



Senate Natural Resources and Energy March 26, 2021
S. 119 Community Energy Program



VEC's Community Solar Model Program



Cost-effective—Solar sponsorship provided at cost -- brings direct value to participants as well as all Co-op members.

Well sited—Projects are located at sites that optimize grid efficiency.

Local Renewable Energy—VEC retires the Renewable Energy Certificates for all sponsored panels, helping us to meet the VT Renewable Energy Standard goals and requirements.

Inclusive—Opportunity for members who do not have suitable sites, don't own their home, or who are not able or interested in making a long-term commitment.

Exit Option—Participants can “opt out” of the program at any time for any reason and receive back a pro-rated portion of their sponsorship.

Affordable—Financing option allows all income levels to go solar.



Current status (March 2021)

- 28,400 panels (just over 7 MW) at three well-located sites (Alburgh 1 MW, Grand Isle 5 MW, Hinesburg 1.3 MW).
- Designed to produce over 9 million kwh annually= 1,200 homes annual usage.
- To date, 19% percent of the operating panels have been sponsored. (5,338 panels, 211 participants)

VEC Co-op Solar Alburgh 1 MW



VEC Co-op Solar Hinesburg 1.3 MW



Photo: Courtesy of Encore Renewable Energy

VEC Co-op Solar Grand Isle 5 MW





VEC Co-op Community Solar provides an innovative solution to ensure cost-effective and local renewable energy.

Although the solar sites in this program look just like other solar sites, this program is using an innovative and proven approach.

The program is analogous to a farm CSA, where members pre-pay* and then receive more value back over time than what they originally paid, while benefiting the greater community.

**Low cost, “on-bill”, financing is available through reliable partners that still provide net value to the member.*

10-Year Co-op Community Solar Sponsorship



						Indicative Loan Terms @ 4.99% for 10 years**		
Panels*	Payment	Monthly Credit	Annual Credit	Total Program Credit	Total savings	Monthly loan payment	Total loan payment	Total savings
1	\$234.75	\$2.72	\$32.64	\$326.40	\$91.65	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	\$939.00	\$10.88	\$130.56	\$1,305.60	\$366.60	N/A	N/A	N/A
8	\$1,878.00	\$21.76	\$261.12	\$2,611.20	\$733.20	N/A	N/A	N/A
12	\$2,817.00	\$32.64	\$391.68	\$3,916.80	\$1,099.80	\$29.86	\$3,583.20	\$333.60
16	\$3,756.00	\$43.52	\$522.24	\$5,222.40	\$1,466.40	\$39.82	\$4,778.40	\$444.00
20	\$4,695.00	\$54.40	\$652.80	\$6,528.00	\$1,833.00	\$49.77	\$5,972.40	\$555.60
24	\$5,634.00	\$65.28	\$783.36	\$7,833.60	\$2,199.60	\$59.73	\$7,167.60	\$666.00
28	\$6,573.00	\$76.16	\$913.92	\$9,139.20	\$2,566.20	\$69.68	\$8,361.60	\$777.60
32	\$7,512.00	\$87.04	\$1,044.48	\$10,444.80	\$2,932.80	\$79.64	\$9,556.80	\$888.00
36	\$8,451.00	\$97.92	\$1,175.04	\$11,750.40	\$3,299.40	\$89.59	\$10,750.80	\$999.60
40	\$9,390.00	\$108.80	\$1,305.60	\$13,056.00	\$3,666.00	\$99.55	\$11,946.00	\$1,100.00
44	\$10,329.00	\$119.68	\$1,436.16	\$14,361.60	\$4,032.60	\$109.50	\$13,140.00	\$1,221.60
48	\$11,268.00	\$130.56	\$1,566.72	\$15,667.20	\$4,399.20	\$119.46	\$14,335.20	\$1,332.00
52	\$12,207.00	\$141.44	\$1,697.28	\$16,972.80	\$4,765.80	\$129.41	\$15,529.20	\$1,443.60
56	\$13,146.00	\$152.32	\$1,827.84	\$18,278.40	\$5,132.40	\$139.37	\$16,724.40	\$1,554.00
60	\$14,085.00	\$163.20	\$1,958.40	\$19,584.00	\$5,499.00	\$149.32	\$17,918.40	\$1,665.60
64	\$15,024.00	\$174.08	\$2,088.96	\$20,889.60	\$5,865.60	\$159.28	\$19,113.60	\$1,776.00
67	\$15,728.25	\$182.24	\$2,186.88	\$21,868.80	\$6,140.55	\$166.74	\$20,008.80	\$1,860.00

* Panels are available at levels in between those listed on this chart. For example, 2, 3, 5, etc.

