



Where Does Your Community Solar Energy Come From?

When people hear the term community solar, one of the first questions they ask is:

"If I enroll, does the electricity from the solar farm come directly to my home?"

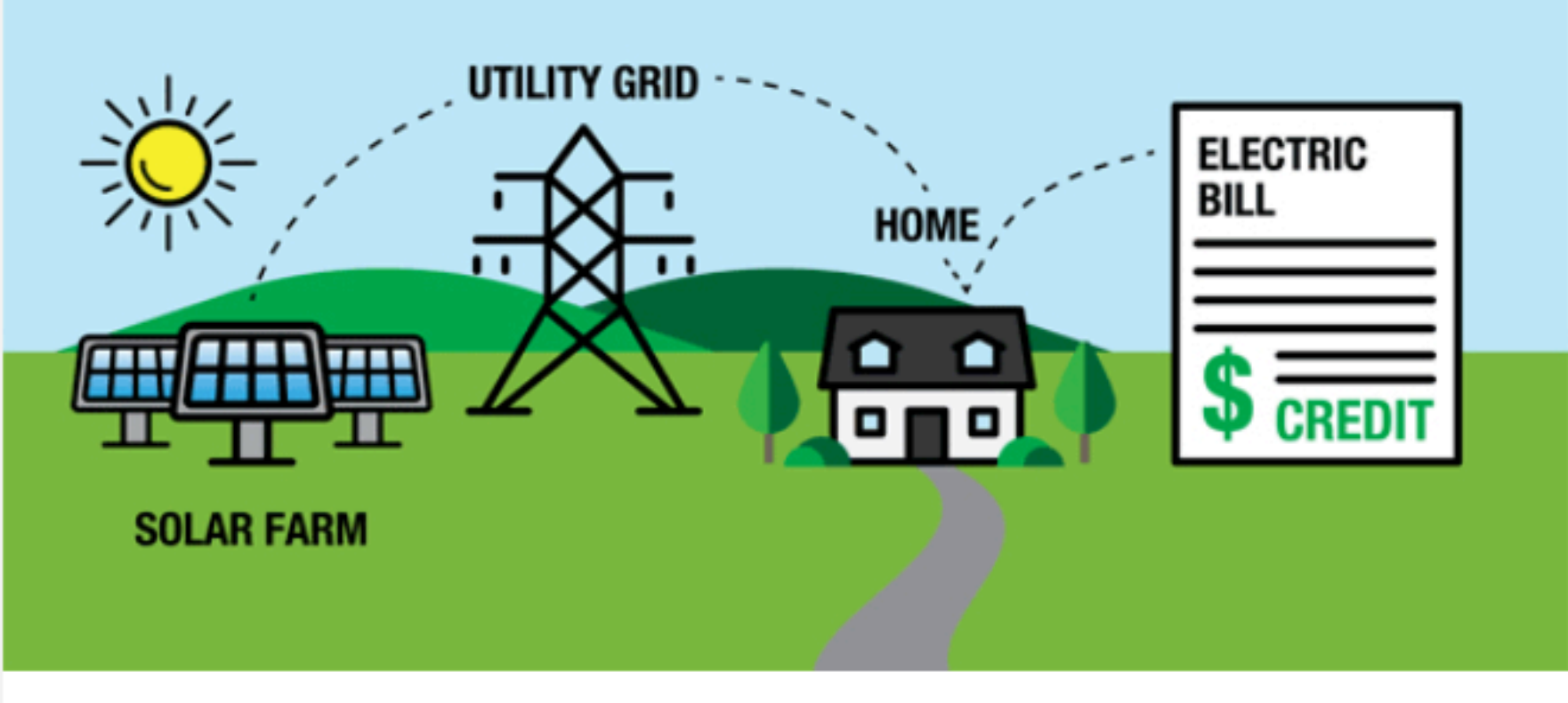
It's a great question—and the answer may surprise you.



