

Community Solar Program

INFORMATION WEBINAR 2024

Housekeeping



Chat



Q&A



People



Raise



React

Agenda

- ▶ Introduction of Program Team
- ▶ Program Development Background
- ▶ Program Overview
- ▶ Application Process
- ▶ Evaluation Process
- ▶ Question Period (Q&A)

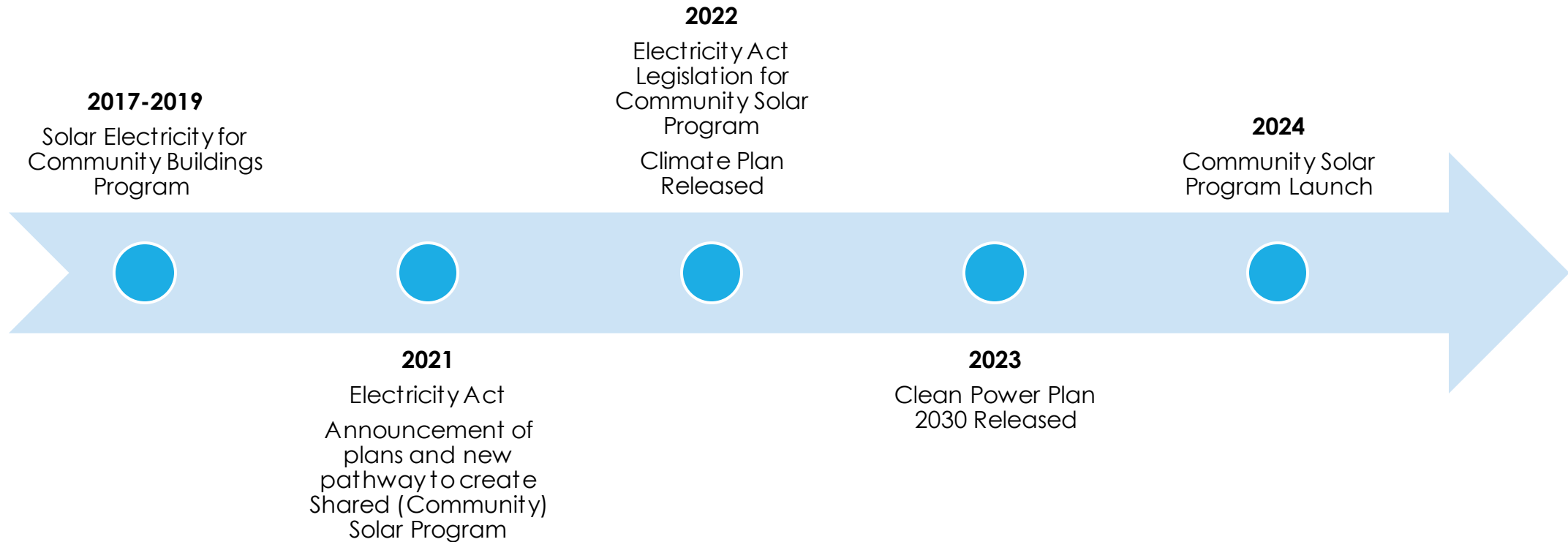
Program Team

- ▶ **Julia Lindsay** – Project Manager
- ▶ **Haruka Aoyama** – Program Coordinator

