



MID-HUDSON FUEL BUYING CO-OP

Promoting energy efficiency and conservation

Community Solar and Community Hydropower contracts can save you money on your electric bill. These options are for those who do not want or for whom it is not practical to invest in solar panels on their property. You can sign up for any community project that is in your utility supplier zone. We have listed some in Central Hudson's zone below.

A community solar or hydropower contract with monetary crediting is not the same as buying renewable energy. You can obtain renewable energy from an ESCO (Energy Supply Company) or a CCA (Community Choice Aggregator).

An ESCO such as Clean Choice Energy or Veridian offers renewably sourced energy, and you may pay a little more than you do to your regular utility supplier such as Central Hudson. Often you pay the renewably sourced ESCO through your utility supplier.

A CCA is an ESCO that is chosen by the municipality as the default supply company, instead of, for example, Central Hudson, for all electric customers who do not opt out or select their own ESCO. A CCA is often able to get a better deal for electricity than an individual subscriber because it is negotiating on behalf of a large number of households.

Low income consumers can save with a community solar program called Solar For All if you are on a restricted income (\$27,816 for one person, \$36,372 for two people). This is a NYSERDA subscription program. This website will give you information about community solar in general and a map of community solar projects within your zip code range as well as information about eligibility for the Solar for All program. For questions about Solar for All please email at solarforall@nyserda.ny.gov or call 1-877-NYSMART.

1. HELPFUL GENERAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION WHEN LOOKING AT SOLAR OR HYDROPOWER

Citizens for Local Power, This group is dedicated to getting local sustainable renewable energy resources and supports community solar farms. [Click here](#) for a very good explanation of community farms and the two sorts of membership: subscription (short term, no fee) or purchase (long term investment). They give information on what questions should be asked to avoid unexpected charges and deciding which company and options fit your needs.

NYSERDA New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. NYSERDA helps New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. It has an enormous amount of information about both non-renewable and renewable fuels, including prices and information about programs and projects to help New Yorkers keep their heating and power costs down.

New Yorkers for Clean Power is a statewide advocacy group focusing on a clean energy economy and offers education and information on alternative energy sources. They have a walk-in office on Broadway in Kingston.

Many involved in alternative energy say that starting a community solar farm from scratch is not a good option. The process is long and filled with bureaucratic delays and requires a very large investment. At this time, it may be best left to large experienced developers.

2. WHEN RESEARCHING COMMUNITY SOLAR AND HYDRO POWER PROJECTS

Understand the differences between contracts: Contracts can be by subscription or purchase. *Solar Farms* can be by subscription contract, the term will depend on the solar company (no tax credit) or by purchasing panels - this is a long term investment, with a possible tax credit. *Hydro Farms*, hydro-electric producer, usually a subscription contract, terms depend on the company.

Understanding the provisions for leaving the contract if you move is very important.

When looking for an alternative energy provider it is important to know how they calculate energy credits.

Monetary crediting or net metering credits your electric bill on kwh to kwh basis so it is good to know your per kwh monthly charge.

Recently introduced volumetric crediting or Value of Distributed Energy Resources (VDER) is based on a more complicated valuation system, which may make it more difficult to calculate your savings.

3. SOME COMMUNITY SOLAR AND HYDRO OFFERINGS IN THE CENTRAL HUDSON TERRITORY AS OF MARCH 2019

NATURAL POWER GROUP INC Hydroelectric producer

Information below submitted by NPG 2/13/19

Up and running for the past 30 years

Contact: Sarah Bower-Terbusch & Harry Terbusch (owners) 845 897 4194, Hopewell, NY.

Subscription: 5 year contract, no early termination fees after one year, or other fees

Monetary crediting, 10% discount when enough power is generated (usually 9-11 months out of the year). When more energy is created credits are carried forward to the next month. A discount is guaranteed, but the amount will vary. The kwh price varies per month, like kwh charge in the fossil fuel market used by Central Hudson. The amount of credit received depends on NPG production, customer percentage of NPG production and the VDER rates. This determines the credit the customer gets every month. They guarantee a 10% discount on these credits.

Note: There are 3 hydroelectric power plants, the Walkill, Wappingers Falls, and Salsbury Plants. The Town of Woodstock, Town of Rosendale, Town of Marbletown, County of Ulster, Bard College and many individuals are involved with the CDG (Community Distributed Generation) program from NPG.

