



Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc.

Community Solar - Frequently Asked Questions-2026

Q. Does community solar put solar panels on my roof?

A. No! There is no installation of solar panels. Instead, you are subscribing to a local community solar farm in Landover, MD.

Q. I am a renter and live in an apartment building- can I still subscribe?

A. Yes! Whether you own a house or rent a house or apartment, if you have your own utility bill from either Pepco or BG&E, you can subscribe to community solar through Neighborhood Sun.

Q. Is this the same as third-party energy?

A. No, community solar is not the same as third-party energy. Third-party energy offers energy through deregulated markets, promising lower rates that disappear if someone does not renew their contract in time, and hefty early cancellation fees for fixed rate contracts. Community solar was created by the state to be an ethical, safe alternative to third-party energy. Community solar through Neighborhood Sun provides clean energy from a local source, guarantees a 20% discount on energy costs by tying solar credits to regulated utility rates, ensuring consistent savings regardless of rate fluctuations with no rate hikes, and has no cancellation fee.

Q. Who are Clean Slate Solar and Neighborhood Sun?

A. Clean Slate Solar is the company that financed the solar project, and Neighborhood Sun is responsible for subscribing and distributing the energy produced by the solar project.

Q. What is the relationship between Housing Initiative Partnership and the Community Solar providers? Is there any financial interest on your end in having folks sign up?

A. Housing Initiative Partnership has partnered with Clean Slate Solar to both educate and subscribe folks to community solar with Neighborhood Sun. We do not have a financial relationship with Neighborhood Sun. Clean Slate Solar has received a loan from the state to implement this program, based on the stipulations that they get a certain number of

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folks subscribed. We have received some grant funding from Clean Slate Solar to do this work.

Q. How much will I save?

A. If you are below 80% of the area median income, you will save 20% on your solar credit. Your solar credit will be worth 90% of your monthly usage. The dollar amount depends on how much electricity you typically use. See the following questions for an example with the dollar amount.

Q. Will subscribing affect which utility company I have?

A. No, it will keep your utility company as either Pepco or BG&E.

Q. Will subscribing take away or lower the delivery fees on my utility bill?

A. No, the delivery fees will remain and will not be lowered.

Q. How would this affect my utility bill?

A. You will see your usage, credits, and discount on your utility bill. The total cost will be 20% less than if you were not subscribed. Since the state has moved to consolidated billing (everything on one bill), you will pay this bill however you normally pay your utility bill.

Q. For example, if I am below 80% of the AMI and my electricity charge is \$300, how much will I save, and how will subscribing affect my bill?

A. Your electricity charges will be \$300. Your bill will list your solar credit as \$270 (90% of \$300). On this same bill, it will show that you get a 20% discount on your solar credit, which amounts to \$54. The total you will have to pay for your electricity (not including distribution fees) is \$246. Your total savings were \$54.

Q. My electric bill is different every month. How will my credit always be worth 90% of my electricity usage?

A. When you subscribe, you upload a PDF of your most recent utility bill. Neighborhood Sun will go into your account to see your average usage per month for the past years and



allocate the same amount for the next year. If your electricity usage is on average worth \$100 in September and \$300 in January, Neighborhood Sun will allocate \$90 for next September and \$270 for next January. If you use less energy than your average, the credit will be worth more than 90%. If you use more energy than your average, your credit will be worth less than 90%.

Q. Is there definitely no catch or small print?

A. There is no catch or small print! It is free to subscribe and free to cancel, however, if you decide to cancel, you will have to pay Neighborhood Sun for your remaining credits during the cancellation period, which is 3 months.

Q. Is it really guaranteed money saving for the long term, not just the first few years?

A. Yes, the program is designed to last a minimum of 25 years. Though the caveat with everything is the uncertainty the new federal administration brings to climate initiatives. If programs like this go untouched by the federal administration, then you will get this for at least 25 years.