Q: *What happens to the electricity after it's generated?*

The solar array is interconnected with the electric grid. After the electricity is generated it is supplied back to the electric distribution system.

Q: *What if I move?*

If you move to another Itasca-Mantrap service location, your Community Solar agreement can move with you. If you are moving out of the Itasca-Mantrap service area, the panel output can be transferred to another Member or back to Itasca-Mantrap.

Q: *Who is the manufacturer?*

The solar panels are manufactured by tenKsolar, which is headquartered in Minnesota. The panels are made of poly crystalline silicon and have a capacity of 410 Watts each. A row of reflectors is housed in between the rows of solar panels, a tenKsolar design, allowing the system to generate up to 20 percent more energy.

Q: *Does the system work if there is an outage?*

No. The inverter needs a power supply to convert generated electricity from DC to AC. Without a power supply the inverter will not work.

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Itasca-Mantrap SolarWise™ Community Solar

SOLAR™ WISE

ITASCA-MANTRAP
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Frequently Asked Questions

SolarWise™ Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Community Solar?

Community solar is a large, centrally located solar photovoltaic system that benefits multiple subscribers in a community. The goal of community solar is to allow Members to participate in a solar project without the costs or hassle of installing a solar system at their home or business.

Q: Where is the solar array located?

The Itasca-Mantrap SolarWise™ Community Solar array is located at the Itasca-Mantrap headquarters; 16930 County Road 6, Park Rapids, Minnesota, 56470.

Q: What size is the solar array?

The solar array is 46kW DC/42kW AC, consisting of 112 solar panels, arranged in seven rows of 16 panels. The total footprint for the community solar portion of the array will be 104 feet by 49 feet. Each panel weighs 71 pounds and measures 77 inches by 52 inches and is 1.86 inches in depth.

Q: What are the benefits of participating in Community Solar?

Community solar allows Itasca-Mantrap Members to utilize solar power without incurring the costs of installing solar panels at their home or business, including maintenance and insurance costs. Community solar also allows Members to lock in electric rates, by purchasing the output for 11 years.

Q: How can I sign up?

Itasca-Mantrap Members can participate by contacting our office. We can answer any questions you may have and provide a copy of the contract.

Q: What is the cost?

The cost to purchase the output of one panel for 11 years is $710.00 plus tax. The manufacturer of the panels, TenKsolar estimates each panel will produce an average of 511 kWh annually.

Q: What does the cost cover?

Itasca-Mantrap will provide necessary maintenance, insurance and ensure that all applicable codes, standards and regulatory requirements are met at the time of installation and throughout the term of the participation agreement.

Q: How much credit will I receive on my bill?

Itasca-Mantrap will measure and record electricity generated by the 112 panels of the solar array. Each SolarWise™ Community Solar Member will receive credit for their proportional share of the energy produced. The kWh credit will be calculated using the current electric rate and the credit will be shown on your monthly bill.

Q: Do you offer payment options?

Yes! We have two options available:

- You can participate by paying a one-time fee of $710.00 plus tax per panel, **OR**
- You can divide the cost over a three year period and add it to your electric bill!Itasca-Mantrap will require a non refundable payment of three months of the agreement up-front, a total of $59.17, and $19.72 will be added to your electric bill for the next 33 months.

Q: How much solar can I purchase?

Members may purchase the output of multiple solar panels. The maximum amount of panel output any Member is allowed is equal to 80 percent of their average general service energy use over the last 12 months.

Q: How is sunlight converted to electricity?

When the panels made of silicon solar cells are exposed to sunlight, electrons that produce a direct current (DC) flow of electricity is converted to alternating current (AC) using an inverter. Alternating current is what our homes, farms and businesses use.

SOLAR™ WISE