Community Solar FAQs

What is Community Solar?  
A community solar project is a single site solar installation that’s shared by multiple customers (termed “subscribers”). Each subscriber’s rate typically includes a fixed rate for their share of the revenue generated by their community solar installation (termed “net metering credits”). These net metering credits reduce the amount of electricity charged to the subscriber’s account each month. While community solar subscribers can reduce their monthly bills with solar without installing or maintaining any equipment on their property.

Why do you need to be enrolled in the default electricity supply tariff service? 
The default supply tariff service is the electric utility bill that your utility produces on your behalf for the electricity consumed. It is an easy way to support clean energy generation located within Illinois. Supporting these types of projects helps the state of Illinois reach required renewable energy targets set by The Illinois Renewable Portfolio Standard.

What are Renewable Energy Credits?  
Renewable Energy Credits (REC’s) are attributes generated by Community Solar projects. Under the Illinois Shines Program and Solar for All that help support community solar development, however community solar projects are not able to participate in these state programs. FEJA refers to legislation passed in 2016. FEJA made many changes to how energy policy works in Illinois, including enabling community solar. FEJA also includes state-administered programs called the Adjustable Block Program and Solar for All that help support community solar development, however community solar projects are not able to participate in these state programs. 

Do I Need to Receive Electricity Supply Service from ComEd?  
Yes, accounts must receive electricity supply from ComEd to be eligible for the CS² Program. If accounts are not obligated to participate in these state programs.

What is Illinois Shines?  
Illinois Shines, or the Adjustable Block Program, is a state-administered program for new solar PV systems. You can learn more about Illinois Shines by reading this brochure.

What is Community Solar work?  
Community solar projects generate electricity and that power is delivered to the electric grid of the utility. Consumers can pay to provide clean energy and support clean energy generation. In addition, you do not have to install a solar asset on your rooftop, which may not be right for everybody. You will receive a net metering credit on your monthly utility bill for your share of the generation credited to your subscriber’s account each month to yield cost savings. The invoice examples below show you how this works.

How does Community Solar work?  
A community solar project is a single site solar installation that’s shared by multiple customers (termed “subscribers”). Each subscriber’s rate typically includes a fixed rate for their share of the revenue generated by their community solar installation (termed “net metering credits”). These net metering credits reduce the amount of electricity charged to the subscriber’s account each month. While community solar subscribers can reduce their monthly bills with solar without installing or maintaining any equipment on their property.

How does the billing work?  
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What is the Illinois Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA)?  
FEJA refers to legislation passed in 2016. FEJA made many changes to how energy policy works in Illinois, including enabling community solar. FEJA also includes state-administered programs called the Adjustable Block Program and Solar for All that help support community solar development, however community solar projects are not able to participate in these state programs. 

What is the CS² Residential and Small Commercial Program? 
The CS² Program was launched in October 2020. North Shore residents can sign up now to reserve space on one of the community solar projects participating in the CS² Program. Once community solar projects are completed, residents on the reservation list will be contacted as new community solar subscription opportunities become available through mc² as subscription agent for the project developer.

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What do you mean that solar subscriptions will be first come-first served basis?  
Each community solar project can support approximately 300 residential and small commercial accounts. There is no cost to place your name on the reservation list, and you can remove your name at any time. Residents on the reservation list will be informed that they can enroll in a subscription on a fist come-first served basis. There is no cost to place your name on the reservation list, and you can remove your name at any time.

How does the CS² Program work? 
The CS² Program uses a two stage subscription billing process. First, after successfully completing the enrollment process, you will receive the net metering credits on your monthly ComEd electric utility bill for your share of the generation credited to your subscriber’s account each month to yield cost savings. With community solar, subscribers can reduce their monthly bills with solar without installing or maintaining any equipment on their property.

Is Community Solar available now?  
Mandatory community solar projects in Illinois are still under development and expected to be placed into operation in late 2020 through 2022.

When will the CS² program start?  
The CS² Program was launched in October 2020. North Shore residents can sign up now to reserve space on one of the community solar projects participating in the CS² Program. Once community solar projects are completed, residents on the reservation list will be contacted as new community solar subscription opportunities become available through mc² as subscription agent for the project developer.

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