

## FAQ's (Cont'd)

### What if I move or no longer wish to participate?

If you subscribed to a contract, and you move anywhere within BEC's service territory, your subscription moves with you. If you move off of BEC lines, you may elect to transfer or assign future panel production credits to another individual or entity within Beltrami Electric Cooperative's service territory. If you signed up for Pay As You Go, you can cancel your participation anytime as you do not have a contract.

### What happens at the end of the 20-year agreement?

The member participation agreement terminates after 20 years. However, BEC will monitor and evaluate advances in solar technology to determine whether a new project would begin or an extension of the agreement would be possible at that time.

### How much solar power can I subscribe to?

Residential and commercial members may subscribe to as many panels as they wish, up to the equivalent of their annual average usage.

### If I already have a solar contract, can I also participate in the Pay As You Go Plan?

Yes! The Pay As You Go plan is administered separately. If you have already subscribed to a panel(s), your contact will remain in place, along with your monthly credit.

### How can I sign up for Northern Solar?

Stop into our office or visit our website today at [www.beltramielectric.com](http://www.beltramielectric.com) to download a PDF version of the Community Solar Agreement and return to Beltrami Electric with selected payment option.



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### *Beltrami Electric Cooperative's Community Solar Garden*

## Become a part of the Northern Solar Community Today!

**Beltrami Electric** plans to build an 80 kilowatt (kW) Direct Current (DC) community solar array at our headquarters. The array will consist of 180 photo-voltaic panels, each with a projected annual average output of 450 kWh.

**Northern Solar** provides interested members an option to receive renewable, locally-produced, solar energy without the hassle of installing, permitting, maintaining and insuring their own solar array. Members may subscribe to as many panels as they wish, up to the equivalent of their annual average usage.

# Payment Options:

## Option 1: One-Time Payment

Full Panel: \$1,295 one-time payment each panel  
Half Panel: \$647.50 one-time payment

- One-time upfront cost
- Receive the energy produced by the panel(s) for 20 years
- Receive monthly credit on bill based on subscription and actual production

## Option 2: Easy-Pay

Full Panel: \$1,295 each  
Half Panel: \$647.50

(Subject to review of account standing)

- Select a 12, 24 or 36 month payment plan, with no money down at 6% interest.
- No upfront cost-payments will be spread over 12, 24 or 36 months
- Receive the energy produced by the panel(s) for 20 years
- Receive monthly credit on bill based on subscription and actual production

## Option 3: Graduated Payment Schedule

Full Panel: \$1,295 each  
Half Panel: \$647.50

Select a graduated payment schedule, with 50% down and the remaining 50% due upon completion of the project.

- Receive the energy produced by the panel(s) for 20 years
- Receive monthly credit on bill based on subscription and actual production

## Option 4: Pay As You Go

\$0.0503 per kWh rate adder

For members who don't wish to sign a 20-year contract, you have the option to Pay As You Go.

Simply tell us how many kWh/month you would like to come from [Northern Solar](#) and we will add it to your monthly electric bill.

- No contract, can cancel at any time
- No energy credit on your electric bill
- Pay a monthly fee in addition to your regular electric bill to receive locally-produced solar energy

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### What is the purpose of a Community Solar program?

To provide interested members an option to purchase renewable, locally-produced solar energy.

### What are the benefits of participating in community solar?

When you participate in community solar, you're choosing an alternative to fossil-fuel consumption. Solar energy is clean and abundant. Additionally, monthly credits will be calculated based on the current electric rate. That means if rates go up, the value you receive from your panels' production will too.

### Will anything be installed on my home?

No. All equipment will be installed at Beltrami Electric Cooperative. BEC will be responsible for operating, maintaining and insuring the array for the 20-year life of the program.

### How much does it cost to participate?

BEC members can subscribe to the output of a full panel for \$1,295, or a half panel for \$647.50. You can select the payment option that best fits your budget. (See [Payment Options](#))

### What exactly am I subscribing to? Do I own part of the solar array?

You are not purchasing the physical equipment, but rather subscribing to a portion of the energy output of the solar array over 20 years.

### Am I eligible for the federal investment tax credits or incentives?

No. The federal tax credit is already incorporated into the pricing structure. Without the tax credit, the subscription prices and Pay As You Go rates would be significantly higher.

### How does community solar compare to installing solar panels on my home?

With [Northern Solar](#), you don't have to worry about assembling or wiring your own solar power. The panels in the [Northern Solar](#) array will be installed and located at BEC and are rated to last at least 20 years. BEC will handle all maintenance requirements during that time. This is the perfect program for those interested in solar power who may not be able to install their own panels. All you have to do to begin receiving solar power is purchase a subscription or sign up for Pay As You Go.

### How much credit will I receive each month?

If you subscribe to a panel under the 20-year contract, your monthly credit will be calculated by dividing the entire array's total monthly production by the portion of the array that you've subscribed to. The resulting kWh credit will be applied to your electric bill.

### Will I save money by participating in the Northern Solar community garden program?

With a subscription, possibly. This depends on the actual cost of electricity in the future. Based on current electric rates, participants will actually pay more for the solar electricity they use, as currently energy produced by the solar array is more expensive than traditional energy sources. As the cost of electricity increases over the term of the 20-year subscription, it is reasonable to conclude that one would save money at some point.