

Frequently Asked Questions

Geneva Community Power



PROGRAM FAQ

1. What is Geneva Community Power?

The Town of Geneva and Joule Community Power have partnered to establish a community solar program that gives back to the community and enables subscribers who support clean energy generation to spend less on electricity.

Geneva Community Power is a local renewable energy program serving residents and businesses in the NY Finger Lakes region. Those who enroll save approximately 10% annually on electricity for up to 25 years by supporting clean energy generation.

Once an enrollment target is met, the program awards a \$25,000 sustainability grant that Geneva elected to use for storm water control projects benefiting Seneca Lake. The money will be used to apply for \$75,000 in NY State matching funds in order to finance Seneca Lake watershed projects valued at \$100,000. The 400-subscriber enrollment target was met on June 26th.

The program is not just for Geneva residents. Any NYSEG residential and small business customer is eligible to enroll in Geneva Community Power to take advantage of electricity bill savings.

2. Why should I enroll in Geneva Community Power?

By enrolling, you're (1) reducing your electricity costs by approximately 10% for up to 25 years, (2) supporting clean, renewable energy generation, and (3) reducing your carbon footprint.

3. What's the relationship between Geneva Community Power & Finger Lakes Community Choice?

Finger Lakes Community Choice offers fixed supply rates and a 100% New York State renewable default supply option. Geneva Community Power guarantees electricity bill savings derived from solar bill credits. Any NYSEG residential or small business customer can enroll with Geneva Community to save approximately 10% on their electricity bill. To maximize electricity bill savings and support for renewable energy, Town of Geneva residents can participate in both programs.

Finger Lakes Community Choice is an opt-out community choice aggregation (CCA) program. CCA allows towns (or groups of towns) to leverage the collective buying power of their resident energy consumers to negotiate lower electricity rates, designate preferred generation sources (e.g. renewable), and select an Energy Services Company (ESCO) as the default electricity supplier to the community. Eligible Town of Geneva residents will be automatically enrolled—at the default energy supply choice—unless they act to opt-out or change their supply choice. The default energy supply option for Finger Lakes Community Choice participants is 100% renewable energy at a rate that is fixed for 24 months at a price that's lower than the average rate they've been paying for NYSEG standard (non-renewable) supply. Consumers, however, are not locked in for 24 months, however. You may opt out or cancel service at any time with no penalties or fees whatsoever.

Geneva Community Power is an opt-in community solar program that offers guaranteed savings for supporting renewable energy generation. People must sign up to participate. Because NY State supports the development of renewable energy generation, community solar subscribers are guaranteed to receive solar bill credits. Geneva Community Power subscribers will decrease their electricity bill by about 10% annually for up to 25 years. You don't need to be a Town of Geneva resident or a participant in the Finger Lakes Community Choice CCA program to subscribe to Geneva Community Power.

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PROGRAM FAQ (cont.)

4. Who are the interested parties and what are their roles?

1. The Town of Geneva (Project Sponsor)
2. Joule Community Power (Program Administrator)
3. Delaware River Solar (Solar Farm Owner/Developer)
4. PowerMarket (Billing Manager)

Joule Community Power (Joule) works with municipalities and local partners to empower communities and facilitate their goals of providing residents and businesses with cleaner and cheaper energy. Joule principals were responsible for implementing New York State's first Community Choice Aggregation Program (CCA)—a program that enables communities to aggregate local energy demand in order to: 1) Save money—Gain leverage to procure less expensive electricity for residents and businesses, 2) Make money—Create new revenue opportunities by participating in energy markets, and 3) Go green—Gain local control to opt for clean and renewable generation sources. Joule is the only company in New York State offering CCA administrative services with a Public Service Commission-approved implementation plan that integrates community solar projects; and only Joule has the expertise, relationships, and experience to effectively design, implement, and manage such a program. Joule's innovative approach for renewable energy strategies in New York is driving new regulation and encouraging the Public Service Commission to rapidly advance innovative solutions. Joule Community Power is a division of Joule Assets

Delaware River Solar (DRS), a privately-held NY solar development company, owns the Owego-based community solar project. DRS is focused on building community solar projects in New York State. Their community solar farms bring green, renewable energy to residents and businesses while saving them money on their electric bills. DRS' first completed project, situated in Sullivan County, currently generates clean energy benefiting 350 residents and small businesses. DRS is building dozens more solar projects throughout the NYSEG and RGE electric service territories in Western and Upstate New York. The company has full development, financing, construction, and project management capabilities.

