



REDUCE
carbon footprint

MANAGE
solar energy
development

CREATE
cleaner communities

call:
1-866-NYSERDA

email:
**commercial.industrialpv
@nyserda.ny.gov**

visit:
**nyserda.ny.gov/
community-adder**

An incentive for community solar projects

The Community Adder is an upfront incentive, paid alongside the base incentive, to eligible projects through NYSERDA's NY-Sun program. In addition to the base incentive, eligible projects will receive a supplemental incentive per Watt DC. The purpose of the Community Adder is to continue the robust development of Community Distributed Generation solar projects as original transitional mechanisms like the Market Transition Credit and the Community Credit are fully allocated. Initially, the Community Adder was made available in the service territories of Orange & Rockland and Central Hudson and in June 2020, it was extended to National Grid, NYSEG, and RG&E. The Community Adder is not available in the Con Edison or Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) service territories at this time.

Key ideas

- The Community Adder, unlike the Community Credit, is an upfront incentive paid directly to the developer by NY-Sun after projects are completed.
- Projects reserve their Community Adder when they submit to the NY-Sun MW Block program.
- Projects receiving the Community Adder may also receive the Brownfield/Landfill and Multifamily Affordable Housing adders, if applicable.
- NYSERDA maintains a real-time dashboard of Community Adder rates and availability on our website (see the ready to get started section).

Eligibility

- The Community Adder is only available for Nonresidential and Commercial/Industrial Community Solar and Community Solar + Storage projects.
- Projects that already receive a Market Transition Credit or Community Credit are not eligible for the Community Adder.
- If a project reserves a Community Adder and later becomes eligible for the Community Credit, it may forego the Community Adder to receive the Community Credit.
- To receive the Community Adder, contractors must ensure that the project will remain a Community Solar project for at least 20 years.

How to receive the Community Adder

The contractor or builder is responsible for selecting the Community Adder incentive on the NY-Sun MW Block program application prior to submission. If you are eligible, you may indicate so on Step 2 of the application under “Site Address.” You will be required to select your utility and the current rate (see the Community Adder dashboard for the current incentive rate). Payments will be made out following the same schedule as the base incentive. Nonresidential contractors will receive the total project incentive in one installment. Commercial/Industrial contractors will receive the project incentive in three installments (the initial 50% payment will be made once interconnection is achieved and two 25% payments after year 1 and year 2). Existing projects that qualify may add the Community Adder incentive by contacting pvprocessing@nyserderda.ny.gov.

Historical background

The VDER compensation mechanism, developed by the Public Service Commission (the Commission), has driven robust development of distributed energy resources, especially Community Distributed Generation. As a result, the Market Transition Credit and Community Credit tranches in several utilities were exhausted. Recognizing the continued need for Community Solar support, the Commission authorized NYSERDA to implement a Community Adder for projects developed in utility territories that have fully allocated their Community Credit tranches. The Community Adder first became available in Orange & Rockland and Central Hudson in April 2019, as part of the Phase Two Value Stack Order. In May 2020, the Commission accepted NYSERDA’s petition to expand the Community Adder to National Grid, NYSEG, and RG&E.

Ready to get started?

Visit nyserderda.ny.gov/community-adder for adder rates and availability. For additional information about the adder, email commercial.industrialpv@nyserderda.ny.gov

NY-Sun, a dynamic public-private partnership, will drive growth in the solar industry and make solar technology more affordable for all New Yorkers. NY-Sun brings together and expands existing programs administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), PSEG Long Island, and the New York Power Authority (NYP&A), to ensure a coordinated, well-supported solar energy expansion plan and a transition to a sustainable, self-sufficient solar industry.

NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation, offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and support to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. NYSERDA professionals work to protect the environment and create clean energy jobs. NYSERDA has been developing partnerships to advance innovative energy solutions in New York State since 1975. To learn more about NYSERDA’s programs, visit nyserderda.ny.gov or follow us on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, or Instagram.

