

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Community Solar with Hudson Valley Community Power

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FAQ: HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY SOLAR

1. What is community solar?

Community solar programs allow utility customers (including members of community choice aggregation programs) to support local solar power and save on annual electricity costs without having to install solar panels. Hudson Valley Community Power's local solar program is available to Central Hudson residential and small business customers in New York's Hudson Valley.

2. Why sign up for community solar?

1. To lower your annual electricity costs by approximately 10% annually for up to 25 years.
2. To support solar power and demonstrate commitment to clean energy.
3. To reduce your carbon footprint.
4. No equipment installed on your roof or property and no equipment maintenance responsibilities.
5. No upfront cost or long-term contracts.
6. You'll remain a Central Hudson customer.
7. Maximize potential savings by participating in both community choice and community solar programs.

3. Who are the interested parties and what are their roles?

1. Joule Community Power
Program Administrator
2. Nexamp
Solar Farm Owner/Developer

Joule Community Power is partnering with Nexamp to make it possible for Central Hudson electricity customers to subscribe to a local solar farm. Joule is

program administrator for the Hudson Valley Community Power community choice aggregation program. The solar offering is another way for these forward-thinking and environmentally conscious communities to support clean energy while spending less on electricity.

Joule Community Power (Joule) works with municipalities and local partners to empower communities and facilitate their goals of providing residents and businesses with cleaner and cheaper energy. Joule principals were responsible for implementing New York State's first Community Choice Aggregation Program (CCA)—a program that enables communities to aggregate local energy demand in order to: 1) Save money—Gain leverage to procure less expensive electricity for residents and businesses, 2) Make money—Create new revenue opportunities by participating in energy markets, and 3) Go green—Gain local control to opt for clean and renewable generation sources. Joule is the only company in New York State offering CCA administrative plan that integrates community solar projects; and only Joule has the expertise, relationships, and experience to effectively design, implement, and manage such a program. Joule's innovative approach for renewable energy strategies in new York is driving new regulation and encouraging the Public Service Commission to rapidly advance innovative solutions. Joule Community Power is a division of Joule Assets.

Nexamp is making it possible for home energy users and small business owners to support local solar power while lowering their electricity bills. Nexamp is a leader in the community solar space, with shared solar farms across New York, Massachusetts, and Maryland.

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4. Where is the energy generated?

The solar panels will be installed at two site locations (a.k.a. “solar farm”, “solar garden”, or “solar project”): Wappinger, NY & Rochester, NY.

FAQ: HOW IT WORKS

5. How does it work?

You subscribe to a shared solar farm in your community. The farm feeds clean, solar energy into the local utility grid. You continue to receive power from Central Hudson; but your bill will be lower because of credits (derived from NY State incentives for clean energy generation) on your bill for the energy generated by the solar farm.

6. What is my guaranteed discount?

You're guaranteed a 10% discount off your electric bill for the amount of power generated by your share of the solar farm.

7. How is my solar allocation determined?

Your solar allocation will be sized to offset nearly all of your typical electricity usage. So, while you're receiving a guaranteed 10% discount on only the portion of solar you've been allocated, your allocation should roughly match your annual usage.

8. Am I guaranteed a lower rate for a specified period of time?

You're guaranteed the 10% discount for twenty-five years. However, you're under no obligation, to participate for any length of time and you may

cancel your contract at any time without incurring any fees or penalties. *Note, it may take up to ninety days for the cancellation to go into effect.*

9. How is my discount guaranteed?

To achieve the New York State mandates that by 2030: 1) 50% of all electricity will come from renewable sources, and 2) there will be a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels), the State is incentivizing clean energy generation. As a result of these state incentives, community solar farm subscribers can receive monetary bill credits. As a local solar subscriber, you'll be charged 90% of the value of the solar credits that reduce your Central Hudson bill, thereby saving you the 10% difference just for choosing to support solar.

10. How will I be billed?

Each month, you'll receive two bills—one from Central Hudson and one from Nexamp, the solar project manager—that will add up to less than you pay now. Central Hudson will bill you for the electricity you use less the bill credits that incentivize solar generation. Nexamp will bill you for 90% of the solar credit value. **You save the 10% difference!**

11. Will I still receive power from Central Hudson?

Yes. Central Hudson will continue to deliver your electricity and is responsible for repairs, maintenance, and service. The solar farm simply feeds energy into the utility grid.

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12. Will I have a new energy supplier?

No. Your power supplier will not change. You may enroll even if your electricity is supplied by an ESCO. The solar bill credits offset the cost of your bill regardless of your supplier.

Community solar provides another way to:

1. Support renewable energy
2. Decrease your community's carbon footprint
3. Lower your annual electricity costs.

To demonstrate maximum support of renewable energy and to minimize your electricity costs, we recommend participating in both the Hudson Valley Community Power CCA and the community solar program.

FAQ: ENROLLMENT

13. Am I eligible to enroll?

Subscribers must be Central Hudson residential or small business customers.

14. Can I enroll my business?

Yes, any residential or small business customer with a Central Hudson account may enroll. Central Hudson commercial customers are eligible unless they are so large that they pay demand charges (if you pay a demand charge, it would be listed on your Central Hudson bill).

15. Is there a penalty for canceling my subscription?

No. There are no penalties or termination fees. Should you choose to leave the program, please allow up to 90 days for the cancellation to take effect.

FAQ: COMMUNITY SOLAR

16. What is CDG?

Community Distributed Generation is a program established by the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to allow broader access to renewable energy. Independent developers build renewable energy systems and sell the generated power to anyone who qualifies. Subscribers can support, and enjoy the benefits of, solar energy generation without owning or installing equipment.

17. What is a solar credit?

As a result of New York State incentives for clean energy generation, credits are issued when electricity is produced from a clean, renewable source. A credit is created every time a renewable power producer creates a unit of energy. A solar credit specifies solar-generated energy.

By enrolling in Hudson Valley Community Power's community solar program, you're supporting renewable energy generation. In turn, you receive solar bill credits for your allocation of the solar-generated energy that is fed into the grid to be distributed by Central Hudson.

The credits more than offset your supply cost, and you end up spending less for cleaner energy generated from renewable sources.

Solar credits make it possible for you to enjoy the benefits of clean, renewable power without having to own or install equipment on your home or property.

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18. How's it possible that, in a particular month, I can have no electricity payment due to Central Hudson and unused credits to rollover to the following month??

You'd receive bill credits based on how much solar power your share of the farm generates.

In summer months, when the solar farm is very productive, what's generated may be more than what you consume; you'd receive bill credits that more than offset what you owe for your consumption. In this case, you wouldn't owe any money to Central Hudson and any excess credits would stay on your account to be used in subsequent months.

Alternatively, during winter, you may use more energy than is generated by your share of the farm. In this case, you'd receive fewer credits than needed, but any rollover credits on your account will be applied.

Your allocation is calculated so that, on an annual basis, your share of the farm generates enough power to match your annual consumption and offset

your electricity supply costs.

19. Is renewable energy the same as clean energy?

Renewable energy is any type of energy that comes from renewable natural resources (e.g., wind, rain, sunlight, geothermal heat, tides). It's renewable because it doesn't run out. You can always get more of it.

Clean energy is any form of energy created via clean, harmless, and non-polluting methods. Most, but not all, renewable energy sources are also clean energy sources (e.g., geothermal power—some geothermal energy processes can be harmful to the environment).

Clean energy makes less impact on the environment than do conventional energy sources. It creates an insignificant amount of carbon dioxide, and its use can reduce pollution and the speed of global warming.

Solar energy is both renewable and clean.

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Your project will be built by:

nexamp

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