



Corvallis Community Solar Project

April 11, 2022

The member-owned Oregon Clean Power Cooperative develops and finances community-based solar for churches, schools, nonprofits and local governments in Oregon. We are currently working with the City of Medford, OSU and others on community solar projects around the state. Together with the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, we would like to propose installing a Community Solar project on about 12 acres of City of Corvallis Public Works land.

Community Solar programs have been running in Colorado, Minnesota, New York and elsewhere for a number of years. Oregon's program (www.oregoncsp.org) was created by the Oregon legislature in 2016, and went live in 2020.

Rather than putting solar on your own roof, Community Solar lets you buy your power from a larger solar array somewhere else. A single larger solar project is less expensive than a number of separate smaller projects, and allows people who can't install their own solar panels, such as renters, to participate. PGE and Pacific Power do not own projects, but are required to act as billing providers, allowing electricity customers to buy power, or subscribe, to a Community Solar project and see the benefits on their utility bill.

A Community Solar project would allow the City of Corvallis, and its employees and residents, to shift to renewable energy, while reducing their electric bills, without any cost to the City. Ten percent of each project is reserved for low-income residents, who will get the electricity at discounts of 40% or greater.



OCPC is a registered Project Manager for the Oregon Community Solar Program, and would manage, finance and operate the project. The City would provide the site for the project, but not be responsible for any of the costs. The City could apply for a state Community Renewable Energy Program (CREP) grant, however, which could lower the cost of electricity from the project.

Benefits

- Lower electric bills for Corvallis and its residents
- No cost to the City of Corvallis
- Shift to clean, renewable energy from the sun
- Project term: 20 years. Oregon Clean Power removes solar equipment at end.

