

Oakdale Electric Cooperative

COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN FAQs



Oakdale Electric Cooperative has compiled a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to our SunnyOak Community Solar Garden. If after reviewing the FAQs and you still have questions feel free to call us at 608-372-4131 or send an email to info@oakdalerec.com.

Q Why did Oakdale Electric Cooperative build a Community Solar Garden?

A To provide interested Oakdale Electric Cooperative members a viable and affordable option to purchase renewable solar energy on a voluntary basis.

Q How do I participate in the community solar project?

A You must sign a Solar Subscription Agreement and make a one-time payment for a subscription unit(s) in the amount of \$500 per unit. *Financing will be available at Oakdale Credit Union for qualifying members. Contact OCU at 608-372-3939 for more information.*

Q What is the size of the Community Solar Garden and where is it located?

A The Oakdale Electric Community Solar Garden is 200 kilowatts. This project is a part of the Dairyland Power Utility Scale Solar project that is 1,500 kilowatts. The Solar Garden is located south of the Whistling Wings Substation on State Road 80 in Necedah.

Q What is a subscription unit?

A A subscription unit is the equivalent of one solar panel of electricity producing capacity. Oakdale Electric Cooperative's solar garden will be comprised of 792 solar panels.

Q Are there any restrictions or limitations on who may subscribe to the community solar garden?

A Yes. The subscribing member must have an account in good standing with Oakdale Electric Cooperative.

Q Is there a limit on how many units a member can buy?

A Yes. Residential members are limited to a number of subscription units projected to annually generate up to 75% of their previous year's electricity usage. Commercial or Industrial members are limited to a number of subscription units projected to annually generate up to 50% of their previous year's electricity usage.

Q How much energy will each panel produce?

A Each unit has so far produced approximately 415 kWh annually, but that is not guaranteed. Energy production will vary based on total sunshine and time of year.

Q How much will I be paid for the energy my unit(s) subscriptions produce?

A Payment will be solely in the form of a credit against your electric bill. Any kilowatt hour output for the unit will be credited at the residential retail rate. For example: if your energy bill shows you are paying 11.40 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) and your unit produces 40 kilowatt hours, your bill will be credited $\$0.114 \times 40 = \4.56 .

Q How long will the units last?

A You will receive the energy output of that unit for the remainder of the 25-year-project term that began in June of 2017.

Q Do I own the solar panels if I participate in the project?

A No, as a member you are not purchasing solar panels, you are purchasing the subscription units of the output of the solar garden for the life of the project.

Q What if I move?

A Subscribers will have 4 options:

1. Sell the subscription unit(s) back to the Cooperative.
2. Keep the subscription unit(s) with the existing home if the new member wants to purchase it.
3. Sell (or give) the subscription unit(s) to another qualified member that is already served by the Cooperative.
4. Transfer the subscription unit(s) to another one of your Oakdale Electric Cooperative accounts.

Q Can I file and collect the federal tax credit for the cost of each production unit in the solar array I purchase?

A No. The project retains the tax credit and that is calculated into the price for the energy.

Q When did the Community Solar Garden become operational?

A Construction began in November 2016, and commercial operation began in June of 2017.

