

Helping Vermonters Advance Community Solar Solutions

Tools, Templates, Resources
and Guidance



Definition of Community Solar?

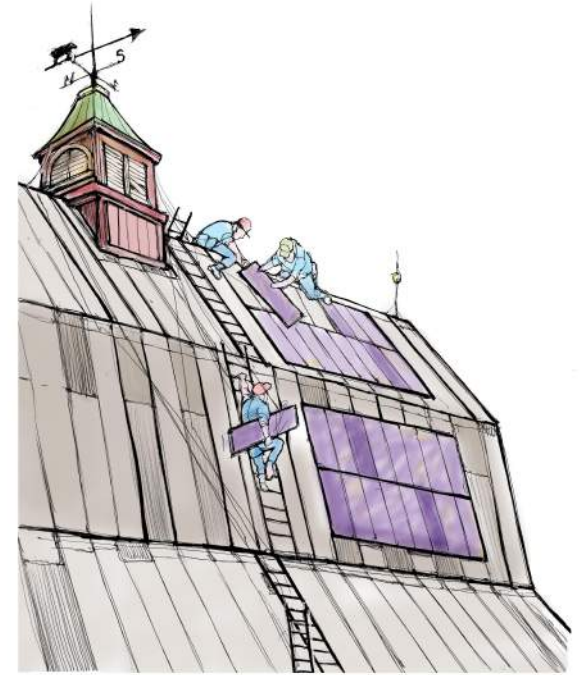
*A solution for schools and municipalities
or anyone who can't go solar on their on property
(about 70 percent of Vermonters...)*



Community Solar Guide

Final Pieces and In Development...

- A tool to help communities and interested Vermonters go solar more easily and swiftly. Includes/will include:
 - Case Studies – Success stories to help communities/people understand their solar options.
 - Model documents and templates – Model RFI, model RFP, model PPAs, model Land Lease Agreement, example “Members Operating Agreement,” information on siting, general tips to help your community advance solar projects, financing and funding information, etc.



TEMPLATES and MODELS AVAILABLE NOW

- GNM Agreement(s) Template
- Model Request for Information
- Model Request for Proposals
- Model Land Lease Agreement
- Example “Member Operating Agreement”
- Model Solar Contract (G&S, VLCT)
- Solar Siting Guidance

Group Net Metering Agreement Template

This Community Net Metering Agreement (“Agreement”) is made and entered into this _____ day of _____, 2013 (“Effective Date”), by and between _____ (“System Host”) and the following Group (“Members”):

- PERSON AAAAAA Account #
- PERSON BBBBBB Account #
- PERSON CCCCCC Account #
- PERSON DDDDDD Account #

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, _____, the System Host of certain real property in [county name] county, Vermont, located at _____ Vermont and described by satellite photograph in Exhibit A (“Premises”).

WHEREAS, System Host shall install a kW solar photovoltaic system on such Premises.

WHEREAS, System Host intends to provide renewable energy generation which can be used to offset Member's utility bills upon the terms and conditions as contained herein;

WHEREAS, Members are [X Utility] customers have reliably paid, at a minimum, the past six (6) electricity bills on time and in full;

WHEREAS, Members desire to receive utility bill offsets from renewable energy generation on the terms and conditions as contained herein;

WHEREAS, System Host will purchase and install the solar photovoltaic system and operate, maintain and upgrade the same system as necessary.



Vermont Law School – Partnership and Tools

VNRC has been working in collaboration with the Vermont Law School on a suite of documents for community solar projects, soon to be available:

- **A Group Net Metering Agreement for a 150 kW or less community solar array (which could serve many households)**
- **Accompanying example Articles of Incorporation for creating a Limited Liability Company (LLC)**
- **Model bylaws for a manager-managed LLC**



VLS Energy Clinic: Another Resource

VLS is interested in potentially working with a community who would like support and guidance in developing a community solar project.

Interested?

Let me know...

jmiller@vnrc.org



Tips for Grassroots Leaders to Help Move Solar

- Solar Siting Guidance – Approach matters!
 - Info on issues related to current use lands, agricultural lands, wetlands and floodplains etc.
- Financing and funding information
- Tips for Effective-Case Making
- CASE STUDIES!



