Estimates

Below is the current default supply rate for your electric utility:

Commonwealth Edison Company: 5.847 cents per kWh

If your electricity supplier is your utility, your subscription will offer you bill crediting at this default supply rate. If your electricity is supplied by an alternative supplier, your bill crediting will be at that alternative supplier's rate.

Your savings will be based on the difference between your subscription price (inclusive of any fees) versus the bill crediting rate. **Two examples are provided below:**

Savings Examples

- 1) If your subscription price is 5 cents per kWh and you are a ComEd default supply customer, then you will be paying your community solar provider 5 cents per kWh while receiving a credit valued at 5.78 cents per kWh for each kilowatt hour generated by your community solar project subscription. Over one year, if your community solar project generates 5 MWh of energy (5000 kWh) associated with your subscribed share, you will have paid \$250 to your community solar provider while receiving bill credits worth approximately \$289.

- 2) If your subscription price is 10% lower than your supply price (as some subscriptions are structured) and you are a ComEd default supply customer, then you will be paying your community solar provider approximately 5.2 cents per kWh while receiving a credit valued at 5.78 cents per kWh for each kilowatt hour generated by your community solar project. Over one year, if your community solar project generates 5 MWh of energy (5000 kWh) associated with your subscribed share, you will have paid \$260 to your community solar provider while receiving bill credits worth approximately \$289.

Before signing your subscription agreement, please read your subscription offer carefully to determine your expected savings.

Additional Information

Signing this form is required for Illinois Shines, a state-administered incentive program. If you decide to enter into a community solar contract, you will be asked to sign this form prior to signing your community solar subscription contract with your community solar provider, indicating that it has been provided to you. The form will be submitted to the Illinois Shines Program Administrator, and the Program Administrator may contact you to verify that you received and signed the form.

You may rescind your community solar subscription and receive a refund of any deposit paid within three calendar days of signing the contract by contacting your community solar provider.

Program website for more information: www.illinoisshines.com

Additional Details or Explanatory Information

**Nothing listed below shall alter, amend, repeal, or supersede the disclosure requirements contained in this form.*

Customer Signature

Signature: *By signing this form, you certify that you received and read this form.*

PRINTED NAME: John Doe

SIGN: John Doe DATE: 12/3/2020

Please save a copy of this document for your records.