Natural Resources and Renewables, Clean Electricity Team

Reach out to us via email to sharesolar@novascotia.ca

Solar Program Development



Community Solar Program Development

Informed by public input

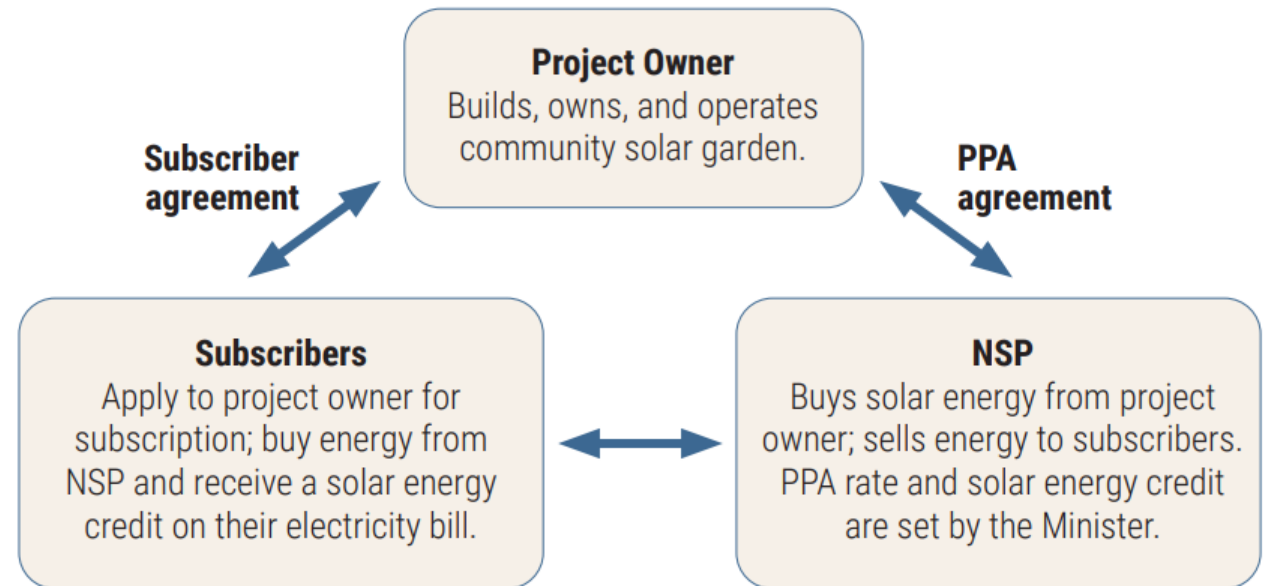
- ▶ Engagement sessions held in 2021 by Clean Foundation and One North End
 - **Stakeholder Consultations:** gathered input, identified needs, and addressed concerns.
 - **Community Workshops:** Engaged with residents, businesses and organizations. Facilitated discussions on program design, eligibility criteria and benefits.
 - **Surveys and Feedback:** gathered data from potential participants, which informed key program policies related to program design, features, community benefits and accessibility.
 - **Equity Considerations:** Collaborative engagement ensured that community perspectives were considered. Strategies were developed to promote inclusivity and address disparities.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

What is the Program?

- ▶ Add **up to 100 megawatts (MWac)** of solar electricity to Nova Scotia's grid
- ▶ Project owner(s) set up a solar garden of **0.5MWac – 10MWac**
- ▶ **25 years** Power Purchase Agreement (**PPA**)
- ▶ Make solar electricity **accessible**
- ▶ **Solar for your community** (prioritized subscription offering)
- ▶ Support **local economic development**



Roles in Community Solar Program

Application Sections

Table of Contents

Section 1: Applicant Information	4
Section 2: Project Partnership	6
Section 3: Project Information.....	10
Section 4: NSPI Generation Interconnection Procedures (GIP)	12
Section 5: Construction Plan	12
Section 6: Environmental Considerations and Requirements	15
Section 7: Permits and Approvals	17
Section 8: Financial Planning.....	19
Section 9: Community Engagement and Support.....	19
Section 10: Community Benefits.....	24
Section 11: Subscription Model	26
Section 12: Risk Assessment	27
Section 13: Final Checklist.....	27
Section 14: Affirming Statement.....	28

Who is Eligible?

- ▶ Registered not-for-profit
- ▶ For-profit entity
- ▶ Mi'kmaw band
- ▶ Municipality, town, village or township
- ▶ Co-operative
- ▶ Community Economic Development Investment Fund (CEDIF)
- ▶ University or college
- ▶ Partnership between any eligible entities listed above

Requirements for Project Site

- ▶ **Project Site:** includes the land you are using, generating facility, interconnection facilities, and roads.
- ▶ **NSPI Service Area:** access to the local distribution system, including easements for utility equipment.
- ▶ **Site Ownership and Access:** the site can be on your own private land, leased land, or, where permitted, provincial Crown land.
- ▶ **Land Type:** preference is given to projects located on sites that are less desirable or less likely to be used for any other purpose, such as industrial rooftops, brownfields, and non-arable agricultural lands.
- ▶ **Other Considerations:** project owners must consider ecological, environmental, and archaeological impacts.

