

The Georgia Homegrown Solar Act is a bright opportunity to lower bills with clean, homegrown energy.

Not every Georgian can access the cost-saving benefits of solar energy. As bills and temperatures climb, community solar is an opportunity for Georgians to save money with resilient, clean solar power.

What is community solar?

Community solar is a small solar array or series of arrays (up to 5 megawatts on 25 acres or less) that gives nearby residents, businesses, and nonprofits the option to save 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. Community solar facilities can be located on otherwise unusable land, like landfills, brownfields, or as parking lot canopies.

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 over 20 states.

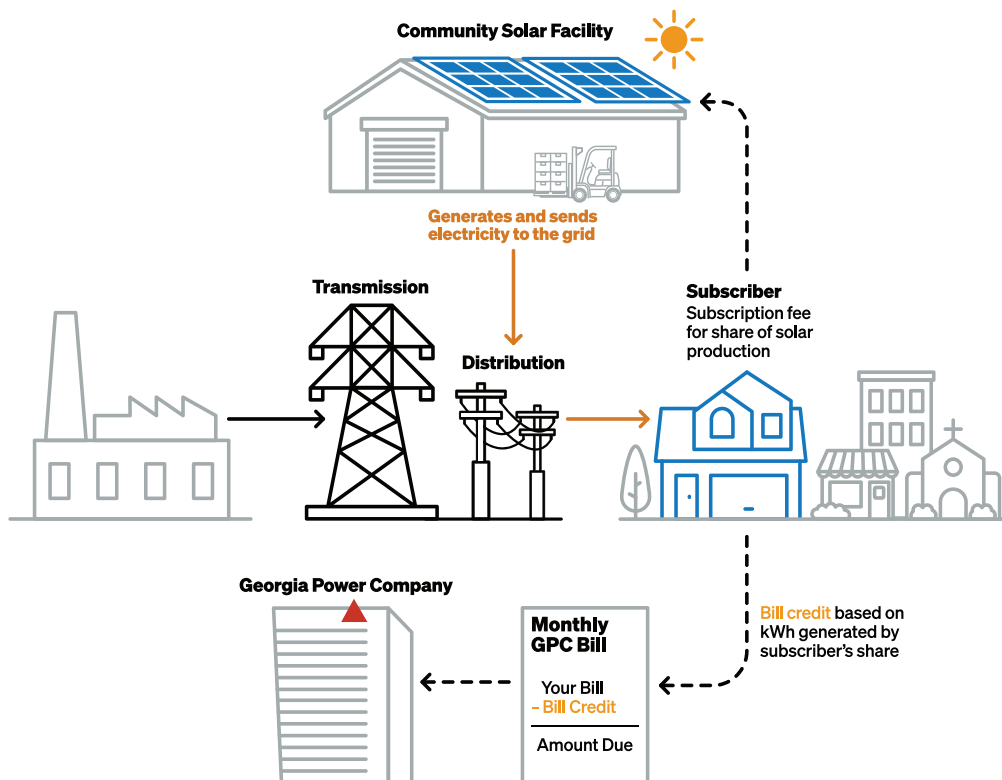
What is the Georgia Homegrown Solar Act?

HB 507 / SB 203 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. Subscribers will still receive a Georgia Power bill, but it will include a credit for the electricity that their portion of the solar array generated.

The Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) would set bill credit amounts that are fair for customers and Georgia Power and that reflect the significant 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 nonprofits will build and run the programs, overseen by the PSC. 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 \$43/month since 2023, including a nearly \$16 jump in 2023 to reimburse Georgia Power for a recent spike in fossil fuel costs.

What about the EMCs and Munis?

This bill does not apply to the EMC or Municipal utilities because they are not investor-owned. As member-run nonprofits or local governments, the members or citizens who would benefit from community solar can choose to do so if they like.

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 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.