PowerMarket has developed software that facilitates the management of shared renewable projects, such as community solar. PowerMarket provides utilities and solar developers tools and services to make these projects run smoothly and supply more clean energy on the grid.

5. Where is the energy generated?

The solar panels will be installed at a site (a.k.a. "solar farm," "solar garden," or "solar project") located on Gaskill Road in Owego, NY, approximately 75 miles from Geneva.

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6. How does it work?

You subscribe to a shared solar farm that feeds clean, solar energy into the utility grid. You continue to receive power from NYSEG, but your bill will be lower because of credits (derived from NY State incentives for clean energy generation) on your bill for energy generated by the solar farm.

7. What is my guaranteed discount?

You're guaranteed a 10% discount off your electric bill for the amount of power generated by your share of the solar farm.

8. How is my solar allocation determined?

Your solar allocation will be sized to offset approximately 90% of your typical electricity usage. So, while you're receiving a guaranteed 10% discount on only the portion of solar you've been allocated, your allocation should roughly match your annual usage.

9. Am I guaranteed a lower rate for a specified period of time?

You're guaranteed the 10% discount for 25 years. However, you're under no obligation to participate for any length of time and you may cancel your contract at any time without incurring any fees or penalties. Once you cancel, there's no guarantee of an opportunity to re-enroll at a later date. *Note, it may take up to sixty days for the cancellation to go into effect.*

HOW IT WORKS FAQ

10. How is my discount guaranteed?

To achieve the New York State mandates that by 2030: (1) 50% of all electricity will come from renewable sources, and (2) there will be a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels), the State is incentivizing clean energy generation. As a result of these state incentives, community solar farm subscribers can receive monetary bill credits.

Specifically, as a Geneva Community Power subscriber, you'll be charged "90% of the value" of the solar credits that reduce your NYSEG bill, thereby saving you the 10% difference just for choosing to support solar. Your contract with solar project owner/developer Delaware River Solar (DRS) details prices, charges and fees as follows:

Your NYSEG bill	You receive solar credits on your bill that lower your payment*
Your solar bill	Totals 90% of the value of the solar credits on your NYSEG bill
Term	1 year, with automatic annual renewals for 25 years
Upfront fees	\$0
Termination fees	\$0

* *The value of each credit is defined by the New York Public Service Commission. Calculated on a monthly basis, it reflects the market price of electricity supply and demand.*

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11. When will I start to see electricity bill savings?

We expect the project to go live in September. Credits will begin to accrue throughout the first month. You'll see these credits on your bill (i.e. see bill savings) the following month—two months after operations begin.

12. How will I be billed?

Each month, you'll receive two bills—one from NYSEG and one from the solar project manager—that will add up to less than you pay now. NYSEG will bill you for the electricity you use less the bill credits that incentivize solar generation. The developer will bill you for 90% of the solar credit value. *You save the 10% difference!*

13. Will I still receive power from NYSEG?

Yes, NYSEG will continue to deliver your electricity and is responsible for repairs, maintenance, and service. The solar farm simply feeds energy into the utility grid.

Geneva, NY is
leading the way to a
greener and cheaper
energy future

15. Am I eligible to enroll?

Enrollment is not limited to Geneva residents, but subscribers must be NYSEG customers.

16. Why should I enroll early?

If you wait to sign-up, you run the risk of losing your enrollment opportunity and being closed out. Enrollment will close once all generated capacity is subscribed for.

HOW IT WORKS FAQ (cont.)

14. Will I have a new energy supplier?

No. Geneva Community Power is not an Energy Service Company (ESCO). Your power will still be supplied by NYSEG or your chosen supplier/ESCO. Community solar provides another way to:

1. Support renewable energy
2. Decrease your community's carbon footprint
3. Lower your annual electricity costs.

To demonstrate maximum support of renewable energy and to minimize your electricity costs, we recommend participating in both the Geneva Community Power solar program and, if eligible, the Finger Lakes Community Choice community choice aggregation program.

ENROLLMENT FAQ

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ENROLLMENT FAQ (cont.)

17. Can I enroll my business?

Yes, any residential or commercial customer with a NYSEG account may enroll.