Generation Interconnection

- ▶ **Interconnection Procedures:** Project must adhere to NSPI's Generation Interconnection Procedures (GIP) to determine grid connection feasibility.
- ▶ **Distribution Generator Interconnection Procedures:** Required for projects connecting to distribution systems 26,400 volts and under.
- ▶ **Pre-application Assessment: Optional** for project owners, providing high-level system information to assess site viability before formal DGIP application.
- ▶ **Interconnection Request and Preliminary Assessment: Required** for program application. If your interconnection request is deemed valid, NSPI will proceed with assessment which will identify any potential adverse system impacts that would result from the interconnection of the generating facility. Project owners will receive an order of magnitude estimate to be provided in their financial model for their application to the program.
- ▶ **Distribution System Impact Study (DSIS):** A detailed analysis conducted by NSPI to identify necessary system upgrades and associated costs for project interconnection. *Community solar program approval is required before advancing to DSIS

[Check out PV Hosting Capacity Map](#)

Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)

- ▶ Project owner(s) will calculate and propose a power purchase rate in the application.
- ▶ Project owner(s) are expected to **consider potential impact on rate payers** when calculating and proposing a power purchase rate.
- ▶ All proposed power purchase rates will be **a minimum of \$0.07 per kilowatt hour (KWh)**.
- ▶ PPA must include a fixed administrative fee for NSPI **not exceeding \$5.00 per MWh** of electricity purchased by NSPI.
- ▶ Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables will decide the final rate in the PPA.
- ▶ Your **power purchase rate will not change** over the course of the agreement (25 years).

Subscription Management

- ▶ Project owners are responsible for finding and retaining subscribers and managing subscriptions for your solar garden project.
- ▶ At a minimum, your project must have:
 - ▶ at least **two subscribers**
 - ▶ **25 per cent** of the nameplate capacity subscribed to by **residential customers**
 - ▶ **at least 85 per cent** of the nameplate capacity of the project **subscribed** to during the term of the PPA, beginning one year after the commercial operation date
- ▶ Each month, subscribers will receive a monthly credit of **\$0.02/kWh** based on the actual amount of energy your solar garden generates and in proportion to their subscription size as a percentage of the solar garden's nameplate capacity.

Revenue Source/Profit

- ▶ **Profit Options:** Your project may bring in an annual profit, which you are free to use in any way you choose. Some owners may choose to reinvest into additional renewable energy for the community. You could also decide to give profits back to low-income subscribers to subsidize their energy costs.
- ▶ **Revenue Source:** The revenue you receive from the PPA will be the only income stream for your project.
- ▶ **NSPI Credit:** NSPI directly applies a \$0.02/kWh credit to subscribers' bills.

Financing

- ▶ **Funding Mix:** Projects will require a mix of funding, grants, equity and financing.
- ▶ **Provincial Program:** We're actively exploring opportunities, including the creation of a provincial program with a budget of \$5.2 million. Only approved projects will be considered for this funding.
- ▶ **Disclaimer:** Any investment you make with your own money or external funding **before program approval** is at your own risk and **does not guarantee eligibility** for the program.

Financing and Funding for Community Solar Projects

A guide to the available grants, loans, rebates and incentives | February 2024



Image 1 Berwick Community Solar Project. Photo Credit - Communications Nova Scotia

Disclaimer: Any investment you make before the program approval is at your own risk and does not guarantee eligibility or acceptance into the Nova Scotia Community Solar Program.

Disclaimer – Funding Guide Accuracy: While we have made every effort to compile accurate and up-to-date information in this funding guide, it is essential to recognize that funding opportunities are subject to change. Before proceeding with any investment or application, we strongly recommend that applicants verify all information directly from the original source – the official funding webpage.