Some Community Solar Success Stories

Vermonters are demonstrating that clean energy works!

Some compelling examples:

- Waterbury's 500 kW municipal solar project
- Ten Stones 24 kW Community Solar Project
- Coyote Ridge's 17.5 kW Community Solar Project
- Jeff Forward's 25 kW Neighborhood Solar Project
- Putney's 144 kW Community Solar Project



Waterbury's Solar Success

Under the leadership of the local energy committee

A few examples of Waterbury's solar efforts...

- Municipal – 500 kW Village Solar Project planned (Spring 2014)
- School – A 157 kW hillside solar array underway (joining the existing 14.8 kW array on the school roof – giving Crossett Brook more solar capacity than any other school in Vermont)
- Residential – Doubled residential solar capacity in less than one year. In 2013/2014, they doubled again...



Ten Stones Community Solar Collective

- A 24 kW community solar project serving 5 households and more in a Charlotte co-housing project, where the land is communally owned.
- The utility – Green Mountain Power – manages the billing – making it easier for homeowners.

“We haven’t paid an electric bill in a year and a half. If the system pays off in 10-12 years, that’s great. But it’s just the right thing to do.”

Rebecca Foster, project leader.



Coyote Ridge Community Solar

- A 17.5 kW of clean, sun-powered group net metered energy serve three different homes in this small development community.
- The federal and state incentives, which made the project affordable for all.
- A landowner – and project partner – was willing to utilize a southern facing portion of property to host the array.

**XX
Community Solar LLC
Members Operating Agreement**

(v1.0.0 [cleaned], Aug 6, 2013)

1. Purpose

The XX Community Solar LLC (hereinafter XXCS) is organized for the purpose of setting up and maintaining a commonly owned installation of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels to benefit the Lot Owners of XX, who choose to participate. The installation is situated on ZZ as depicted on the final Plat entitled "XX Subdivision" and recorded in Map ZZ of the Land Records of the Town of ZZ.

The site of the installation is currently owned by YY1 (one of the community solar members) and a long term lease contract (separate document) shall govern the conditions of this land usage and lease between the current and future owners of YY1's property and the XXCS.

The installation will generate electric power that is being fed directly into the electric utility's (Green Mountain Power, GMP) in this case) grid at the site of the installation. The system will be run in a Group Net Metering setup, i.e. the electric power will be measured with (generation) meter and the credits will be distributed amongst the XXCS members according to their membership interests (M.I.s).

This Member Operating Agreement shall regulate the affairs of the XXCS and the conduct of its business.

Besides enjoying the benefits of the generated electric power, all members shall be responsible for funding the initial installation of the PV panels, insurance and also for proper maintenance, repair and all other associated costs (needed upgrades, component replacements etc.).

2. List of Members

This is the list of founding members, as of August 6, 2013. A list of current members shall be kept as an Appendix to this document and be updated whenever the membership status changes.

Name and Address	Target kWh/yr	kW	Number of M.I.s	Percentage
YY1	8000	6.86	6.86	39.2%
YY2	8000	6.86	6.86	39.2%
YY3	4400	3.78	3.78	21.6%



Richmond Neighborhood Solar

- A 25 kW array serving six households.
- Conceptualized and developed by town energy and climate action committee chairman, Jeff Forward, the project is also an investment for Forward and his family.
- Forward put all the financial pieces of the puzzle together, tapping the traditional incentives – federal ITC, state renewable incentives and the solar adder.



Putney Community Solar

- 144 kW project – 576 fixed panels and 24 inverters.
- Member Owned – Serving 49 owners in nine counties in GMP territory.
- 180,000 kWh annual production
- This ownership structure allows renters, people with poorly sighted properties and individuals of all income levels to go solar.
- It's a model that can be used in other utility districts too.



What Help Do Communities Need? What Other Models Are Out There? How Do We Share Strategies and Tools and Move Solar Solutions Forward?

What are your thoughts?
For this guide and in general...?

Contact:

Johanna Miller – jmiller@vnrc.org
802-223-2328 ext. 112

www.vnrc.org

www.vecan.net



THANK YOU!