

Community Solar Garden (CSG)



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Community Solar Garden (CSG)



- Centrally located solar array
- Authorized in 2013, project applications accepted in December, 2014
- Designed to make solar energy accessible to more people
- Xcel Energy service area only (Xcel service in parts of Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Freeborn, Lincoln, Lyon, Mower, Murray, Pipestone, Renville, Redwood, Rock, Sibley, and Watonwan)
- Xcel customers can subscribe for a portion of the system production
- Subscribers can be residential, commercial, non-profit, or government
- Subscribers must be in same or contiguous county
- No individual subscriber can subscribe for more than 40% of total system production
- 1 megawatt size limit per CSG, but 5 – 1 megawatt sized projects can be co-located

Minnesota is one of only a hand full states allowing community solar gardens

Typical CSG Site



- 4-6 acres for 1MW, 20-25 acres for 5MW
- Level terrain preferred, but flexible racking is available for hilly land
- Close proximity to a substation is best, access to 3-phase line is needed
- 5 megawatts will produce enough electricity for over 700 homes each year
- Panels and hardware attached to posts pounded into the ground – no long-term impact on underlying land
- Solar panels have 25 year warranties, with life expectancy in excess of 35 years
- Production agreement with Xcel Energy is for 25 years
- Fencing and buffer area minimize impact on neighboring properties as needed

❑ Studies of solar gardens in other states show no negative impact on neighboring property values

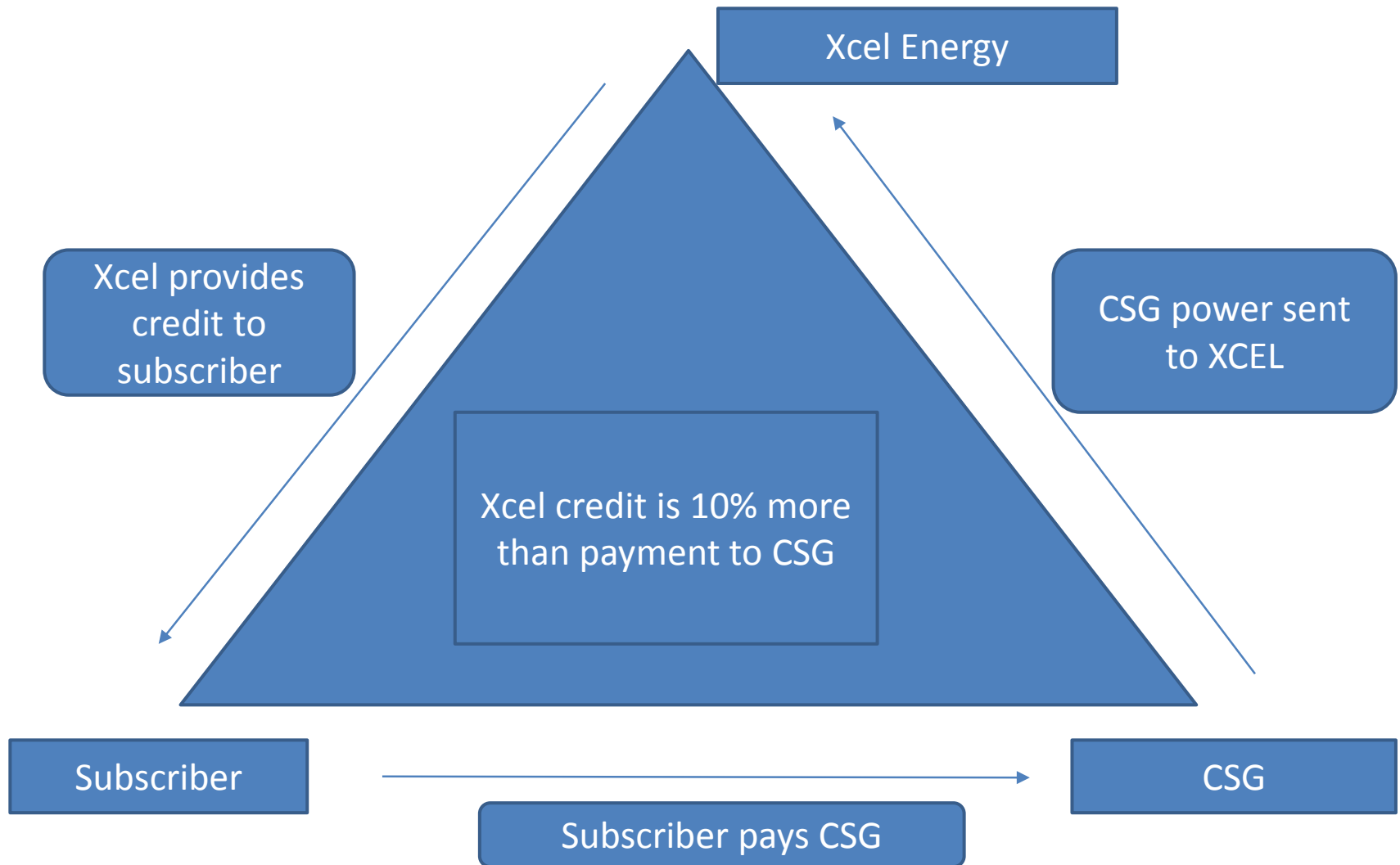
CSG Subscriptions



- Available to any Xcel customer in same or contiguous county of CSG
- Can subscribe to 120% of last 12-month usage
- ACH arrangement established with the CSG for monthly payment for Subscription size
- 1st full month after CSG production Subscribers receive a credit on their utility bill which corresponds to their Subscription size
- Bill credit from Xcel Energy will be 10% more than ACH payment to the CSG
- As electric rates increase each year, the bill credit will remain 10% more than the ACH payment
- Xcel Energy required to pay Subscriber at the end of a year if bill credit exceeds Xcel Energy's other charges (can occur with proper Subscription sizing and annual usage)
- Subscriptions can be transferred if you move or sell

Guaranteed savings regardless of future electric rates

How it works



- ❑ Guaranteed savings of 10% with \$0 down and no on-going charges

CSG Partner Benefits



- Lease, purchase, and revenue share options available
- Lease payments in excess of \$600 per acre per year
- Revenue share with up-front or annual payment
- 25-year agreement with landowner
- System removed at end of useful life and land returned to former condition
- Landowner able to subscribe to the solar garden and can reserve subscriptions for family, friends, neighbors, church, non-profits entities, etc.
- Helps keep millions of dollars in the area to support the local economy

Solar energy is harvesting the sun, and is ideal for underutilized land

Novel Energy Solutions



- Minnesota owned and operated company
- Provide complete energy management services
- NES Team has experience with hundreds of solar installations
- Specialize in agriculture, community solar gardens, and rural Minnesota solar efforts
- Rural Minnesota based company helping build rural Minnesota economies through electric savings
- Provide one-stop project development including financing
- All financing models are \$0 down, immediate savings on electricity, and no on-going fees or charges
- NES financing maximizes federal tax credits which can pay for 60% of the solar system
- Unique financing for any business to use tax payments to buy a money saving business asset
- First approved CSG in Xcel territory was NES project
- Experience with Made in Minnesota, and Solar Rewards incentive programs

QUESTIONS????



Novel Energy Solutions – your solar energy partner.