Contact Information: Community Solar team at the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables sharesolar@novascotia.ca

Check the Guide



SCAN ME

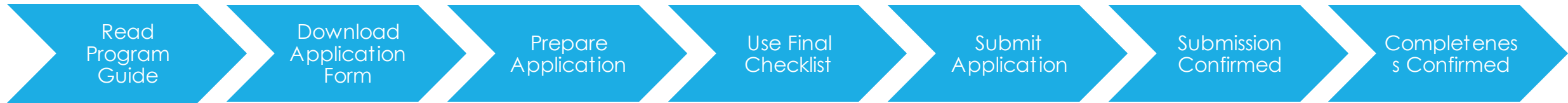
Equity Design in Program

- ▶ **20MWac** is reserved for projects under 5MWac developed and owned by not-for-profits, co-operatives, and/or legal entities representing underserved or marginalized communities.
- ▶ **Meaningful Partnership**
- ▶ **Community Benefits:** Capacity Building, Benefit Agreements, Economic Benefits, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Plan
- ▶ **Community Engagement**
- ▶ **Prioritized Subscribers:** Project owners may choose to prioritize offering subscriptions to a specific group of people or community.



APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Process



Read
Program
Guide

Download
Application
Form

Prepare
Application

Use Final
Checklist

Submit
Application

Submission
Confirmed

Completen
ess
Confirmed

20

Download Program Guide



Program Guide

The screenshot shows the Nova Scotia Canada website. The header includes the Nova Scotia logo and the text "NOVA SCOTIA CANADA". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for RESIDENTS, VISITORS, BUSINESSES, GOVERNMENT, and NEWS. A search bar is located to the right of the menu. The main content area is titled "Department of Natural Resources and Renewables » Renewables". The page features a large heading for "Community Solar Program" and a sub-heading for "Community solar gardens". The text describes the program's purpose and the requirements for a community solar garden. A list of energy sources is provided on the left side of the page.

NOVA SCOTIA CANADA

RESIDENTS VISITORS BUSINESSES GOVERNMENT NEWS SEARCH

Department of Natural Resources and Renewables » Renewables

Natural Resources and Renewables

Home

Renewables

- Community Solar Program
- Wind Energy
 - Offshore wind
- Hydro-electricity
- Geothermal Energy
- Solar Energy
- Bioenergy
- Marine Renewable Energy
- Energy Storage

Community Solar Program

The Community Solar Program helps community groups and organizations set up solar gardens on their properties and sell subscriptions to the electricity they produce from the solar gardens.

Community solar gardens

A community solar garden is a large area with many solar panels on it (like the rooftop of a large industrial building or land could become a community solar garden). A 1-megawatt community solar garden requires about 4 to 6 acres of land.

The electricity generated from a community solar garden goes into the province's main electricity grid to help power buildings, homes and appliances of participating subscribers.

Benefits of community solar gardens

Read
Program
Guide

Download
Application
Form

Prepare
Application

Use Final
Checklist

Submit
Application

Submission
Confirmed

Completen
ess
Confirmed

21

Download application form and templates



SCAN ME



[Home](#)

Renewables

Community Solar Program

- ▶ Wind Energy
 - Offshore wind
- ▶ Hydro-electricity
- ▶ Geothermal Energy
- ▶ Solar Energy
- ▶ Bioenergy
- ▶ Marine Renewable Energy
- ▶ Energy Storage

Community Solar Program

The Community Solar Program helps community groups and organizations set up solar gardens on their properties and sell subscriptions to the electricity they produce from the solar gardens.

Community solar gardens

A community solar garden is a large area with many solar panels on it (like the rooftop of a large industrial building or land could become a community solar garden). A 1-megawatt community solar garden requires about 4 to 6 acres of land.

The electricity generated from a community solar garden goes into the province's main electricity grid to help power buildings, homes and appliances of participating subscribers.

