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Community solar is a bright opportunity to lower bills with clean, homegrown energy.

Not every Georgian—especially those with high energy bills—can access solar energy benefits. As bills and temperatures across our state continue to climb, community solar is an opportunity to save Georgians money with resilient, clean solar power.

What is community solar?

Community solar is a small solar array (up to 5 megawatts on 25 acres or less) that gives nearby residents, businesses, and nonprofits the option to receive savings on their energy bill. Community solar is a great option for people who are unable to put panels on their roof because they rent, can't afford upfront costs for solar, or don't have a suitable roof or electrical system.

In part because community solar arrays are exclusively fueled by the sun (not expensive fossil fuels), customers can reduce their overall energy costs. Because community solar arrays are not directly connected to the homes and businesses they serve, participants receive savings in the form of a “credit” on their bill. Similar programs have saved customers 5-20% on their bills. Community solar programs have reduced customer bills, put additional power on the grid, and created good paying jobs in more than 20 states.

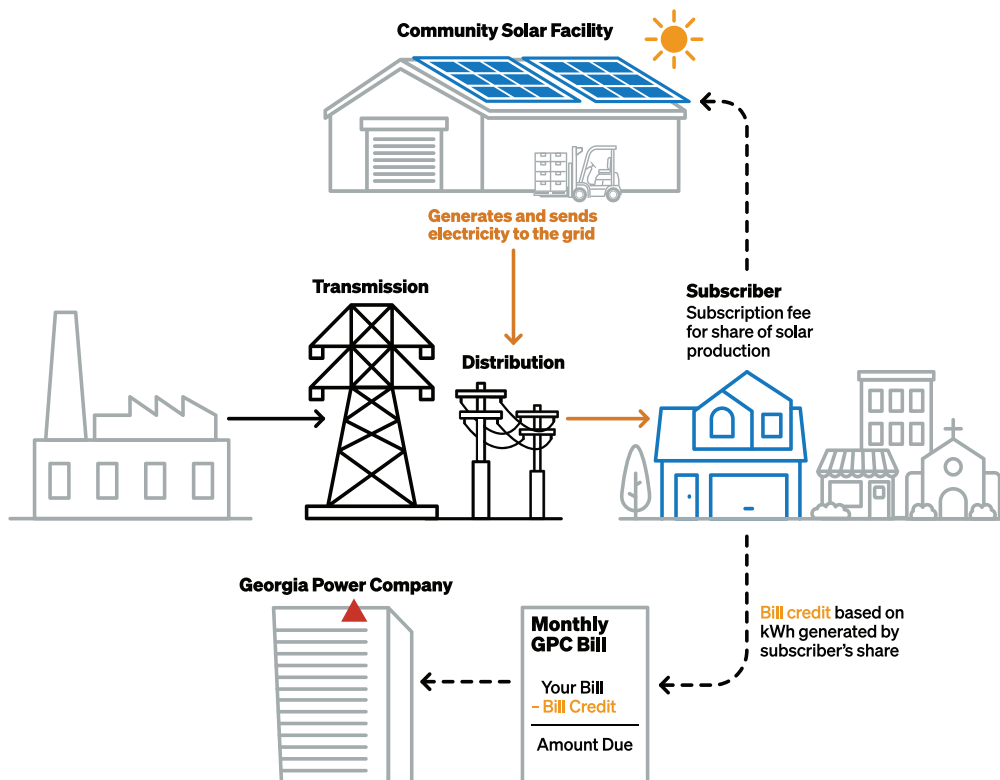
What is the Georgia Homegrown Solar Act?

The Georgia Homegrown Solar Act would allow community solar projects owned and operated by Georgia

businesses to offer clean, low-cost energy to customers in Georgia Power's service area. Customers pay a subscription to the community solar company for a claim on some of the electricity it generates—almost like renting a solar panel. While subscribers will still receive a Georgia Power bill, they would receive a credit on their bill for the energy their portion of the solar array produced.

Georgia's Public Service Commission, who regulates Georgia utilities, would set bill credit amounts that are fair for customers and Georgia Power and that reflect the value the subscriber-funded solar energy provides to the grid.

How Community Solar Works



Community Solar vs. Rooftop Solar vs. Utility Solar

	Capacity	Area
Rooftop	5-10 kW	Rooftop
Community Solar	≤ 5 MW	≤ 25 acres
Utility-scale	10-200 MW	Up to 1,000 acres

FAQs

Who runs community solar programs?

Private businesses or non-profits will build and run the programs, overseen by the Georgia Public Service Commission. These businesses will create local jobs and further expand Georgia's booming clean energy economy into a previously untapped market sector.

Do residential customers need new programs for bill relief?

Georgians pay some of the highest electricity bills in the country. The average residential Georgia Power customer's bill jumped \$44 a month over just the last three years, including a nearly \$16 jump in 2023 because of the high cost of fossil fuels.

How do federal grants relate to community solar?

Grants like Solar for All will bring over \$100 million of investment to Georgia to expand solar access for people with lower incomes. Without community solar-enabling legislation, many Georgians will miss out on opportunities to save money and support clean energy.

Is this net metering?

No. Net metering is when the value of the solar credits that appear on community solar subscribers' Georgia Power bill are the same price as what Georgia Power charges.

Does this create a "cost shift" away from monopoly utilities for non-subscribers?

No. The benefits of community solar programs around the country have been shown to outweigh the costs.

Community solar will lower power bills—not eliminate them, similar to using an energy efficient appliance, and reduction of Georgia Power's revenue is not a cost shift.

Will community solar projects harm Georgia's agriculture industry?

No. Community solar projects are limited in size, typically no more than 25 acres and often much smaller. This Act only permits community solar in Georgia Power's service area, which is largely urban and less than 30% of the state's land area.

How are consumers protected?

Georgia's Public Service Commission will ensure the programs result in bill savings for subscribers and will have the authority to establish rules for consumer protection including setting standards for disclosure to prospective subscribers.

Doesn't Georgia Power already have a community solar program?

Georgia Power has had a Community Solar program, but according to its website, it "is designed to allow [subscribers] to support solar through your monthly subscription, and is not intended to result in energy savings." Unsurprisingly, it is woefully undersubscribed.

