



# Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association

We Move Minnesota Solar + Storage Forward

## What is a Community Solar Garden?

A Community Solar Garden (CSG) is a local solar facility managed by a solar developer that sends clean energy to your utility's power grid. Homeowners, businesses, schools, and more can "subscribe" to the CSG and receive a credit towards their utility bill. Unlike rooftop solar, Community Solar gives consumers the benefits of solar energy without the hassle or upfront cost of installing panels on their roof.



\*Infographic provided by Vote Solar

## Key Benefits of Community Solar Gardens:

- ☀️ Subscribers save on electricity bills;
- ☀️ Increases solar accessibility for renters, low-income residents, homeowners with shaded roofs, and others who can't add solar to their own roof;
- ☀️ No physical equipment or upfront costs for the subscriber;
- ☀️ Improves grid resilience and builds more clean energy across the state;
- ☀️ Subscribers stay connected to their utility and have the same, reliable services;
- ☀️ Developers plant native pollinators around and under CSGs which reduces water run-off and helps bee populations. Many different crops thrive under solar panels too!;
- ☀️ Supports Minnesota businesses, produces family-sustaining jobs, and creates tax revenues in the communities that host CSGs.

## Minnesota's Trail-Blazing CSG History

Minnesota's CSG program, started by state legislation in 2013, has created over 860 Megawatts of solar in the state and thousands of jobs. Minnesota ranked 1st in the nation for the largest CSG program for years, but due to outdated rules and gridlocked negotiations, we've fallen behind. Updates to the program are needed to keep Minnesota a leader and create more jobs, economic opportunities, and clean energy across our state.



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## Commonly Asked Questions About Community Solar Gardens

### Q: Who can join a Community Solar Garden?

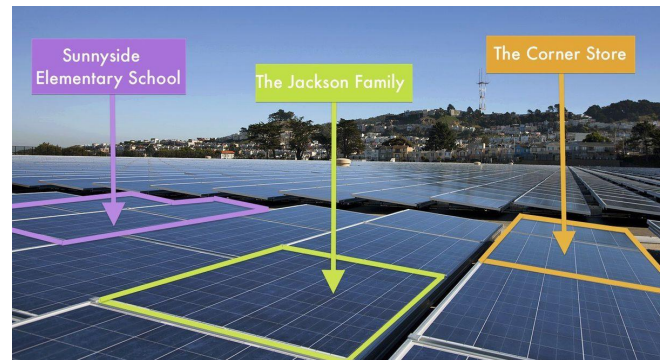
**A:** Anyone within a utility's territory that offers CSG subscriptions or has developers in their territory with openings can take advantage of Community Solar. Learn more on Minnesota Department of Commerce's [website](#) and explore MnSEIA's CSG Developer members [here](#).

### Q: Who owns the Community Solar Garden?

**A:** The utility or developer that built the CSG owns it, but subscribers "sign up" for a portion of the project. Subscriptions can often be easily transferred, paused, or stopped if you move.

### Q: Why are Community Solar Gardens important?

**A:** CSG's expand access to clean energy for more Minnesotans who traditionally can't take part in solar. The solar industry is an important and growing market in Minnesota that creates jobs, tax revenues for communities, and investments in our state. Updating Minnesota's CSG program will continue our history of a strong industry and model for other states.

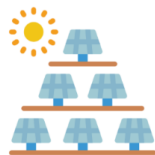


# Minnesota Solar + Storage Industry:



**5,000 jobs**

Solar Installer is the fastest growing job in the U.S



**1.7 GWs**

Of installed solar - Enough to power over 230k homes!



**\$2.5 BN**

Solar investment in the state



**#16 in the U.S**

For installed solar capacity

Learn more about MnSEIA and Community Solar Gardens on [our website](#) at [www.mnseia.org](http://www.mnseia.org).