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MORE INFORMATION
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Community Solar Legislation Would Expand Renewable Energy Access

Madison, WI - Legislation introduced yesterday by Wisconsin State Senator Duey Stroebel (*R - Saukville*) and Representative Timothy Ramthun (*R - Campbellsport*) would enable the development of more community solar projects in Wisconsin. This initiative, if approved, would expand customer choice, help utility customers save money on energy bills, and keep energy dollars in Wisconsin, all while creating healthier and more resilient communities.

Community solar projects allow businesses, farms, nonprofits, schools, and families to access the benefits of clean, affordable solar power without hosting a solar array or making large, up-front payments to install their own solar systems. [According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory \(NREL\)](#), at least 49% of households and 48% of businesses lack adequate solar rooftops. Community solar participants subscribe to a portion of a locally built solar farm and receive credit on their electricity bills for the power produced.

New community solar projects are being rapidly developed around the country; 21 states, including Minnesota and Illinois, have already [enacted policies that expand the community solar market](#). Community solar alone in Minnesota accounts for nearly 800 megawatts of solar capacity. Meanwhile, current solar capacity in Wisconsin, including rooftop solar, community solar, and utility-scale solar, totals just over 300 megawatts. A few Wisconsin utilities have offered community solar programs, but without a statewide policy, many utility customers here lack access to a solar service. As a result, Wisconsin is quickly falling behind the rest of the country.

“This legislation is an opportunity to provide greater access to affordable, emission-free electricity for all Wisconsinites,” said RENEW Wisconsin Executive Director Heather Allen. “These projects will benefit residential and commercial subscribers, as well as the farmers who will receive a reliable income from the land they choose to lease for 20 or more years.”

“Moreover, community solar projects will help enhance grid reliability by creating a wider distribution of solar projects across the state.”

Allen added, “RENEW Wisconsin wants to ensure that local families and businesses can access this simple solar option. Not only will it drive investment in rural communities, but it will keep our energy dollars here in the state and help move us towards the goal of carbon-free electricity more quickly.”

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About RENEW Wisconsin RENEW Wisconsin is a nonprofit organization that promotes renewable energy in Wisconsin. We work on policies and programs that support solar power, wind power, local hydropower, geothermal energy, energy storage, and electric vehicles—more information on RENEW’s website: www.renewwisconsin.org.