Understanding the Electric Grid

Think of the electric grid as a network of interconnected highways. Electricity generated from solar farms, wind farms, nuclear plants, natural gas facilities, and other energy sources all flow through the same shared system before reaching homes and businesses. Once electricity enters the grid, it blends together, making it impossible to trace the specific source of electrons powering a particular home. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), electricity generated by community solar projects is delivered to the local utility grid, where it becomes part of the broader electricity supply rather than being sent directly to individual subscribers. ¹

Instead of receiving electricity directly from a specific solar panel, subscribers receive the financial benefits associated with the electricity generated by their share of the community solar project.



How Community Solar Works

Community solar makes it easier to benefit from renewable energy while allowing customers to keep their existing utility service.

Here's how it works:

1. A local community solar farm captures sunlight and generates electricity.
2. The electricity produced is delivered to the local utility grid.
3. Your utility tracks the amount of electricity the solar project generates.
4. Based on your subscription, a portion of that energy production is allocated to your account.
5. You receive bill credits on your utility bill that corresponds to your share of the project's electricity generation. ²

Your utility continues delivering electricity to your home just as it always has. Community solar simply changes how a portion of your electricity supply is accounted for on your monthly bill.

Why Community Solar Makes Sense

Community solar makes renewable energy more accessible for people who may not be able to install rooftop solar panels.

It can be an excellent option for:

- Renters
- Homeowners with shaded roofs
- Homes that aren't suitable for rooftop solar
- Customers who don't want the cost or maintenance of installing solar equipment
- Anyone interested in supporting renewable energy without modifying their property

The U.S. Department of Energy, through NREL, notes that community solar was developed specifically to expand access to solar energy for customers who cannot—or choose not to—install solar panels on their own homes. ³

The Bottom Line

Community solar isn't about changing where your electricity comes from—it's about changing how you participate in renewable energy.

By subscribing to a shared solar project, you're helping support locally generated renewable energy while receiving bill credits based on your portion of the project's electricity production. There are no solar panels to install, no changes to your electric service, and no interruption to the reliability you've come to expect from your utility.

As Illinois continues expanding access to renewable energy, community solar offers an easy way for more homeowners and renters to participate in the state's clean energy future—without changing the way electricity is delivered to their homes.

References

1. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). Community Solar: Subscribers Receive Bill Credits for Community Solar.
2. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Shared Renewables – How Shared Renewables Work.
3. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). How Community Solar Works and Community Solar for State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

Illinois Required Disclosure (ComEd Service Area)

MC Squared Energy Services, LLC (mc²) is not the same entity as your electric delivery company. You are not required to enroll with mc². As of August 2026, the electric supply price to compare to is currently 10.399 cents per kWh¹. The electric utility electric supply price will expire on September 30, 2026. The utility electric supply price to compare does not include the purchased electricity adjustment factor. For more information, go to the Illinois Commerce Commission's free website at www.pluginillinois.org¹.

¹ The electric supply price to compare is for residential customers. Electric supply prices to compare for other rate classes (in cents per kWh) that are currently applicable include: Watt-Hour Non-Electric Space Heating – 10.405 cents/kWh; Demand Non-Electric Space Heating – 10.513 cents/kWh; Nonresidential Electric Space Heating – 9.350 cents/kWh; Dusk to Dawn Lighting – 4.975 cents/kWh; General Lighting – 9.278 cents/kWh.

Illinois Required Disclosure (Ameren Service Area)

MC Squared Energy Services, LLC (mc²) is not the same entity as your electric delivery company. You are not required to enroll with mc². As of August 2026, the electric supply price to compare to is currently 11.326 cents/kWh¹. The utility electric supply price will expire on September 30, 2026. The utility electric supply price to compare does not include the purchased electricity adjustment factor. For more information, go to the Illinois Commerce Commission's free website at www.pluginillinois.org¹.

¹ The electric supply price to compare listed above is for residential customers. Other rate class rates as of the month above (in cents per kWh): Small General Service (Secondary) 13.049; Small General Service (Primary) 12.843; Small General Service (High Voltage) 12.709.

