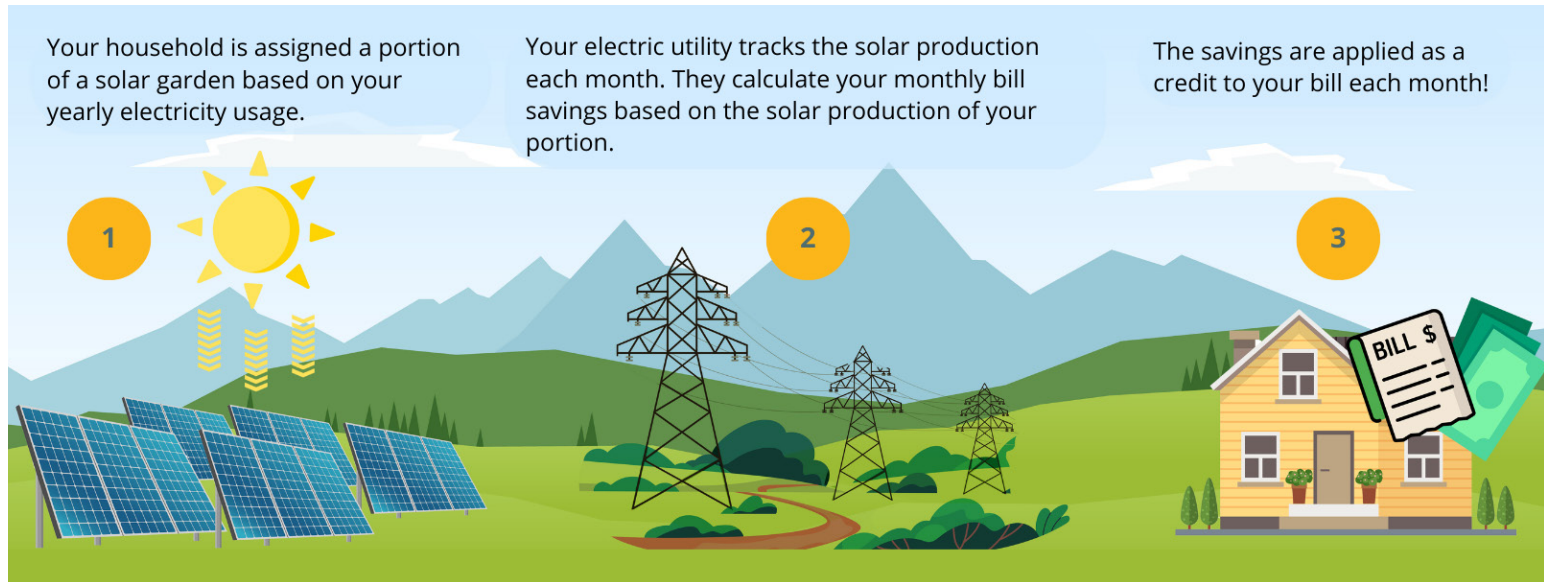


# Income Qualified Community Solar Frequently Asked Questions



## What is a community solar garden?

A community solar garden is a large collection of solar panels that benefit multiple households. Your subscription means you are assigned a portion of those panels, and you receive bill savings on your electric bill in the form of a monthly credit for the electricity that your assigned solar panels produce. Because the solar panels are located elsewhere, there is no equipment installed on your home.



## How do households qualify for Income Qualified Community Solar?

1. Your household receives an electric bill from Xcel Energy or Black Hills Energy
2. Your household's income is at or below 80% of your county's area median income (AMI) and/or you have qualified for LEAP or participated in an EOC program within the last 12 months.

*Note: if your household received help from EOC's Bill Payment Assistance Program within the last 12 months, you will NOT need to complete a full application. Please contact us if you would like to participate in the Community Solar Program so we can expedite your application.*

## I am a renter, live in an apartment or condo, and/or affordable housing. Can I still apply?

Yes! Because there is no equipment installed, you can apply as a renter or multifamily building resident as long as you pay your electric bill directly and meet the above requirements.

## How much will I save in this program?

The credits provided on your electric bill will vary each month, as solar gardens produce more electricity in the summer than in the winter months. Your annual electricity bill savings is estimated to be 50%, or over \$600 per year for the average household. If you are concerned your enrollment in community solar is not producing significant savings, please contact us.

## Will this program affect my ability to receive LEAP?

No, since this program just adds a credit to your electric bill, it will not affect your overall income or impact your ability to apply for and be approved for LEAP.

## Does it cost anything to enroll?

No, this program is completely free. Because this program is only available to households with a limited income, we made sure households that sign up for this program would have a donated community solar garden subscription. This donated subscription makes it so that there aren't any fees to join or leave this program, no monthly subscription charge, and bill savings will appear automatically on your electricity bill.

## What information will I need to apply to this program?

1. Your electric utility account number
2. Proof of Income for all members of your household (LEAP or participation in EOC programs within the last 12 months count as proof of income, see below for other options)
3. Household size

## What forms can I submit for income verification?

- Proof of benefit from the following programs: Aid to the Blind (AB), Aid to the Needy Disable (AND), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF), Old Age Pension (OAP), Low Income Energy Assistance (LEAP), Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8), Medicaid,

OR

- Most recent Tax Return - IRS 1040, Wages or Tax Statement W2, most recent income (3 most recent pay stubs), retirement benefits letter, letter from employer, Social Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

## How do I apply?

To apply for this program, please visit [www.bit.ly/EOCsolar](http://www.bit.ly/EOCsolar) to submit your interest. A member of our staff will contact you within two weeks to complete the application process. You can also email [solar@energyoutreach.org](mailto:solar@energyoutreach.org), or call/text 303-226-7069 and we will mail or email you the application.

## What can I expect after I apply?

1. EOC staff will verify income eligibility and send application forms for you to sign if you haven't already
2. We'll submit your signed data consent form to your electricity provider for approval
3. If your data consent form is approved, once the solar garden starts to produce, you'll receive an enrollment packet from our team letting you know when and how to see savings on your bill.

## What if I fall behind on my bill?

Customers who fall behind on their bill are encouraged to apply for Energy Assistance, and to call their electric utility to start an affordable payment plan. Please call the HEAT HELP line at **1-866-432-8435** to apply for assistance.

## What if I move?

Your community solar subscription **will not automatically follow your account if you move**. If you plan to move, please contact EOC at [solar@energyoutreach.org](mailto:solar@energyoutreach.org) or (303)-226-7069 and we will help enroll you at your new address, as long as you remain in Xcel Energy Electric's or Black Hill Energy Electric's service territory.

## How is this program different than other solar offers?

Unlike for-profit programs that are selling subscriptions to a solar garden, the subscriptions for this program are donated. This means your community solar subscription will be completely free, and doesn't require any commitment, fees, financing, or down payments.

Visit: <https://bit.ly/EOCsolar>  
Call: 303-226-7060 or 303-226-7069  
Email: [solar@energyoutreach.org](mailto:solar@energyoutreach.org)