Benefits of community solar gardens

Follow Program Guide Section 3



SECTION 3: SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

Before you start your application, answer these questions:

- Are you a member of one of the **eligible groups**?
- Are you submitting one application per project, per site?
- Is your project site physically located in Nova Scotia?
- Will your project be in the service territory of NSPI and able to be connected to NSPI's electrical system?

If you answer no to any one of these questions, you are not eligible for the Community Solar Program.

Submitting an Application

Go to the [Community Solar webpage](#) and download the application form and required templates. You can submit the application form and associated documents by email to sharesolar@novascotia.ca.

In the event that an application is incomplete or additional information is required,

Before you submit, make sure your application package is complete



SCAN ME



Nova Scotia Community Solar Program

Final Checklist

Complete the checklist to confirm that you've completed the application form and attached all required templates and documents for your application to the Nova Scotia Community Solar Program.

Project Name	
Project Owner(s)	
Date	

Preparation	
Read the Program Guide	<input type="checkbox"/>
Completed the Pre-Application Screening Checklist on Page 1 of the application form.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Application Form	
Completed all 14 sections	<input type="checkbox"/>
When instructed, selected the checkbox and selected from drop down options to respond to application questions. Note: If you encounter any errors, please contact the Program Coordinator . You are required to complete all mandatory questions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signed the applicant affirmation statement (Section 14)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Read
Program
Guide

Download
Application
Form

Prepare
Application

Use Final
Checklist

Submit
Application

Submission
Confirmed

Completen
ess
Confirmed

24

Email to
sharedsolar@novascotia.ca

Read
Program
Guide

Download
Application
Form

Prepare
Application

Use Final
Checklist

Submit
Application

Submission
Confirmed

Completeness
Confirmed

25

Application receipt email will confirm:

- ▶ Date of your application (start of 45 business days clock)

Completeness confirmation email will confirm:

- ▶ That your application package **is complete** and ready to proceed with evaluation.
- ▶ That your application package **is incomplete** and will not proceed with evaluation.
 - ▶ You can resubmit your application.
 - ▶ **45 business days clock will restart** once you resubmit a complete application package.



EVALUATION PROCESS

Evaluation within 45 business days

SECTION 4: EVALUATION

Nova Scotia's Community Solar Program application has a rolling intake process, and applications will be reviewed on a first come-first served basis. We will continue to accept applications until we reach program capacity of 100 MWac. However, the Minister reserves the right to close or pause the program to applications at any time.

Evaluation Criteria

Eligible proposals will be assessed using the following table for minimum criteria and using additional scoring indicators to assist the Minister when reviewing applications and approving projects.

Scoring Category	Minimum Criteria	Pass/Fail	Maximum Points
Application Information			
Applicant is an eligible applicant as per program policies.	Y		N/A
Application is complete and signed.	Y		N/A
Applicant is a community or organization with a mandate to serve equity-deserving group(s) or marginalized community(ies).	N	N/A	5

- ▶ Completeness of the application is essential.
- ▶ Demonstrate financial viability while minimizing impacts to rate payers (e.g. PPA rate minimum of \$0.07/kWh.)
- ▶ Demonstrate strengths of your project's community benefits

If you're approved

- ▶ You will be awarded a PPA
- ▶ You can accept or reject the offered PPA
- ▶ You will enroll in the Community Solar Program and complete DSIS
- ▶ Onboarding process starts

For more information, read “**Outcome of Evaluation**” under section 4 and Section 5 “**Post-Approval Requirements for Project Owners.**”

Project Execution

- ▶ Sign Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)
- ▶ Schedule the interconnection process (DSIS)
- ▶ After DSIS completion, and project owner(s) agree to move forward, sign SSGIA to connect.
- ▶ Follow the construction plan
- ▶ Ongoing subscription management
- ▶ Solar garden maintenance
- ▶ Receive regular payments from utility (after commercial operation)
- ▶ Meet reporting requirements

Questions?

Contact

About the program

sharesolar@novascotia.ca

Nova Scotia Power

communitysolar@nspower.ca

