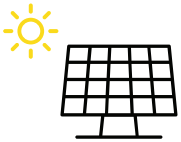


Help us shape New West's clean energy future.

The City of New Westminster is exploring the potential to create an Urban Solar Garden for local residents and businesses to gain access to locally produced renewable energy. The Urban Solar Garden will be an accessible, less expensive alternative to individual rooftop installations, allowing long term access to solar energy "*Made in New West for New West*".

WHAT IS AN URBAN SOLAR GARDEN?

The Urban Solar Garden will be a City-owned, centralized solar array. Any New Westminster Electric Utility customer can participate by subscribing to a portion of the solar electricity generated by the array, on a per panel basis. The amount of energy generated by the Urban Solar Garden is then credited back to a subscriber's electricity bills in proportion to their investment, for up to 25 years.



Solar photo-voltaic (PV) panels are installed at a City-owned location to produce renewable, zero-carbon energy.



Local residents and businesses subscribe to buy a portion of solar energy produced by the PV array.



Each subscriber receives a credit on their monthly or bi-monthly electrical utility bill equivalent to their share of electricity generated by the Urban Solar Garden.

This project will be the first municipally-led community solar PV initiative in Metro Vancouver with participation in the Urban Solar Garden being available to New Westminster Electric Utility customers on a voluntary basis.

The City is currently evaluating two potential sites for the Urban Solar Garden, with an array that would range in size up to 50kW (approximately 200 panels). The array would feed into the local electricity grid and become part of the capital assets owned by New Westminster's Electric Utility. Subscribers would not own actual solar panels in the array itself, rather they would own a portion of the annual electrical generation from the PV system.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

By investing in the Urban Solar Garden, a portion of your electricity will now be generated by a local renewable energy source where you'll realize the following benefits:

Easy access: Generate your own renewable energy without having to install your own solar PV system.

Long term savings: As grid electricity rates rise over time, so will the value of your savings year after year.

Lower capital costs: Investment cost for solar PV with the Urban Solar Garden is less on a per panel basis, because of economies of scale and support from the City.

No maintenance: There are no hassles with service and maintenance of your panel, since the ongoing operation of the solar array is handled by the City.

Local leadership: Participate in a signature project that demonstrates leadership in energy and environment.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

What to learn more? The City is hosting a public information session on **Thursday, July 20th, from 7PM-8PM** at the Anvil Centre to provide a brief overview of the Urban Solar Garden concept, assess the public's level of interest and gather valuable feedback that will help inform the project.

**Call 604-515-3818 OR
EnergySaveNewWest.ca/usg**