



# 2021 Community Solar Program FAQ

## **What is the Community Solar Program?**

PEC has developed a series of distributed solar generation sites across our service territory. This program has given members the opportunity to subscribe to a portion of their energy from these facilities — up to 100% of their average 12-month energy use.

## **Why did PEC create the program?**

The Community Solar Program allows PEC members to enjoy the benefits of solar power without installing solar equipment at their homes. Residential installations may not be a good fit for members who determine it is not economically feasible, rent their homes, or whose homes are heavily shaded. On this program, members can subscribe to a portion of the output of PEC's solar arrays, built throughout the Hill Country in partnership with Renewable Energy Systems America (RES).

## **Where are the community solar sites located?**

PEC has community solar sites in Andice, Bertram, Copperas Cove, Johnson City, Junction, and Segovia. Depending on the weather, together these sites can produce up to 15 MW of electricity.

## **How much solar capacity is PEC's Community Solar Program?**

Currently, there is a total of 15 megawatts (MW) distributed solar generation for the Community Solar Program.

## **Who benefits from the Community Solar Program?**

Everyone benefits from this buy-local approach. Here's a breakdown:

### **PEC:**

When PEC purchases solar power that is generated during peak times and within our distribution system, we do not have to transport it over the statewide transmission system. This reduces how much PEC pays for transmission access and the amount of power PEC needs to purchase from the wholesale power market.

### **Rate subscribers:**

Because each rate is designed at the cost of service, we pass those savings along to members who subscribe to our Community Solar Program.

### **The entire cooperative:**

With the arrays, PEC can produce power during peak times, which reduces our transmission cost of service — more savings we pass along to our members.

**When will the application period open to join the Community Solar Program?**

Applications will be accepted beginning December 1, 2021. Members are encouraged to join as soon as possible because the program is limited and there is no guarantee of availability.

**How do I apply to join the program?**

Members can apply online by logging into SmartHub, or call us at 888-554-4732 and our member relations agents can help you. (Detailed instructions will be available December 1, 2021, when the program opens.)

**I am a member currently enrolled in the program, can I increase my units?**

It depends on the total program units available and the number of units currently assigned to you. PEC will review 12 months of average usage to determine if members are eligible to add more units to their rate.

**How much does it cost to be enrolled in the program?**

There is no application fee for the PEC Community Solar Program.

**How does PEC set the rate for this program?**

All of PEC's rates are set as close as possible to the cost of service, meaning the rate we charge for the Community Solar Program is designed to cost you the same as what it costs us.

**How does PEC determine availability in the program?**

The generation capacity of our community solar sites has been calculated and divided into "units." Each unit represents a specific portion of available generation. The number of units offered to individual members is based on their average monthly use over the past 12 months. Members may choose to purchase any number of units up to the determined maximum.

**Can I get 100% of my electricity from this rate?**

Potentially. PEC will analyze 12 months of your usage to determine how many units you are eligible to purchase. Depending on availability, you may be approved for enough units to cover your bill, but the actual availability fluctuates with generation due to weather impacts on solar generation. You will be charged for community solar only on the electricity that you receive through the program, the rest is charged at the regular base power rate.

**When will my bill reflect my enrollment in the program?**

Applications will be processed within 14 days, with the account reflecting the rate change on the following billing cycle.

**Can I be on this program and another, like the Renewable Energy Rider or Time-of-Use Rate?**

Members in the Community Solar Program can still take advantage of billing options that save up to \$2.50/month (eDraft credit is \$1.50, eBilling credit is \$1.00) and the Renewable Energy Rider. However, community solar cannot be combined with the Time-of-Use Rate.

**Why is availability so limited?**

Our solar power generation facilities are currently fully constructed, and we are offering all units available based on generation capacity. The program is open for enrollment until all available units for the additional solar generation are allocated. Allocation of units is on a first come, first served basis while they last.

### Why does solar farm production fluctuate?

Each solar farm’s total generation may vary due to factors such as weather, equipment failures, and other uncontrollable events. We take the total amount generated, and divide it up between all assigned units, up to 100 kWh per unit.

### How many units will I qualify for?

Members will qualify for the average of their annual historical usage, rounded down to the nearest hundred. For example: 1,232 kWh would be rounded down to 1,200 kWh.

### What if I don’t have a 12-month billing history with PEC?

Please go ahead and apply — we’re excited by your interest! At the time you’re accepted into the program, we may ask a few additional questions to ascertain your expected 12-month usage.

### I really want to sign up, but there’s no availability — what do I do?

We will reevaluate periodically and notify the membership when we have availability for the program to reopen.

### What will my bill look like?

Account number: 1000000000				Service address: 123 MAIN ST					
Meter	Billing Period		Days	Readings		Meter Multiplier	kWh Usage	Rate Type	
	From	To		Previous	Present				
123456	12/02/21	01/02/22	31	9411	10563	1	1,152	Energy Delivered - Register 1	
123456	12/02/21	01/02/22	31	0	51	6	306	Solar Received - Register 2	
123456	12/02/21	01/02/22	31	0	846	1	846	Net	

  

Previous Account Activity		Current Activity	
Previous Balance	\$108.09	Service Availability Charge	\$22.50
Payment Received - *Thank You*	-\$108.09	Delivery Charge	1,152 kWh @ \$0.028405 \$32.72
<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	Residential Cmty Solar	306 kWh @ \$0.061080 \$18.69
		Base Power Cost	846 kWh @ \$0.044500 \$37.65
		Transmission Cost of Service	1,152 kWh @ \$0.013560 \$15.62
		Temporary Storm Surcharge	1,152 kWh @ \$0.007000 \$8.06
		TCOS Adj - Cmty Solar	306 kWh @ -\$0.010848 -\$3.32
		eBilling Credit	-\$1.00
		<b>Current Charges</b>	<b>\$130.92</b>

  

<b>AUTOPAY AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$130.92</b>
	<small>CREDIT CARD DRAFT ON 01/23/2022</small>

### Once enrolled, what are the new charges on my bill?

The Community Solar Base Power Charge is \$0.061080. The solar units will receive a credit adjustment of -\$0.010848 to account for savings on PEC’s Transmission (TCOS) Costs. For members in this program, these charges are reflected on your bill as a line item.