18. Is there a penalty for canceling my subscription?

No. There are no penalties or termination fees. Should you choose to leave the program, please allow 60 days for the subscription to be removed from your NYSEG account.

19. I receive my electricity from an energy service company (“ESCO,” e.g. Direct Energy). Am I still eligible to enroll in Geneva Community Power?

Yes, you may enroll in Geneva Community Power even if your electricity is supplied by an ESCO. The solar bill credits offset the cost of your bill regardless of your supplier. While the value of a solar credit is calculated against utility retail rates—which may not be the same as ESCO rates—ESCO customers still get the same monetary benefit. In other words, ESCO customers may not realize the same percentage savings, but they do receive the same dollar value credit as those who purchase electricity supply directly from NYSEG.

20. I’m enrolled in NYSEG’s budget billing plan. How does enrolling in Geneva Community Power impact my electricity bills?

We strongly recommend withdrawing from budget billing to take full advantage of this opportunity to save money on your electricity bills with solar credits. You can withdraw from NYSEG’s budget billing program—for electricity only, gas only, or both—at any time with no penalty.

If you choose to remain on budget billing, you’ll continue to be billed your monthly flat rate by NYSEG. You’ll also get a bill from the solar developer for 90% of the value from your solar allocation. At year-end, when NYSEG reconciles your account, you’ll receive credits for 100% of your solar allocation value (which you can request to have sent to you). Therefore, while you’re paying more each month as a budget billing customer, you’re still guaranteed to save 10% on your solar allocation on an annual basis.

Please contact us to discuss your options regarding budget billing.

21. What are my payment options?

You can pay your solar bill in one of the following ways:

1. Automatic payments from a checking account. These convenient, hassle-free Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments can be set up during the Geneva Community Power enrollment process.
2. Automated payments via a credit card. Earn the credit card rewards and avoid the hassle of manually paying your bill each month by setting up this payment method during enrollment.
3. Check payments. Pay via hard copy or electronic check each month when you receive your invoice.

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COMMUNITY SOLAR FAQ

22. What is CDG?

Community Distributed Generation is a program established by the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to allow broader access to renewable energy. Independent developers build renewable energy systems and sell the generated power to anyone who qualifies. Subscribers can support, and enjoy the benefits of, solar energy generation without owning or installing equipment.

23. What is a solar credit?

As a result of New York State incentives for clean energy generation, credits are issued when electricity is produced from a clean, renewable source. A credit is created every time a renewable power producer creates a unit of energy. A solar credit specifies solar-generated energy.

By enrolling in Geneva Community Power, you're supporting renewable energy generation. In turn, you receive solar bill credits for your allocation of the solar-generated energy that is fed into the grid to be distributed by NYSEG. The credits more than offset your supply cost, and you end up spending less for cleaner energy generated from renewable sources.

Solar credits make it possible for you to enjoy the benefits of clean, renewable power without having to own or install equipment on your home or property.

24. How is it possible that I can have no electricity payment for a particular month and unused credits that could rollover to the following month?

You'd receive bill credits based on how much solar power your share of the farm generates.

In summer months, when the solar farm is very productive, what's generated may be more than what you consume; you'd receive bill credits that more than offset what you owe for your consumption. In this case, you wouldn't owe any money to NYSEG and any excess credits would stay on your account to be used in subsequent months.

Alternatively, during winter, you may use more energy than is generated by your share of the farm. In this case, you'd receive fewer credits than needed, but any rollover credits on your account will be applied.

Your allocation is calculated so that, on an annual basis, your share of the farm generates enough power to roughly match your annual consumption and offset most of your electricity supply costs.



COMMUNITY SOLAR FAQ (cont.)

25. Is renewable energy the same as clean energy?

Renewable energy is any type of energy that comes from renewable natural resources (e.g., wind, rain, sunlight, geothermal heat, tides). It's renewable because it doesn't run out. You can always get more of it.

Clean energy is any form of energy created via clean, harmless, and non-polluting methods. Most, but not all, renewable energy sources are also clean energy sources (e.g., geothermal power—some geothermal energy processes can be harmful to the environment).

Clean energy makes less impact on the environment than do conventional energy sources. It creates an insignificant amount of carbon dioxide, and its use can reduce pollution and the speed of global warming.

Solar energy is both renewable and clean.



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