



**SOLARTM
WISE**

Runestone Electric Community Solar

PHASE II

- Q: Why is REA building a community solar project?** To provide a simple convenient and cost effective way for our members to participate in solar generation.
- Q: How large is the REA Community Solar Project?** The Cooperative has available 100 solar panels, which is equal to 44 KW. Each 440 Watt panel is approximately 6.5' x 4.5'.
- Q: What kind of solar system is it?** It is manufactured by tenKsolar, which is a Minnesota based company.
- Q: Where is the array located?** REA's Headquarters in Alexandria.
- Q: How can I participate in REA's Community Solar Project?** It's very simple. Complete the Member License Agreement Form and return it to REA with payment. You must be a member of Runestone Electric Association and purchase at least 450 kWh of electricity from REA per year. License Agreements will be available by stopping by the REA office or on the Co-op's website www.runestoneelectric.com. This license agreement with REA will last for 20 years, beginning when the array is completed (estimated to be early summer 2017). The estimated annual output is 560 kWh per panel. The actual amount will vary from month to month, and season to season. The output credit will appear on your electric bill as a line item.
- Q: What is the cost?** The cost to purchase the output from one panel for 20 years is \$1,200. This license agreement with REA is good for 20 years, beginning when the array is completed.
- Q: What does the panel cost cover?** REA will provide all necessary maintenance and insurance for the life of the project. REA will make certain that it meets all applicable codes, standards, and regulatory requirements at the time of installation and throughout the term of the agreement. In the event of equipment failure, REA will bring the equipment back to working order as quickly as is reasonably possible.
- Q: How can I pay?** Cash, checks and Visa, Master Card and Discover are accepted.
- Q: How much output can I buy?** The beauty of this program is that you can choose your level of participation. The maximum output you can purchase is limited by your average annual usage.
- Q: What if I move?** If you move to another location within REA's service territory your panel output will move with you to your new account. If you will no longer be an REA member, you can transfer the panel output to another member, friend, family member or organization that is a member of REA. The Co-op can assist you with identifying an interested member/organization. If you are unable to find someone to transfer the output to, a discounted buyout option is available.
- Q: How much would my credit be worth each month?** If you purchased the output from one panel, it is estimated to produce an average of 46 kWh per month. At 2016 rates, this would be equivalent to reducing your electric bill about \$5.30 a month. It is assumed that if the cost of electricity continues to increase over the next 20 years, the value of your kWh would increase incrementally as well.

- Q: How is the credit given?** A meter will record how many kWh the array produces. Actual electric production for the entire REA Community Solar Array will be recorded on a calendar month basis. Total kWh output of the project will be divided by the number of solar panels in the array (100). Appropriate credits will be applied to member bills the month following production (September generation would be credited to the member on the bill they receive in October). Solar credits will be calculated using the general service energy rate.
- Q: If I do not purchase now, can I buy later?** Yes you can, provided we have panels available. Subscriptions are on a first come, first serve basis, while panels are available.
- Q: Where does the electricity go when the system is producing energy?** This system is interconnected with the electric grid, so the output goes directly onto our distribution wires.
- Q: Does the system have a battery backup system?** No. The cost for the battery backup system is currently too expensive to warrant the cost.
- Q: Does the system work in the event of a power outage?** No. All renewable systems with an inverter and no battery backup require line voltage to function and will not generate during an outage.
- Q: What if the facility is not completed?** If the project is not completed, members will be refunded the subscription amount they paid.
- Q: Does the weather and change in seasons affect the solar production?** Both the weather and seasonal changes will affect the amount of sun reaching the panels. During the summer, the panels will produce more energy because the days are longer and the sun is higher. If it's a cloudy day, the panels will produce less. During the winter, there will be less production because of limited hours of sunlight and, at times potential snow coverage.
- Q: What happens at the end of the project's 20-year life?** We are not certain at this time. The panels could be replaced, re-commissioned for more years of service, or decommissioned/removed and site returned to previous use. In 20 years we will be able to better assess the long-term performance of the solar panels, as well as new technologies available in 2037.



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