Developer Participation Information

What is Power Share Community Solar?

Power Share Community Solar is a program offered by Clean Power Alliance to provide customers access to clean power, who may otherwise not have access to solar technologies. Power Share will provide income-qualified customers in under-resourced communities with 100% renewable energy.

How does Community Solar work?

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has allocated 3.13 megawatts (MW) of solar generation for Clean Power Alliance (CPA) customers under the community solar program. This program is designed for solar developers to partner with local communities to bring clean power to under-resourced neighborhoods.

There are four main roles in the Community Solar program:

- ⚡ Solar Developer
- ⚡ Community Sponsor
- ⚡ Project Site
- ⚡ Low-Income Customers*

Solar Developers manage all technical aspects related to solar installations. They oversee permitting, negotiate equipment purchases, and develop projects to start generating electricity. Developers work with sites to find an optimal solution to producing electricity for each site and for the community.

In Power Share, solar developers partner with local nonprofit Community Based Organizations (CBOs) or local government entities who will sponsor projects on behalf of residents. Developers must install a project in a Disadvantaged Community (DAC)* in Southern California Edison (SCE) territory within 5 miles of CPA customers living in the DAC.

Example 1 – separate host site and community sponsor

25% project output → 75% project output

Project Site
(located in a DAC within 5 miles of participating CPA customers)

Community Sponsor
School

Enrolled CPA Residential Customers
Located within DAC within 5 miles of project site. At least 50% of enrolled customers are low income.

Community Sponsors are organizations that spread the word to the community about Power Share, educate residents, and help people sign up. The Community Sponsor can utilize power from the project, and will receive a 20% discount on its electric bill, while providing an important service to residents. A Community Sponsor can also host a project as a Project Site (see the example).

Project Sites are the locations where solar arrays are located. The solar panels may be located on a rooftop, carport, ground-mount, or other configuration. The developer will work closely with the site to plan and construct a project. Sites can be (but are not limited to) commercial buildings, schools, municipal buildings, etc.

Customers in the local community utilize power from the project, and receive a 20% discount on top of other bill discounts they may already receive, including CARE or FERA. The 20% Power Share discount will be applied to the customer's already discounted CARE or FERA rate, for a total bill discount of approximately 35% – 45%.

What are the benefits to being a Community Solar Developer?

Participating in the development of Community Solar projects enables developers to create a direct and positive impact on under-served areas. In addition, the above-market-cost of CPA purchasing the power from community solar projects is paid for by the CPUC. For developers, this means these projects are economically feasible. CPA's community solar program is a cost competitive way for developers to gain experience with the community solar development model.

Developers help the Community.

In order to qualify for Power Share, customers must be served by Clean Power Alliance and reside within an under-served community, sometimes referred to as a Disadvantaged Community.[1] They must also be eligible for either the CARE or FERA low-income programs. If a customer does not wish to sign up for CARE or FERA discounts, they can still apply for Power Share.

What are the benefits to customers?

Customers who sign up for Power Share receive 100% clean energy, combined with a 20% discount on their bill every month. In addition to contributing positively to the environment, they will also receive a financial benefit.

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[1] For Power Share, customers must reside within a Disadvantaged Community (DACs) as defined by CalEPA as the top 25 percent of census tracts based on income and pollution burden factors. Interested customers will also need to qualify based on their household income for this program.