New Jersey's Clean Energy Program is a statewide program administered by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities that promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy for all New Jersey ratepayers, including residences, businesses, schools, and municipalities. For more information on incentives for clean energy and energy-efficient technologies for your home or business, please visit: NJCleanEnergy.com.
What is community solar?
A community solar project is a solar array whose output is virtually divided among multiple participants, known as subscribers. Participants receive a bill credit on their utility bill for their participation in a community solar project.

These subscribers are often, but not necessarily, close to the array they are subscribed to. Subscribers are not directly connected to the solar array. They can be down the road, across town or even all the way across the state. All subscribers must be located in the same utility service area as the project to which they have subscribed.

Why have I never heard of it?
New Jersey just established a 3-year Pilot Program. The first round of projects will be announced by the end of 2019.

How big is a community solar project?
A project cannot be larger than 5MW. For reference 5 MW could power up to 1,250 houses and an array could cover approximately 20-25 acres. There is no minimum size.

Each project must have at least 10 subscribers, with no more than 250 subscribers per 1 MW.

Where can these community solar arrays go?
Almost anywhere!

Rooftops, parking lots, brownfields, landfills and impervious surfaces are all great options for siting community solar.

Projects cannot be located on preserved farmland.

Keep in mind that not all sites are suitable for solar due to shading, interconnectivity and other factors.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection has a great siting tool you can use for reference. https://www.nj.gov/dep/aqes/solar-siting.html.

Can anyone participate?
Yes! Anyone who is an electric utility customer in New Jersey can participate. The pilot program even reserves 40% of capacity for projects that serve low- and moderate-income customers.

How can I participate?
There are three primary roles for any community solar project:
• Site Host
• Developer
• Subscriber

Site Host
A site host has available land that is well positioned to capture solar energy. The site may never have had a solar array or it may have additional square footage available adjacent to an existing array. A site host can partner with a developer and rent or sell the land used for the solar project.

Developer
The solar developer will be responsible for the application, building, and maintenance of the solar array. The developer and/or its partners are also responsible for signing up subscribers.

Subscriber
A subscriber can be a home or business that wants to use renewable energy but does not have an array on site. This may be because they are a renter or because their site is not optimal for an on-site solar system.

A subscriber can either pay a monthly subscription or purchase a piece of a system upfront. Every project will have its own fees and contract. Be sure you read the contract and understand its terms and conditions before signing up.

Potential Benefits to Subscribing
• Access to Local Clean Energy
• Potential Savings on Electric Bill
• Local Jobs & Economic Development