

## Community Solar Offers Savings

The State of Illinois has set a target of 100% renewable energy in Illinois by 2050. The State created the Community Solar initiative to help achieve their goal.

Community Solar allows park districts/libraries to support solar energy projects in Illinois while reducing their energy costs. Savings vary by account but estimates of 10-15% savings are available on certain accounts.

Under the new legislation, developers will purchase acreage in northern and central Illinois and construct a solar farm. Individual park districts/libraries can then essentially commit to purchasing all the power from a certain number of solar panels.

This way, park districts and libraries can support solar

energy without having to install solar panels at any of their facilities.

By purchasing power directly from the solar farm, savings are available to park districts and libraries. Each eligible account receives credits for 100% of the power produced by their panels. The developer then charges the account 80% of the value of that account's credits. Hence, that account is guaranteed to receive a 20% discount on the power generated by their panels. This translates into energy savings between 10 and 15% for the average account.

The park district/library will need to set up an automatic payment with the solar farm developer. The park district or library then receives the credit on their ComEd or supplier bill.

These accounts can continue to participate in NIMEC's group bidding; no change to your supplier is needed.

One may ask: how can the State of Illinois afford to pay the Community Solar credits to park districts/libraries. The answer is: the State is not paying these credits. All ComEd customers are!

A small charge is appearing at the bottom of all ComEd bills, called Renewable Portfolio Standard, which includes monies for Community Solar. The credits to park districts/libraries are paid out of these RPS funds.

Note: space is limited.

NIMEC is available to assist your move to CS. Contact us at your convenience.