POWERMARKET Solar

Information below submitted by Power Market 2/13/19

Contact: Travis 212 381 6097 EX 2

Brooklyn-based, Check the link for a map of their installations.

Subscription terms vary from project to project, based on developers' requirements. Typically, one can join at any time, and can leave with no cost as long as you give 60 days notice.

There is no cost to join. Monetary crediting, i.e. subscribers receive a credit on their utility bills for the value of the electricity generated by their solar share each month. Then, they pay for the value of that credit to the solar project at a discount (usually 5% - 10% discount) For more information on Power Market and community solar projects in general [click here](#)

CLEARWAY COMMUNITY SOLAR (bought NRG solar division)

Information below submitted by Clearway energy 2/13/19

Contact: Craig: 845 765 3838 Craig.Hightower@clearwayenergy.com

Headquartered in Houston, TX, with offices in New York City, NY, New Jersey, San Francisco, CA, and Scottsdale, AZ.

Subscription model is 20year Power Purchase Agreement. Available to home owners or renters. Requires a FICO credit score of 650 to qualify, a soft credit inquiry. Note: Clearway is planning to build 11 solar farms equaling 52 megawatts in the Hudson Valley.

Blue Stone Farm in Kingston Not in production yet, getting close. Proposed February/April 2019. Poughkeepsie Underhill Solar Farm scheduled to be completed May/ June 2019.

They are offering a fixed .1297kwh rate for next 20 years. This amount does not fluctuate over the 20 years. Clearway will look to achieve a 100% usage offset when sizing a home for a community solar subscription. They will use 12 months of historic usage data to determine a customer portion of the solar farm. If you move, you can transfer your subscription to your new address if it is within Central Hudson service territory. You can transfer to new owner, or any other person if you move outside of Central Hudson territory or Clearway will find a replacement for your subscription at no charge. If the farm does not produce enough power, you pay for the additional used energy amount to Central Hudson at their fluctuating rate. If it produces more power, the additional kwh credits are carried over to the next month at the fixed rate.

NEXAMP Community Solar

Information below submitted by Nexamp 2/19/19

Contact: Yushi Kawasumi, 800-945-5124

Farms in the Town of Rochester - anticipated start date September 2019; and Wappinger Falls - anticipated start date June 2019

Subscription: monetary crediting, up to 25 years, you can opt out with a 3 month notice with no cancellation fee. No cost to join, no credit check, no long term commitment. Guaranteed 10% discount on all solar credits applied to bill. Credits will offset the majority of annual costs.

SUNCOMMON Community Solar in Kingston

information below submitted by SunCommon 2/13/19

Contact: Sean 845 383 0664

Vermont Based

Ownership: You buy the panels on the farm that you need to generate your estimated usage. This is determined from previous Central Hudson bills. They work with a bank to finance ownership. Possible tax credit. Subscription not available.

The community solar array (CSA) is on the Pointe of Praise Church property in Kingston, meaning your electricity will be locally produced and help them provide affordable power to elderly church members. The CSA has been designed to maintain the natural beauty of the property. It will feature a walking path and wildflower garden, planted to support pollinator populations, like bees and butterflies. The CSA allows customers to purchase their solar panels.

You can claim the 30% federal solar tax credit and the NYSEERDA grant, which provide significant savings. This is also the last year to get the full 30% federal solar tax credit. The CSA will send solar electricity onto Central Hudson's utility grid, and the utility will automatically credit your portion on your monthly utility bill.

COMMUNITY CHOICE ENERGY PROGRAM

Hudson Valley Community Power, a town-sponsored ESCO uses the collective purchasing power of the residents of several towns. They can negotiate for renewable energy at a discount to Central Hudson prices. Readers may already be in a town that has opted in - Marbletown, Town of Fishkill, Beacon, Cold Spring, Philipstown and the City of Poughkeepsie all participate. If your town does not, Hudson Community Power has a petition on their website which you can use to get your town officials to consider joining.
Contact: Jeff Domanski: CCA@HudsonValleyEnergy.org
Community Choice Hotline: 845-859-9099

Many Mid-Hudson Fuel Buying Co-Op (MHFBC) members have shown an interest in learning more about green energy. If you want to be more actively involved in energy conservation and alternative energy use that supports a more sustainable community, or would like your questions answered about Solar, Hydro, or Wind energy, please contact Lynn at lynnritchie1@gmail.com

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