

Community Shared Solar & Brookline Green Electricity



Community Shared Solar (CSS) can be a great complement to participation in the Brookline Green Electricity (BGE) program.

Brookline Green Electricity is the town of Brookline’s program for electricity supply. It offers a default electricity supply with 30% more renewable energy than required by state law. New residents and businesses in town are automatically enrolled in the default supply. The program also offers options with 65% and 100% additional renewable energy. The additional renewable energy qualifies as MA Class I and comes from solar, wind, low-impact hydro and anaerobic digestion located in New England.

Community Shared Solar (CSS) is offered by solar developers and is not affiliated with the Town. CSS aims to provide a net discount on your electricity bills. The developer operates or builds a large solar array in Massachusetts, and you subscribe to receive a share of the value of the electricity it produces. 100% of that value appears on your Eversource bill as a bill credit. The developer then sends you a separate bill to recoup a portion of that bill credit, often 85-90%. This would result in a net reduction in your total electricity spending of 10-15%. Caution: Even if your CSS subscription delivers a net reduction in annual electricity spending, there could be individual months where you pay more, offset by months where you pay much less. You can size your subscription based on your desired impact for monthly or annual net savings. See next page for details.

	Brookline Green Electricity	Community Shared Solar
Provides you cleaner electricity?	Yes	No
Expands renewable energy in New England?	Yes	Yes
Reduces your electricity costs?	Possible, but savings cannot be guaranteed	Yes, if you size your subscription appropriately
Total Number of Bills	1 bill (Eversource)	2 bills (Eversource and CSS)

Where do I start?

- 1 First, sign up for 100% renewable electricity through the Brookline Green Electricity program at BrooklineGreen.com
- 2 Next, consider reducing the total cost you pay with a subscription to a Community Shared Solar project. Your net discount and project location may differ between CSS developers. For a list of developers with active projects, see the clean electricity page on BrooklineGreen.com

Compare Community Shared Solar(CSS) and Brookline Green Electricity (BGE)

	Brookline Green Electricity	Community Shared Solar
Provides you cleaner electricity?	Yes	No
	<p>Brookline Green Electricity has multiple electricity options that contain additional renewable energy, above and beyond state requirements: Brookline Green, Brookline Green 65 and Brookline All Green. If you are enrolled in one of these options, then you can claim to use additional renewable energy because the program purchases and retires Renewable Energy Certificates on your behalf. See a map of these sources on BrooklineGreen.com.</p>	<p>Community Shared Solar (CSS) subscriptions typically do not provide you Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) produced by the project. Without the RECs from the project, you cannot claim the use of its renewable energy.</p> <p>The developer typically sells the RECs from the project separately. Whoever purchases and retires those RECs can claim the use of that renewable energy from the project.</p>
Expands renewable energy in New England?	Yes	Yes
	<p>Your purchases of additional renewable energy through Brookline Green Electricity’s Default or optional products increase demand for renewable energy in our region, strengthening the incentives for developers to construct new renewable energy here in New England.</p>	<p>Solar developers need to demonstrate economic viability of a project in order to obtain financing to build it. Community Shared Solar subscriptions are one option for solar developers to create an economically viable project. As a result, your subscription helps bring that specific project to life.</p>
Reduces your electricity costs?	Possible, but savings cannot be guaranteed	Yes, if you size your subscription appropriately
	<p>The Default option in Brookline Green Electricity has saved over \$2 million for participating customers compared to Eversource Basic Service since the program launched in 2017. See a chart of our program performance on the Origins and Performance page at BrooklineGreen.com.</p> <p>At any given time, though, the electricity options in Brookline Green Electricity program may cost more or less than the comparable Eversource Basic Service rate.</p> <p>Future savings cannot be guaranteed, because Basic Service prices change every six months for residential and small business customers, and every three months for large business customers.</p>	<p>Solar production varies with the seasons - higher in the summer and lower in the winter - which means the total credits provided from your CSS subscription will vary. If your usage does not increase in the summer by the same amount as the production of your solar share, you could build up a surplus of electricity credits on your Eversource bill, from which you will draw in the winter months. Most CSS developers bill you every month for the <u>total</u> credits you receive, whether you use them immediately or they go into surplus. This <u>might</u> result in an increase in electricity spending in a few of the summer months, even if it reduces your total annual electricity spending. When determining your subscription size, ask a CSS developer to use your existing bill history to show you two scenarios: 1) your net monthly costs and 2) your net annual cost.</p>