



# Illinois Solar for All

Greater access. Cleaner energy.  
A brighter tomorrow.

## Low-Income Community Solar



### What is Illinois Solar for All?

The Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) program provides greater access to the clean energy economy and solar energy to low-income households, non-profit organizations, and public facilities across the state through incentives that help make solar installations more affordable. The ILSFA Low-Income Community Solar sub-program allows qualified low-income participants to benefit from affordable solar energy production.

### What is Community Solar?

Community solar allows members of a community to subscribe to a single solar photovoltaic system. A solar array is installed at a site served by your local electrical utility. Anyone with an electricity account with that utility and is eligible for the program, can subscribe to shares of that array. Your electricity supplier will credit the electricity accounts of all subscribers based on their share of the electricity generated by the array. Credits that subscribers see on their bill can vary by subscriber, but typically include the value of their energy supply. With ILSFA, all participating subscribers will see savings.

### Community Participation

ILSFA ensures that communities have a voice in how community solar projects are developed. Approved Vendors are required to engage the local community on how projects are sited and how subscribers can participate. This helps to ensure that communities see greater benefits and play an important part in the development process. Community-based organizations will work with Approved Vendors during planning and development. Approved Vendors will be required to demonstrate this engagement for their projects to be approved by the program. Go to [IllinoisSFA.com](http://IllinoisSFA.com) to learn more.

### Savings

ILSFA ensures that all qualified participants see savings by requiring that your costs and fees are no more than half of the value from your share of the energy produced by the community solar system. Participants will receive bill credits for every kilowatt-hour of energy produced by their share of the community solar system. These credits are based on the total number of kilowatt-hours produced each month by your share.

For example, for a typical residential subscriber, if you pay 6 cents per kilowatt-hour for your energy supply and your share of the system produces 500 kilowatt-hours in a month, you will see  $500 \times 6$  cents or \$30 in bill credits for that month. If your share of energy is 6,000 kilowatt-hours in the first year, you will see a total of \$360 in energy value for that year and your total costs and fees can be no more than \$180 per year. This means a savings of at least \$180 for that year. If your monthly credits are greater than your total electricity supply bill, those credits may roll over to the next month. Check with your utility or electricity supplier for specific rules in your area.

### How does the program work?

All ILSFA projects are developed by Approved Vendors. Approved Vendors are vetted and approved by the Program Administrator and must meet rigorous program requirements, including quality workmanship, participant savings, and consumer protections. The Approved Vendor may work with a number of other companies to develop and manage a community solar project, including installers, marketing firms, and subscriber management organizations.

*The Illinois Solar for All program is administered by Elevate Energy on behalf of the Illinois Power Agency, an independent state government agency. This brochure is designed primarily for customers of Ameren Illinois Company, Commonwealth Edison Company, and MidAmerican Energy Company. For consumers in an electric cooperative, municipal utility, or Mt. Carmel Public Utility territories, some policies — such as net metering — may vary. Contact those utilities for details.*



# Illinois Solar for All

## Who can participate?<sup>1</sup>

- **Low-income households:** Residential properties with a household income that is 80% or less of the Area Median Income.
- **Non-Profit and Public Facilities Anchor Subscriber:** A single non-profit or public facility can serve as the anchor subscriber and receive the same level of savings as low-income households.

Income eligibility for low-income households must be verified by the Approved Vendor and validated by the Program Administrator. Several methods are allowed for income verification.

If participants are not eligible for ILSFA, the Illinois Shines program may be an option. Visit [www.IllinoisShines.com](http://www.IllinoisShines.com) for more information.

## What are my options to participate?

Every community solar project is different, but ILSFA ensures that all qualified subscribers see no upfront costs and that any ongoing costs and fees are no more than half of the value you receive in energy from your subscription share. Subscribers need to understand their options and be clear on all their costs and anticipated savings. While there are many different subscription options, these are the most common:

### Panel purchase

Subscribers purchase panels and the energy produced from those panels is credited on their electricity bill. Approved Vendors must ensure that the purchase price is paid through a loan or installments with no upfront costs and meets minimum savings requirements.

### Panel lease

Subscribers lease panels and the energy produced from those panels is credited on their electricity bill. The lease agreement must have no upfront costs and meet minimum savings requirements.

### Power purchase agreement

This is a colloquial term for an arrangement where subscribers pay the system owner a set rate per kilowatt-hour in exchange for bill credits. The agreement must have no upfront costs and meet minimum savings requirements.

## Important Consumer Protections

ILSFA ensures that Approved Vendors provide certain protections to all participants.

### No upfront costs

No subscribers should see any upfront costs or fees to participate in ILSFA, regardless of how they choose to subscribe.

*1. Others can subscribe to Illinois Solar for All Low-Income Community Solar projects, like non-income eligible households or commercial anchor subscriber, but these subscriber types may not receive the same level of savings as qualified participants.*

*2. Subscribing to a solar project can be a significant financial commitment. Please exercise the same caution you would when making other major consumer decisions. If possible, compare offers from different solar providers. Also, make sure that you have read the entire contract and that you understand it before you sign it.*

## Savings

Savings will vary based on the community solar project, the subscription model, and your share of the system you subscribe to. ILSFA ensures savings by requiring Approved Vendors to set your costs to be no more than half of the value you receive from bill credits. That can mean significant savings.<sup>2</sup>

## Standard disclosures and brochures

Approved Vendors are required to present standard brochures and disclosures to all participants at least seven days before you sign a contract. These disclosures provide very important and clear details on exactly how much you will pay and how much you will save.

## Transferring your subscription

If you move and are still within the same electric utility territory, you have the right to keep your subscription or transfer it to another subscriber. If you move out of the electric utility territory, you have the right to cancel your subscription.

## Complaint Procedures

If you have complaints related to the system or the Low-Income Community Solar program, first try to resolve the problem with your Approved Vendor. If you can't agree about how to solve the problem, please contact the Program Administrator by emailing [info@IllinoisSFA.com](mailto:info@IllinoisSFA.com) or by calling 1-888-970-ISFA (English or Spanish).

If you have been subject to fraudulent or deceptive sales practices, the Illinois Attorney General's office may be able to help. For more information: [www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/Customers](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov/Customers)

## For more information or to find an Approved Vendor:

**Online:** [www.IllinoisSFA.com](http://www.IllinoisSFA.com)

**Phone:** 1-888-970-ISFA (4732)

**Email:** [info@IllinoisSFA.com](mailto:info@IllinoisSFA.com)