



Westchester Residents Increase Renewable Energy through Sustainable Westchester's *Community Solar*...

Save Money on their Electric Bills & Contribute to FCWC's Initiatives all at the same time.

Sustainable Westchester's *Community Solar* offers residents a way to have a positive environmental impact by "greening the grid" at the same time enjoying a guaranteed savings of up to 10% on their electricity bills without the need for solar panels on their property, and with no sign-up or cancellation fees.

Sustainable Westchester, a nonprofit consortium of member Westchester municipalities, has added to its portfolio of energy solutions for Westchester County communities. For the first time it is now providing opportunities for all Westchester residents - both Con Ed and NYSEG customers - to subscribe to Sustainable Westchester's *Community Solar*.

Nina Orville, Director of Solar Programs at Sustainable Westchester explains, "*Community Solar is fully compatible with all of Sustainable Westchester's other clean energy solutions, including our Westchester Power program that supplies electricity to participants. In fact, people who participate in Westchester Power's Green Option and who enroll in community solar are doubling their positive environmental impact while benefiting from the guaranteed savings offered by Community Solar. The electricity supply is greened through the Westchester Power program and enrollment in Community Solar directly supports construction and operation of new solar installations as New York State has structured community solar, such that without subscribers, new solar installations will not be built.*"

How can FCWC members get involved?

As a partner in helping Sustainable Westchester spread the word, FCWC is happy to be able to add in their effectiveness in reaching residents and facilitating consumer education on a local level, which in turn allows for a greater benefit from community solar. We invite our members to use this promotion code, FCWC, as you sign-up so that we can track our environmental impact. In addition, we are pleased that Sustainable Westchester is able to offer a \$50 donation to FCWC for each member subscriber to further our sustainability initiatives.

What is community solar and how does it work?

A community solar project enables people to subscribe to a large solar farm located in their utility area with no cost to join and no cost to cancel. Energy produced from the solar farm is sent to the electric grid and subscribers receive a credit on their electricity bill representing their share of the value of that energy. Subscribers then pay the owner of the solar farm a discounted amount for that solar credit through auto debit from a bank account they designate – resulting in savings on their electricity bill of up to 10%.

The New York State Public Service Commission regulates community solar to ensure consumer protection and the approach is integral to achieving the state's ambitious climate goals, including more than tripling solar energy production by 2025.

How does this differ from solar panels installed on your rooftop or property?

Since 2015, Sustainable Westchester has helped Westchester residents install solar panels more easily and inexpensively. While rooftop solar offers great benefits for homeowners who are eligible, the majority of Westchester residents are unable to participate. Among those who are excluded are those who rent, or who own in multifamily buildings, those who cannot afford to purchase or are unable to lease a system, homeowners with shady roofs and those who cannot fully benefit from the tax credits that make systems more affordable. Community solar enables almost everyone to support, and benefit from, solar installations.

Current subscribers have been pleased with Community Solar and the benefits it provides.

"We considered installing solar panels but due to our roof's condition and heavy tree cover on our property, it was not the best option. The sign up for community solar was quick and straightforward and the communication between Con Edison and our community solar provider has been flawless. The monthly savings is exactly what was projected and is a bonus on top of supporting renewable energy."
Sarah Suskin-Community Solar Subscriber

"We chose Community Solar because we aren't in a location where we can have panels on our roof. But, Plan B turns out to be a great plan, saving us money as we reduce our carbon footprint." Matt Rosenberg, Community Solar Subscriber

How does this work with current utilities and already installed home solar panels?

Sustainable Westchester's *Community Solar* is compatible with both Sustainable Westchester's Westchester Power (CCA) program, Con Edison, NYSEG and other ESCOs. If you already have solar on your property, or if you are a NYSEG customer on budget/level billing, unfortunately you cannot subscribe to community solar.

How do residents get more information and sign up?

For more information, and to enroll, residents can visit [Solarize Westchester website](#). Resident questions can be directed to 914-242-4725 or email communitysolar@sustainablewestchester.org. If this is of interest, Sustainable Westchester cautions that space is limited and available on a first come basis. Enrolling is easy, but does require automated payment for the solar credits and may include a soft credit check.

About Sustainable Westchester

Sustainable Westchester is a not-for-profit consortium of Westchester County local governments facilitating effective collaboration resulting in sustainability initiatives and cutting-edge innovation. Our goal is to bring socially responsible, environmentally sound, and economically viable solutions that create healthy, vibrant communities.

Sustainable Westchester's portfolio of energy solutions includes Westchester Power, the first in NYS Community Choice Aggregation program that provides 100% NYS hydropower and fixed electricity supply rates to its customers. Currently, Westchester Power is the default supplier in 27 County municipalities servicing 125,000 customers. In the first three years of the program, Westchester Power has made a significant environmental impact eliminating 500,000 metric tons of CO2. HeatSmart an energy efficiency, clean heating and cooling solution provides options for home and commercial buildings through geothermal or air source heat pumps. HeatSmart provides a valuable solution for all Westchester residents and businesses and importantly for those in current gas constricted areas.

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For more information about Community Solar or other Sustainable Westchester energy programs, please contact Maria Genovesi, Director of Marketing, Communications & Outreach; Sustainable Westchester, 914-242.4725 x104 or maria@sustainablewestchester.org.