



PV Q&A

Questions and answers about our community solar program

WHAT IS COMMUNITY SOLAR?

MEC's community solar program gives members the option to acquire renewable energy from a centrally-located, cooperatively-owned solar array. MEC is currently offering shares in our phase II community solar array in Frenchtown. Members will be able to acquire the output of one or more panels by purchasing a share in the array. The goal of community solar is to allow Members to participate in a solar project without the costs or drawbacks of installing a solar system at their home or business.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

How much solar can I purchase? Members may purchase the output of multiple solar panels. Members are limited to the purchase of 80 percent of their average energy usage over the last 12 months.

How much credit will I receive on my bill? Each month the energy produced by the solar array will be measured and the total divided by 184 (the total number of panels). Each participating member's MEC account will be credited for the energy production associated with the number of panels in the member's contract. Solar production will vary from month to month.

What is the cost? The cost to purchase the output of one panel for 25 years is \$700.00. The installer estimates each panel will produce an average of 338 kWh annually over the 25 year term*.

What does the cost cover? MEC will provide necessary maintenance, insurance and ensure that all applicable codes, standards and regulatory requirements are met at the time of installation and throughout the life of the solar installation.

How can I sign up? MEC Members can participate by contacting our office. We can answer any questions

you may have and provide a copy of the contract.

What if I move? If you move to another meter location within MEC's service territory, your solar energy credits will move with you. If you are moving out of the MEC service area, the panel output can be transferred to another member at no additional cost.

Does the system work if there is an outage? No. The inverter needs a power supply to convert generated electricity from direct current (DC) to Alternating Current (AC). Without a power supply the inverter will not work.

How much energy will the solar array produce? Energy production will vary from month to month and year to year based on weather. Estimated annual production of 62,000 kWh is expected. This results in approximately 338 kWh per panel, per year.*

By participating, do I own part of the solar array? No. Participating in the program entitles the subscriber to a share of the energy output of the array equal to their level of participation in the program. There are no rebates or tax benefits for participation.

How long could I receive benefits from the array? The initial term of the program is 25 years.

*Solar production is estimated and decreases by approximately 0.5% per year as the system ages.