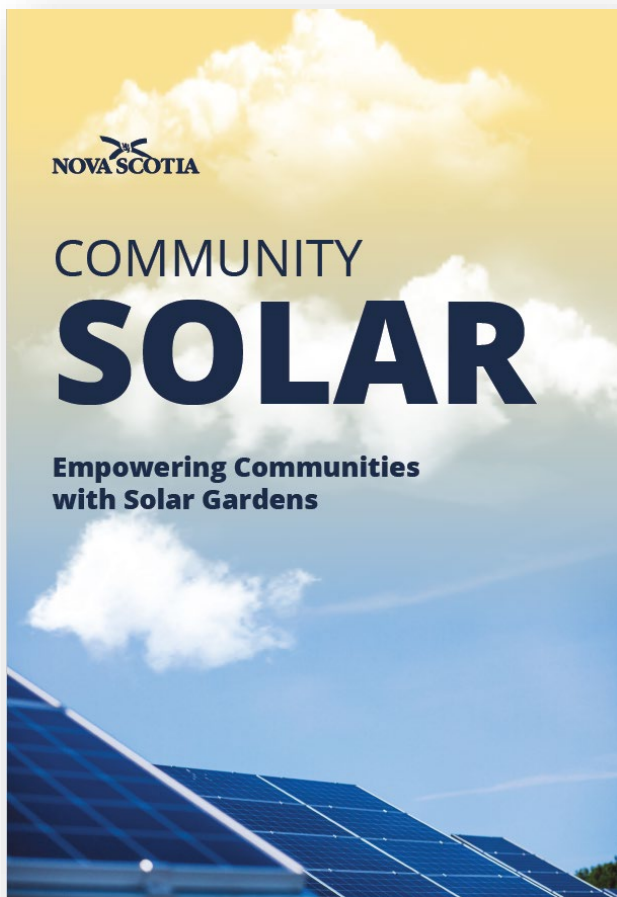


COMMUNITY SOLAR TOOLKIT FOR SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

June 2024



Department of Natural Resources and Renewables
sharesolar@novascotia.ca

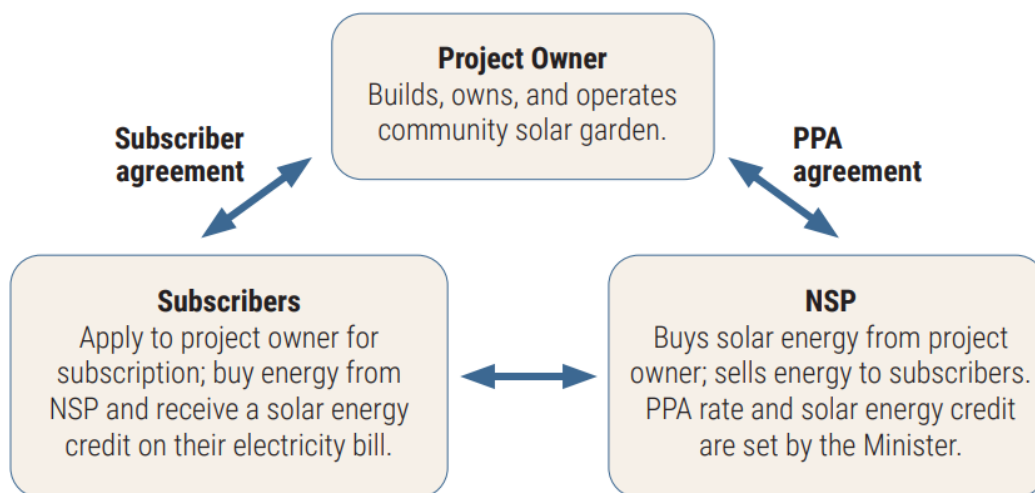
Toolkit Purpose

Since the launch of our program in March 2024, there has been significant interest and numerous inquiries from various organizations and communities throughout Nova Scotia. These interested communities and organizations often turn to you as their first point of contact when they are exploring ways to lower greenhouse gas emissions, reduce utility costs, and join the province's transition to clean energy.

To assist an organization like yours (referred to in this document as a 'community solar support organization'), we have compiled resources that you can utilize when supporting communities and organizations in your network. Please use this toolkit in a manner that best serves the needs of your organization and community.

What is Nova Scotia's Community Solar Program?

