

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

POWERING
THE CO-OP
COMMUNITY

ONE
RAY
AT A
TIME

What is OurSolar?

OurSolar is a community solar program that offers one of the cleanest and most affordable renewable energy sources available. By grouping solar panels together, costs can be shared, power output can be maximized and the hassles of rooftop installation can be avoided. All residential members of Firelands Electric Cooperative will have the opportunity to purchase a subscription to energy from the solar array located at Firelands Electric's campus at 103 Industrial Drive, New London.

What is the cost to participate?

The cost of electric produced through the **OurSolar** program is 11.85 cents per kWh. That's 1.5 cents more than today's standard residential rate. The average cost per panel is less than \$2 per month.

Is there a limit to the number of panels I can subscribe to?

Residential members can subscribe to the energy output of up to 10 panels.

How long is the term of the agreement?

The **OurSolar** agreement is for five years. At the end of the term, it will be automatically renewed. However, after the end of the initial five year term, the agreement may be cancelled at any time by either party, without termination fees.

What happens if I move?

If you move to another location within Firelands Electric Co-op's service territory, your subscription can "move" with you! If you move out of the service territory, you have the following options:

1. Transfer your subscription to another member of the cooperative
2. Transfer your subscription as part of the sale or rental of your home
3. Return your subscription back to Firelands Electric Cooperative at no cost

What if I cancel the agreement early?

If the agreement is cancelled early due to moving or death, then the options under "What happens if I move?" apply. If the agreement is cancelled early due to a different reason, then the subscription may be returned to the cooperative by paying a termination fee of \$50 per panel.

If I subscribe to a panel of OurSolar, will I stop receiving my monthly bill?

No. You will continue to receive your monthly bill, but your bill will now show that a portion of your energy is produced by your solar panels and paid for at the **OurSolar** rate.

Will this lower my bill?

No. **OurSolar** is not intended as a cost savings initiative but as an alternative to pricey rooftop solar.

How will my portion of the bill be calculated?

The entire site will be metered at a single point. Subscribers' monthly statement will include their per panel portion of the array's output.

Will any equipment be hooked up to my home?

No. The power generated by **OurSolar** will be transported throughout the community by Firelands Electric Co-op.

How will this help increase sustainability?

OurSolar is a local power source, which allows the community to have more control over a portion of their power supply. Generating energy with solar power creates no pollution or carbon dioxide emissions, and is a clean, renewable, and sustainable alternative energy source.

How does OurSolar compare to rooftop solar?

OurSolar gives all members an opportunity to benefit from this clean energy source because it's built and maintained at a central location by experts in the field. This eliminates common barriers — such as trees, roof size and house location — that prevent people from installing solar panels on their property. Further, all ongoing costs are included in the subscription rate, so there is no need to worry about unexpected costs popping up in the future!

Can I take advantage of any tax credits or other incentives to bring down the cost of a panel?

OurSolar has sought out and taken advantage of all available credits, rebates, and incentives in order to make the program as affordable as possible and these cost reductions are included in the subscription rate.

Is energy production guaranteed?

No. The energy produced for each panel is expected to be about 375 kilowatt hours per year, but may be more or less than this in any given year depending on weather conditions.

Can anyone sign up for Firelands Electric's OurSolar program?

Only residential members of Firelands Electric Cooperative may subscribe to panels.

What is the total statewide project megawatts (MW)? What is the output for Firelands' OurSolar project?

2.1 MW total statewide; Firelands output is 50 kilowatts (KW).