

Meeker Member Solar Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of Meeker Cooperative's Solar Program?

To provide a simple and convenient way for Meeker Cooperative members to participate in solar generation and reduce their usage of energy produced from fossil fuels.

How large is the Solar Project?

The Cooperative has available 9 solar panels, which is equal to 39.8 kWdc.

How much energy will a solar panel produce?

Each of the panels in the solar array are 41 watts. First year production is expected to be about 58 kWh. Energy production will vary from month to month and year to year based on total sunshine.

Do I have to be a Meeker Cooperative member to participate?

Yes, to be eligible you must be a Meeker Cooperative member in good standing with an active electric account. Non-metered, distributed generation-net metered, and lighting accounts are not eligible to participate. An agreement with a member will be required for each location.

Do I need to own my own home to participate?

No. Renters, homeowners and business owners can all participate in community solar.

What is the cost?

Meeker members who choose to participate in the Meeker Member Solar Project have three lease options.

Option 1

- \$17 upfront payment per panel
 - Member pays 15 cents per kWh for the energy produced by the solar panel for the life of the lease

Option 2

- \$1,325 upfront payment per panel
 - kWh produced is credited to member's account at the Co-op's applicable rate

Option 3

- \$975 upfront payment
 - Must enroll on the Peak Shave Water Heater Program
 - Receive a free 5 gallon water heater with a mixing valve or \$500 rebate toward a larger capacity unit. The water heater must have an energy factor of .90 or greater.
 - Forfeit the \$ monthly water heater credit.
 - kWh produced is credited to member's account at the Co-op's applicable rate

How long is the lease agreement?

The lease agreement with Meeker Cooperative is for 20 years.

How can I pay?

Cash or check are accepted.

Is there a limit on how many panels can subscribe to?

Member may lease the output of multiple solar panels, provided that the output of leased panels cannot exceed the past three years' average annual general service kWh usage at the location/account at which they are applied.

What if my portion of the generation exceeds my monthly usage?

Unused kWh will be carried over month to month. Excess solar panel output credits at calendar year-end will not be refunded, transferred or donated.

Can the kWh credit be used to pay the facility charge?

No. It is a kWh for kWh exchange.

How do I receive credit for participating in the program?

The total kWh produced by the entire solar array each month will be divided by the number of panels in the array. Each participating member's bill will be credited or billed by the number of kWh's their panel(s) produce. Appropriate credits or billed kWh will be applied to the member's bill the following month after production (September generation would be credited to the member bill they receive in October). Solar energy credit will be using the same energy rate and power cost adjustment, as used to bill the account to which the solar credits are applied.

In no even shall Meeker Cooperative have an obligation to pay cash or other consideration for accumulated, unused solar energy credits.

Can members with seasonal homes participate in the Community Solar program?

Yes, the program works well for seasonal accounts. The kWh produced by the panel during months when there is no electric usage in the home are carried forward to months with electric usage. Excess solar panel output credits at calendar year-end will not be refunded, transferred or donated.

Is this project being subsidized by member of Meeker Cooperative who are not interested in the solar program?

No. This project is not subsidized by the entire membership. The costs associated to the solar project are paid for by those who enroll. In fact, our solar project eliminates the cost shifting for non-solar members, which is typically not the case for residential rooftop solar applications.

Will anything be installed at my home?

No. All equipment will be installed at the Litchfield substation site and Meeker Cooperative will be responsible for operating, maintaining and insuring the array for the 20-year life of the program.

How do I know how much energy my portion of the solar array is producing each month?

Once the community solar project is commissioned (turned on) a link will be placed on MCLP's website available to all members to view the energy production of the solar array.

What if I move?

If you move your electric service to a different location within Meeker Cooperative Light and Power's service territory, you can transfer the credit to your new location. If you leave the area, you may elect to transfer or assign the panel production credits to another individual or entity within Meeker Cooperative Light and Power's service territory.

Who retains the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)?

Meeker Cooperative retains the REC's.

Am I eligible for state or federal incentives?

All state and federal incentives are already incorporated in the panel price. Without the incentives the panel cost would be significantly higher.

How can I participate?

MCLP members can enroll in the Meeker Member Solar Project by calling the office at 320-693-3231 or stop by the office and we can assist you with your questions and help you get enrolled.