

## MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR ENERGY GENERATED THROUGH CO-OP COMMUNITY SOLAR

### Information Factsheet

#### **Who is eligible to participate?**

All residential and commercial members of Appalachian Electric Cooperative.

#### **What are the advantages of Co-op Community Solar versus rooftop installation?**

You will realize a return on your investment much more quickly. Average payback for rooftop solar arrays is around 15 years, whereas participants in Co-op Community Solar will see a return in only 12 years. Renters and people whose properties are shaded or whose rooflines are not suited for the installation of solar arrays can participate in Community Solar. If you'd like to support clean, renewable energy but don't wish to install photovoltaic panels on your property (and thereby assuming the cost of insuring them as well as the ongoing maintenance costs associated with keeping them performing at maximum capacity), then Co-op Community Solar is for you!

#### **How does it work?**

AEC members subscribe to the generation output of individual solar panels, rated at 145 watts each. There is a one-time, up-front cost of \$125 per panel which must be paid in full (with no financing options available) at the time the subscription agreement is signed.

Three levels of participation are available to Co-op members.

- *Subscribe Solar*—You can subscribe to the generation of solar panels and receive a credit on your AEC statement bill.
- *Share Solar*—You can gift the subscription of solar generation to any non-profit organization or educational institution served by AEC. A Co-op Community Solar subscription in honor or in memory of someone is a meaningful gift that conveys a lasting legacy of respect for the environment.
- *Support Solar*—If your primary interest is in promoting environmental sustainability through renewable generation, you can make a contribution to Community Solar in order to ensure the future viability of that energy source.

More information is available at [aecoop.org](http://aecoop.org). Charitable donations through the Share Solar or Support Solar options may be tax-deductible; check with your tax advisor for guidance.

#### **What limits are in place?**

Half of the 9,471 panels are available for subscription by residential members and half are set aside for commercial members. There is a 5,000-watt cap per member for each residential subscription and a 10,000-watt cap that applies to commercial subscriptions. Subscriptions are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

#### **When will Co-op Community Solar begin generating electricity?**

Project completion and interconnection is targeted for the fall of 2016.

**How do I get a return on my investment?**

Solar energy credits will begin to appear on subscribers' AEC statement bills the month after interconnection. The amount will vary, depending upon the energy produced—which, in turn, is a result of how sunny or cloudy it's been the month before. The estimated return on investment is 12 years and each subscription agreement is in place for 20 years.

**What if I change my mind or move out of the AEC service area before my agreement is up?**

No refunds are available, but you may designate a person or a non-profit organization/educational entity served by AEC to receive the remaining monthly bill credits, per the procedure outlined in your subscription agreement.

**Will my electric rates go up, as a result of the construction and operation of the Co-op Community Solar facility?**

Project costs are fully funded through revenue generated via grants and a purchased power agreement with TVA. There are no associated impacts to AEC's retail electric rates.

**How can I know what kind of difference my participation is making with regard to the environment?**

Log onto [www.aecoop.org](http://www.aecoop.org) to view the calculation of carbon offset relative to generation from the Co-op Community Solar facility. Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) are applied to each panel and delivered to subscribers. RECs are more relevant to commercial members who subscribe, but even for residential subscribers, they are proof of the environmental value of your decision to support renewable energy.

**I'm ready to participate. How do I get started?**

AEC's Member Services department is ready to assist you! More information and copies of the service agreement are available on our website. Staff members can be reached at extension 1880 or come by the Co-op and pick up a subscriber agreement. Upon completion and receipt of your payment, you'll be all set.