Launched in March 2024, Nova Scotia's Community Solar Program contributes up to **100 megawatts (MWac)** of solar-generated electricity to Nova Scotia's grid. Municipalities, cooperatives, nonprofits, businesses, First Nations, universities and colleges and CEDIFs, can invest in and manage community solar gardens. These gardens, with capacities ranging from **0.5 MWac to 10 MWac**, provide clean electricity to Nova Scotians, supported by a **25-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)** with Nova Scotia Power. The program facilitates access to, and participation in, solar energy for communities, while fostering local economic growth and sustainability.



To learn more about the program, our [program website](#) and [the webinar slide](#) are the best places to start.

Where and how can you use resources in this toolkit?

You are free to:

- **use, share and distribute** all the resources included in this toolkit at any of your organization's events, such as online or in person engagement sessions, clean energy education sessions, meetings with community partners, and conferences you attend.
- **Provide a link** to the community solar webpage on your organization's website.
- **Regularly check** for any program policy and procedure **updates** by subscribing to our [newsletter](#), and visiting the [website](#).

As long as:

- You **give appropriate credit** to the Nova Scotia Community Solar Program team and the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables.
- You **do not use** this material for **commercial purposes**.

With whom can you use or share resources in this toolkit?

Resources in the toolkit include information for **potential project owners** (community solar garden owners), **subscribers**, and the **general public** interested in learning about the program.



Community solar garden owner
who builds, owns, and operates a community solar garden to generate electricity for participating subscribers.

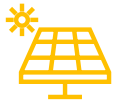


Community solar garden subscriber
who signs up to get their electricity from a community solar garden.

Resources are recommended to be shared with eligible entities to become a project owner:

- Registered not-for-profit
- For-profit entity
- Mi'kmaw band
- Municipality, town, village or township
- Co-operative
- University or college
- Community Economic Development Investment Fund (CEDIF)

Resources and Tools



For project owners (large-scale solar garden developer)





















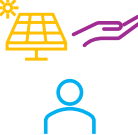





For subscribers



For organizations that support communities with:

- understanding Nova Scotia’s transition to renewable energy
- planning and/or implementing clean energy projects

Resource	User	Perfect For...
About Nova Scotia’s Community Solar Program		
Community Solar Program Website	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading a summary of the program • Accessing application package • Downloading resources and infographics
Community Solar Program Guide	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding all program information in one place. • Find most up-to-date amendments to program policy and procedures. • Find instructions on application process.
Community Solar Program Webinar Slide (March 2024)	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find key program information from the Program Guide.
Subscriber Handbook	  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Under Development.</i> • Finding information related to subscriptions and subscription processes.
Financing Community Solar Projects		
Community Solar Funding and Financing	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding funding opportunities for community solar projects.
Regulations		
Regulations	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtaining high level program information.

Communicating with Community Solar Team		
Email (sharedsolar@novascotia.ca)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contacting the Program Coordinator. • Asking clarification questions that are not answered in Program Guide and FAQs.
NSPI Email (communitysolar@nspower.ca)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking questions related to interconnection process.
Newsletter		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receiving program updates and information on funding opportunities.
Community Solar 101 (Community Education)		
How does large-scale solar work?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning about large-scale solar. • Learning about how solar panels produce electricity.
How much electricity will a community solar garden generate in Nova Scotia?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning about factors that influence electricity generation in Nova Scotia.
What is the Community Solar Program?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding basic principles of community solar and its benefits.
What size community solar garden subscription is best for you?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding subscription size and billing.
What size should you make your community solar garden?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding how much electricity does your community need.
Clean Electricity 101 & Factsheet		
Nova Scotia Electricity Factsheet (PDF)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Nova Scotia's renewable energy goals and electricity system. • Understanding technical terminology related to electricity.
Solar Industry Resource		
Solar Assist		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovering solar potential of your home or project site.
Environmental Consideration for Community Solar Projects		
Department of Environment and Climate Change's Role in Solar Farm Developments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding environmental requirements for developing a solar garden.

Engagement & Education Activities Reporting

Let us know about the events, presentations, educational workshop or meetings where you talked about community solar! We want to stay up to date with which communities have been engaged on the topic and identify gaps for us to further incorporate and reflect on our engagement plan. This is also a great way for you to share your feedback on resources in the toolkit, and what further resources we can develop to assist your organization, and Nova Scotian communities.

Report your activities [here](#).

Contact

Thank you for your continued support in Nova Scotia's collective transition to renewable energy.

Contact **Community Solar Program team** at Department of Natural Resources and Renewables at sharesolar@novascotia.ca

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