

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is a solar garden?

- Community Solar Gardens are a way for people who don't have a good spot for solar panels on their property to participate in solar somewhere else, so that they can be treated fairly by the utility company.

How does community solar work?

- Community Solar Gardens physically function like any other solar array, but economics of it are different. When the Solar Garden puts power into the electric grid, it receives a "bill credit" for that amount of power. A "subscriber" uses that bill credit to offset their electric bill somewhere else in the electric grid. It provides homeowners, renters, and businesses equal access to the economic and environmental benefits of solar energy generation regardless of the physical attributes or ownership of their home or business.

What is the impact on my land?

- It is minimal. We restore the property to its original condition at the end of the lease and agree to post a financial security to remove the system before it is ever built.
- The panels are affixed to the ground with a driven I-beam that does not require a concrete footing and can be removed after the life of the solar project.
- During the life of the project we plant and maintain a native pollinator-friendly seed mix underneath the panels. This improves soil quality, permeability, and restores habitat for birds, bees and other animals.

What does a solar system look like?

- To see an example of a completed solar garden, follow the web URL listed here. ips-solar.com/projects/goodhuecsq/

How much land will be used?

- We generally need about 8 acres of land to build a solar garden. That includes land for the panels, electrical equipment and an access road. We prefer to use marginal farmland whenever possible.

How long will the panels be there?

- The minimum life of a solar lease is 25 years.

What happens after the lease term runs out?

- The entire solar installation will be removed after the lease has expired, at our expense. Your land can then return to agricultural use.

What if it's cloudy? Do I still get paid?

- Yes! Your lease payments aren't tied to the solar production, so if it is cloudy, rainy or snowy you will still get paid the full amount.