Member and Co-op Benefits

- **Cost effective.** Not paying above market rate. No cost shift to others.
- **Scalable.** 1 panel or up to entire electric bill.
- **Zero Risk to participants.** Fixed monthly bill credit.
- **Can exit any time.** Reimbursed pro-rata share.
- **No local site required.** Member can be a renter, have a shady site, does not require suitable roof or property.
- **No lag time to enroll.** On-line and no site visit or installation required.
- **Well sited.** VEC can ensure projects are sited close to load.



Solar Power For People, Not Profit.

Vermont Electric Cooperative is member-owned and committed to the best interests of our members and their communities. This is why we developed VEC Co-op Community Solar—an easy and efficient way for all VEC members to get great value while supporting clean electricity.

With three projects up and running in Alburgh, Grand Isle and Hinesburg, now is a good time to support solar with VEC Co-op Community Solar.

**For more information, visit vermontelectric.coop/solar
or call 1-800-832-2667.**



*Key component -
projects are developed
via a competitive
bidding process*



Energy equity and energy security are essential to ensuring thriving and sustainable communities

Vermont Electric Cooperative serves 32,000 members in 75 towns across the northern section of Vermont. The counties included in our service territory include Addison, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, and Orleans.

VEC service territory is rural and relatively low-income. We serve eight of the top ten towns, and three of the top five counties, with the highest poverty levels in Vermont. Most of the towns identified in the October 2019 Vermont Energy Burden Report that have the highest energy burden are towns served by VEC with 43 percent of our towns classified as having highest or high energy burden, 31 percent as moderate, and 26 percent having a low or lowest energy burden.

In VEC's 2019 annual member survey, 43 percent of the residential respondents reported that they were on fixed incomes, another 14 percent were unemployed or working less than full-time, and only 44 percent reported working full-time.

Comparative Cost for 500-kW Projects Developed Under Different Programs



		NM 1.0 (no RECs)	NM 2.0 (w/RECs)	PPA	Standard Offer
First 10 yrs	Price/kWh	\$0.1900	\$0.1692	\$0.1163*	\$0.1167**
	Annual Cost	\$133,000	\$118,433	\$81,410	\$81,690
	Annual Subsidy	\$51,590	\$36,743		
	10-year subsidy	\$515,900	\$367,430		
Last 15 yrs	Price/kWh	\$0.14919	\$0.14919	\$0.1163*	\$0.1167**
	Annual Cost	\$104,433	\$104,433	\$81,410	\$81,690
	Annual subsidy	\$23,023	\$23,023		
	15-year subsidy	\$345,345	\$345,345		
	Lifetime Subsidy	\$861,245	\$712,775		

