

# NEW RICHMOND UTILITIES COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDENS FACT SHEET

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## About Community Solar

- Community solar gardens use arrays of solar electric panels to generate renewable energy for the benefit of local subscribers.
- The projects can make the advantages of local solar more accessible for those who may be uninterested in or unable to pursue installing their own solar equipment, such as renters who are not allowed to install rooftop solar panels, or those whose property may be too small or shaded.

## New Richmond's Community Solar Garden

- **Location:** 1485 Madison Avenue in the New Richmond, Wis., Business and Technical Park.
- **Size:** the approximately 250-kilowatt community solar garden will consist of 807 solar photovoltaic panels, each with the capacity to generate 315 watts of electricity.
- **Who can participate:** Residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations served by New Richmond Utilities (NRU) are eligible to subscribe. The program is expected to accommodate approximately 100 to 200 subscribers, depending upon the subscription level of each participant.
- **Up-front purchase, monthly bill credit:** Participants will pay a \$567 up-front subscription fee per panel and receive monthly bill credits based on the project's energy production during the 20-year program. Actual credits will depend on the panels' production but are anticipated to total approximately \$24 to \$36 per panel per year.
- **Customer response:** To date, more than 150 NRU customers have expressed interest in signing up.

- **Timeline:** New Richmond broke ground for the project on October 12, 2015. Construction is anticipated to be completed in November, 2015.
- **A joint effort:** NRU will host the solar garden and, together with WPPI Energy, NRU's wholesale power supplier, will be responsible for site maintenance. WPPI Energy will coordinate program design, financing and construction through the use of Wisconsin-based contractors.
- **Products:** The project will be constructed with 807 Canadian Solar CS6X-315 polycrystalline solar panel modules (254.2 kW-DC), nine Schneider Electric Conext CL250000NA three-phase power inverters, and an RBI Solar galvanized steel ground-mount racking system.

## About New Richmond Utilities

- **Locally owned, community-minded:** Not-for-profit New Richmond Utilities provides electric, water and wastewater services to approximately 4,300 local homes and businesses.
- **Customer-focused:** Consumer interest in solar energy is increasing, and customer-focused utilities like NRU are well positioned to respond.

## WPPI Energy Pilot Initiative

- **Two projects:** New Richmond is one of two member communities chosen to pilot a community solar garden by WPPI Energy.
- **Goal:** Together, the 51 members of WPPI Energy are pursuing the pilot projects in New Richmond and River Falls to gain program design and technology insights that will help all WPPI Energy member communities continue to provide new renewable energy options for customers.



At New Richmond Utilities, we believe affordable public power strengthens our community and helps our neighbors. That's why, through WPPI Energy, we're partnering with other local not-for-profit utilities to share resources and lower costs.