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Community solar program developers can now reach out to potential subscribers

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC), along with program administrator InClima Inc., this week released the state's community solar program [subscriber information disclosure form](#), an important milestone for the program that allows projects that have been [awarded capacity](#) to develop solar facilities to begin enrolling existing utility customers. The form provides potential customers with key details about the program, projects, potential savings, cancellation terms, and subscription size.

“The release of this disclosure form allows community solar developers to begin signing up customers and is a significant step forward for community solar in our state,” said Commissioner James Ellison. “Signing up customers is the first step in community solar development, as this will enable developers to obtain financing and move forward with actually building the solar projects. The NMPRC is proud to play a role in bringing community solar to New Mexico.”

The community solar program enables customers of eligible utility companies, who either cannot or choose not to install solar panels on their property, to access some of the economic and environmental advantages of renewable energy generation. Customers, also known as subscribers, can do so by **signing a contract with** a solar facility dedicated to serving the community's energy needs. Earlier this year, program administrator InClima selected 45 projects to develop solar facilities in support of the program; these facilities will be allocated among the service areas of the state's three investor-owned utilities.

A community solar project will make it possible for a utility customer to purchase a specific amount of electricity as a subscription up to their annual usage, which could be at a discount compared to a typical rate. Once the project is built and connected to the grid, subscribers will make a monthly payment to a subscription manager that supports the community solar project. A subscription manager can be the utility, subscriber organization, or a separate third-party organization specializing in subscription management. The party providing subscription management will depend on the specific project.

As a valuable resource for utility customers who are interested in signing up for community solar, the New Mexico Community Solar Program website offers a [consumer resources hub](#) that allows potential subscribers to learn more about the program as well as information on enrolling as a low-income subscriber. The community solar program mandates that a minimum of 30% of each community solar project is subscribed by low-income consumers; all awarded projects to build solar facilities have pledged to allocate at least 50% capacity to low-income subscribers.

The consumer resources hub also includes documents that solar companies are required to give to potential subscribers during a sales interaction, including the subscriber information disclosure form; community solar program flyer, which contains information to help guide customers through the basics of community solar; a community solar provider contact form, as well as a list of items to consider when evaluating community solar offers; suggestions for comparing community solar offers; and advice on consumer protections when considering community solar.

“At the very core of our mission, we prioritize your satisfaction and safety above all else,” said Miana Campbell, InClimate’s community solar lead for New Mexico. “The release of the disclosure form marks a significant milestone, unlocking the vast potential of the community solar subscription market. This empowering moment allows New Mexicans to enroll in community solar projects, contributing to a greener grid. Together, we establish an inclusive program that extends its advantages to low-income subscribers, creating positive impacts for both the environment and local communities.”

The community solar program, established under the Community Solar Act, aims to empower qualifying utility customers, including homeowners, renters, and specific organizations, to reduce electricity costs while contributing to the shift towards a cleaner electric grid.

The total statewide power generation of the program will have an initial cap of 200 megawatts, allocated among the state’s three investor-owned utility companies (El Paso Electric Company, 30 MW; Public Service Company of New Mexico, 125 MW; and Southwestern Public Service Company, 45 MW).

The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC) regulates the utilities, telecommunications, and motor carrier industries to ensure fair and reasonable rates, and to assure reasonable and adequate services to the public as provided by law. The PRC also promotes public safety through the offices of Pipeline Safety Bureau and Transportation Division.

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