**This price is an average of three VEC solar PPAs.*

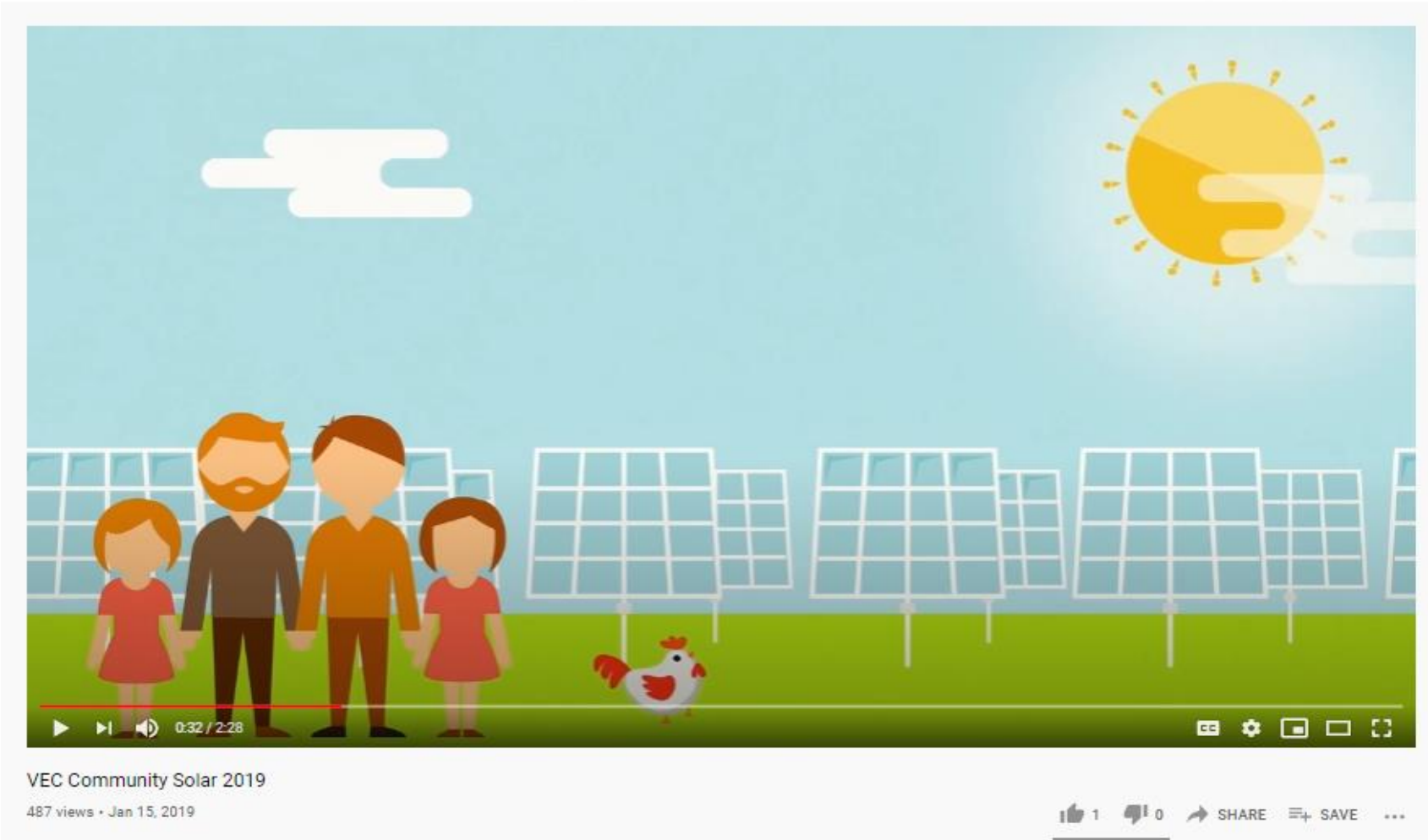
***This price is an average of the smaller solar projects (= or < 1.2 MW) in the 2017 award group, not including the more expensive parking lot canopy project.*



OPPORTUNITY:

- **Welcoming participation by all income levels in our energy future.**
- **Grant or funding opportunities that will help buy down the cost of panel sponsorship for members who may income qualify.**
- **100% of grant funds could go directly to member sponsorship, 0% used for admin or other.**
- **We urge your support in bringing this win-win opportunity to all Vermonters.**

<https://youtu.be/Q3SKjXkNr4g>

A screenshot of a YouTube video player. The video content shows a family of four (two adults and two children) standing in a field with solar panels. A chicken is also present. The sky is blue with a sun and a cloud. The video player interface includes a progress bar at 0:32 / 2:28, a volume icon, and a play button. Below the video, the title 'VEC Community Solar 2019' is displayed, along with '487 views · Jan 15, 2019'. At the bottom right, there are icons for likes (1), dislikes (0), share, save, and a menu icon.

Solar Power For People, Not Profit.



<https://vermontelectric.coop/co-op-community-solar>

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