



# Community Solar and Energy Equity in New Hampshire

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# What is Community Solar?



**A solar array shared  
by multiple electric  
users.**

**“Shared Solar”**

**“Solar Farm”**

**“Solar Garden”**

# Why Community Solar?

## **Similar reasons to rooftop solar**

For example:

- Carbon reduction
- Financial benefits

## **Rooftop or on-site solar isn't suitable or attainable for everyone...**

For example:

- Renters
- Siting constraints – unsuitable roof or land
- Financial considerations

## **Economies of Scale**

## **Land use benefits for well sited projects**

# Enabled Through Group Net Metering

## **RSA 362-A:9, XIV**

- Permits net-metered renewable energy facilities (customer generators) to share the proceeds from net excess electricity generation with other electric utility customers (group members).

## **PUC 900 (Administrative rules governing group net metering)**


## **Net Energy Metering Tariff**

- Small customer generators up to 100 kW AC: 100% default service (energy) + 100% transmission charge + 25% distribution charge.
- Large customer generators above 100 kW and up to 1 MW AC (5 MW for municipal group hosts): 100% default service (energy).

# Enabled Through Group Net Metering

- 
- Solar array generates electricity.

- 
- Electricity is fed back into the distribution grid.

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- Utility pays/credits participating customers for their respective share of the electricity generated at the applicable net energy metering rate.

# Community Solar Models

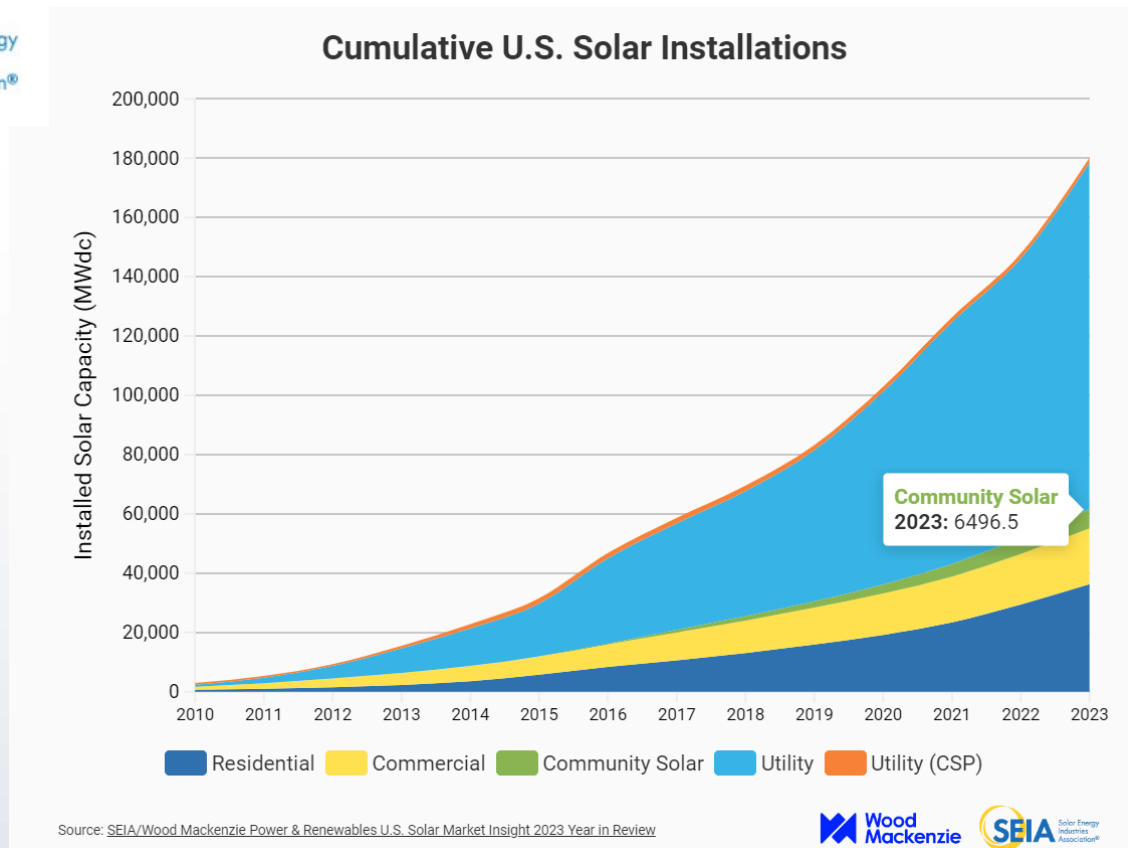
## (1) Community Owned

- Solar array is owned by the participants. Participants pay for a percentage share of the project upfront and take any receive investment tax credits if eligible.
- Participants receive all benefits from the solar array.
- Participants are responsible for cost of operating and maintaining the solar array – but may contract with a third party for O&M services.

## (2) Third Party Owned/Subscription/PPA

- Solar array is owned and operated by a developer or investor. Participants make periodic payments to project owner (PPA payment or subscription fee).
- Participants receive a pre-negotiated percentage of the benefits from the solar array; the owner receives the rest.
- May provide an opportunity to purchase the solar array in the future (PPA model).

# Community Solar in the U.S.



# Community Solar in New Hampshire



**New Hampshire Annual Solar Installations**





# ROC Community Solar:

## Where affordable housing and climate equity meet

- ❑ 4 community solar projects in resident owned communities, serving 100+ low-moderate income residents.
- ❑ Stabilizing energy costs helps to stabilize affordable housing communities and improve quality of life.
- ❑ State and Federal funding is helping to scale up low-moderate income renewable energy, energy efficiency, and weatherization efforts and other critical infrastructure projects.
- ❑ A demonstration of successful collaborations and partnerships.



# Low-Moderate Income (LMI) Community Solar in New Hampshire

- ❑ **SB 129 (2017); RSA 362-F:10, X Renewable Energy Fund LMI Community Solar Grants**
  - ❑ Allocate no less than 15% of the Renewable Energy Fund to an LMI program to benefit low-moderate income residential customers.
- ❑ **SB 165 (2019); RSA 362-A:9 and RSA 362-F:2 created the LMI Adder.**
  - ❑ \$0.025/kWh adder to net metering rate
- ❑ **SB 270 (2022) EAP LMI Adder**
  - ❑ Up to 6 MW per year; utility identifies EAP

# MASCOMA MEADOWS, LEBANON NH



- 100 kW AC
- Developer owned project, partially funded by grant
- Land donated by the church next door
- 45 participating ROC households receive monthly lot rent reduction of \$20/month
- Amount of lot rent reduction is reviewed annually by the Board.
  - ❖ As electric rates go up, the net metering credit also goes up, so the lot rent reduction may increase.



## WHITE ROCK, TILTON NH

- 66 kW AC
- ROC owned project on ROC owned land
- 90% funded by grant; 10% funded by ROC
- 23 participating ROC households receive a combination of monthly credits on electric bill (varies by month) and lot rent reduction (\$10/month)
- Amount of lot rent reduction is reviewed annually by the Board







## PINE HILL, CONWAY NH

- 50 kW AC
- ROC owned project on ROC owned land.
- 100% grant funded
- Will serve 25 households
- Participating ROC households will receive monthly credits on their electric bill.

