

## Vera C. Blakely, Orwell

I was born into a world with oil lamps, well water pumped by hand and horses for travel. Then the automobile and telephone in every home led to a cell phone in every hand. And now we have electricity from the sun. Watch out world! I can't believe it.

For 26 years I've lived above a meadow where the sun is always shining. For 26 years I've had that meadow to myself and have enjoyed the view but now for the first time that meadow is working *for* me. I now host a community solar array that allows up to 30 households to benefit from solar for the first time, my home included.

I was looking for a way to create a more sustainable, secure future for myself. SunCommon's Community Solar Array program was such an opportunity. They came to my property and we walked through my meadow and we talked and I could see no reason not to go forth with solar. It is my property after all and *my* decision. I am A-OK with my solar farm.

I'm hearing people say we need more jurisdictions about where these arrays are allowed to go, but that might mean people like myself wouldn't be able to have a solar array.

You should come to my place and see my array. It's not disturbing anyone. Very much like the big steel barn that was built on my property, my solar array rests quiet and still in my meadow.

I'm proud to have found a way to further Vermont's working landscape. I'm happy to be helping my neighbors and fellow Addison County residents benefit from solar.

I don't think Vermonters need Montpelier to tell us what we can do with our property. It's not hurting anyone. We work hard to have what we have and should be allowed the freedom to use our land to support our own future and Vermont's energy future. I'd hate to see other Vermonters miss out on this wonderful opportunity.