SOLAR WISE™

Runestone Electric Community Solar

Frequently Asked Questions
about REA's Community Solar

Q: How large is the REA Community Solar Project?
The Cooperative has available 100 solar panels, which is equal to 40 KW. Each 410 Watt panel is approximately 6.5' x 4.5'.

Q: Where is the array located?
Just east of 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 are available at our office or online at www.runestoneelectric.com. The estimated annual output is 530 kWh per panel. The actual amount will vary from month to month, and season to season. The kWh output will appear on your electric bill as a line item credit.

Q: What is the cost?
The cost to purchase the output from one panel is $960. This license agreement with REA is good until June 1, 2037.

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 or Discover are accepted. REA financing available.

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.

REA Runestone Electric ASSOCIATION

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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 44 kWh per month. At current rates, this would be equivalent to reducing your electric bill on average about $5 a month.

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 (for example, 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: 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 grid.

Q: Does the system have a battery backup system?
No. The cost for the battery backup system was not economic at the time of construction.

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: 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 angle 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: How do I get more information?
Please contact our Energy Management department at 800-473-1722 or email rea@runestoneelectric.com. More information is also available on www.runestoneelectric.com