



SB 1519 – Assistance for Community Solar Projects

Partial Property Tax Exemption

What is Community Solar?

Simply put, **community solar is shared solar energy generated by panels in a central location**. That means no expensive installation process and no need to even own your own roof, making solar energy an option for both homeowners and renters. Here's how it works:

1. Customers subscribe to a solar project of their choosing. Solar projects can be developed by businesses, schools, churches, homeowners' associations, and more!
2. The solar project generates energy for the power grid.
3. Customers get a credit back on their utility bill for their portion of energy generated.
4. At least 10% of every project must be subscribed by low-income ratepayers.

Community Solar is the only program in Oregon that allows any PGE, Pacific Power, or Idaho Power ratepayer to produce their own clean energy, at or below what they currently pay for electricity.

What's the problem?

The Community Solar Program has faced challenges getting off the ground. One big challenge is simply financial viability – Community Solar projects are expensive to build with complicated methods of recouping expenses. While some projects have been successful, others are struggling to make it to completion.

What's the solution?

SB 1519 creates a partial property tax exemption for Community Solar projects, on the portion of the project that is subscribed by residential ratepayers. Projects have anywhere from 10-100% residential subscribers, most privately owned projects have between 10-50% residential subscribers.

Creating this partial property tax exemption mirrors the property tax exemption already exist for solar installed on homes or businesses.