



NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY

NY-Sun

# Community Distributed Generation Overview for Project Developers

**Community Distributed Generation (Community DG), also known as Shared Renewables**, allows customers who cannot site solar, small wind, or other DG on their own property to participate directly in off-site projects through net metering. This document provides an overview of Community DG rules, roles, and responsibilities, as well as information about NY-Sun support and other resources. Project developers should always refer to the operating procedures of the relevant utility and the NY-Sun Program Manual when planning a project.

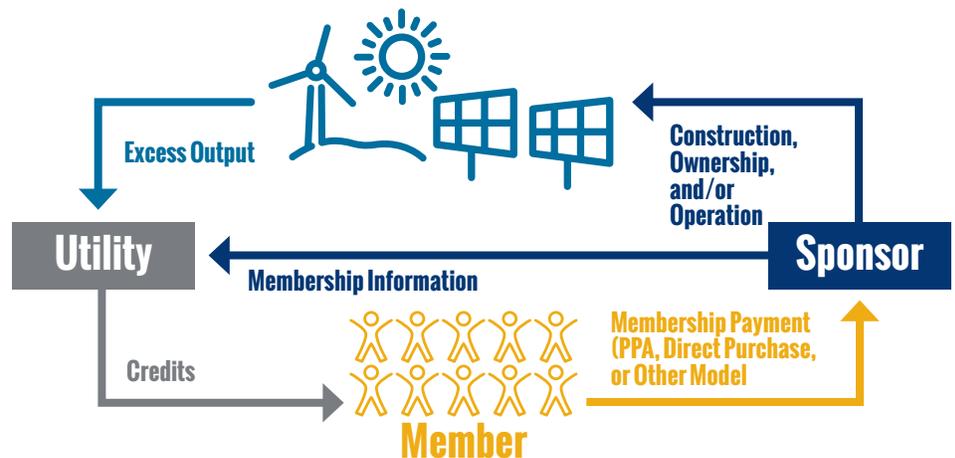
Phase I of Community DG began on October 19, 2015. Community DG projects may interconnect at this time if they:

- are located in the new Community DG Opportunity Zones designated by the utilities; OR
- include low-income residential customers, defined as a customer participating in a State or utility energy assistance program, as at least 20% of the project membership.

Community DG projects may interconnect statewide beginning May 1, 2016. Preliminary interconnection applications may be filed at any time.

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## Community DG Roles and Responsibilities



## Community DG Sponsors and Members

- Each project must have a sponsor, who owns or operates the project, organizes the membership, and interfaces with the utility. The sponsor may be the project developer, a private company, or other entity.
- The sponsor provides the utility with a list of members and their percent allocation of the project's net metering credits prior to interconnection and may update that list on a monthly basis.
- Any utility customer may be a member of a project in the same utility and NYISO zone.
- Each project must have a least 10 members, and each member must be allocated at least 1,000kWh per year (not to exceed their historic average annual consumption). No more than 40% of the Community DG host's excess generation may serve members with an average monthly peak demand of 25kW or greater.
- The terms of membership, including payment structure and provisions for exiting membership, are set by the agreement between the member and sponsor.

## Community DG and Net Metering

Community DG was enabled by the State of New York Public Service Commission’s July 2015 Order Establishing a Community Distributed Generation Program ([Case 15-E-0082](#)). This Order extends New York’s current net energy metering policy guidelines, under the following terms:

- A project using any net-metered technology may participate, subject to the same rules applicable to any other net-metered project using that technology.
- Community DG projects must be located behind a non-residential host utility meter.
- Projects generate net metering credits for electricity production in excess of the host’s usage, which are allocated to the project’s members as described below.

Host Meter Classification	Crediting Method	Value to Member
Non-demand	Volumetric (kWh)	Member’s retail rate <sup>1</sup>
Demand	Monetary (\$)	Host’s retail rate <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Volumetric offset to volumetric charge.

<sup>2</sup> Dollar offset to volumetric charge.

When volumetric crediting applies, excess solar electric production at the host site is credited to member accounts on a kwh-by-kwh basis. When monetary crediting applies, all excess production from the DG system is converted to a monetary credit, based on the host account’s rate. The monetary value is then applied to the member account’s utility bill.

## Community DG Credit Allocation

- Net metering credits are allocated to members each month based on the percentage provided to the utility by the sponsor.
- Credits that are not allocated during a period are held at the host meter. These credits are then available, along with new credits, in the next distribution period.
- New members may be allocated credits that were accrued while they were not members.
- Sponsors have a final opportunity to allocate excess credits before the final month of the year. If credits remain on the sponsor’s account, they are forfeited and do not roll over to the next year.
- Credits held at the member account can be rolled over indefinitely; however, if a member leaves the Community DG project, any excess credits on their account after their final bill will be forfeited.

## NY-Sun Support and Community DG

- Project developers can participate in NYSERDA programs for the relevant technology.
- Solar electric projects using Community DG (also known as “Shared Solar”) may participate in either the Residential/ Small Commercial Program or the Commercial/Industrial Program, based on project size.
- Modifications to the [NY-Sun incentive application process](#) include:
  - The NY-Sun Program Manual will be modified to address Shared Solar/Community DG
  - Incentive applications must indicate whether a project is using Community DG
  - Project size limitation of 110% of host load does not apply
  - Projects in the Commercial/Industrial Program (CIP) will receive volumetric incentive
  - Binding customer agreement and electric bills not required for CIP application
  - Customer list and proportion of customer load paying into Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) required for first CIP payment.

## Additional Resources

Public Service Commission Orders in [Case 15-E-0082](#):

- [Filing # 31](#): Establishing a Community DG program in the State of New York
- [Filing # 53](#): Granting partial reconsideration of Community DG

Net metering and remote net metering overview: [nyserdanyclean.org/Cleantech-and-Innovation/Power-Generation/Net-Metering-Interconnection](http://nyserdanyclean.org/Cleantech-and-Innovation/Power-Generation/Net-Metering-Interconnection)

## Utility Tariffs, Operating Agreements, and CDG Opportunity Zone Maps

<p><b>Central Hudson Electric and Gas</b>  <a href="#">Tariff Submission</a>  <a href="#">Operating Agreement</a>  <a href="#">CDG Opportunity Zone Map</a></p>	<p><b>New York State Electric and Gas</b>  <a href="#">Tariff Submission</a>  <a href="#">Operating Agreement</a>  <a href="#">CDG Opportunity Zone Map</a></p>
<p><b>Con Edison</b>  <a href="#">Tariff Submission</a>  <a href="#">Operating Agreement</a>  <a href="#">CDG Opportunity Zone Map</a></p>	<p><b>Orange &amp; Rockland</b>  <a href="#">Tariff Submission</a>  <a href="#">Operating Agreement</a>  <a href="#">CDG Opportunity Zone Map</a></p>
<p><b>National Grid</b>  <a href="#">Tariff Submission</a>  <a href="#">Operating Agreement</a>  <a href="#">CDG Opportunity Zone Map</a></p>	<p><b>Rochester Gas and Electric</b>  <a href="#">Tariff Submission</a>  <a href="#">Operating Agreement</a>  <a href="#">CDG Opportunity Zone Map</a></p>