

MEMBER SURVEY: COMMUNITY SOLAR INPUT

www.opalco.com/survey

We want to hear from members as we plan our first big Community Solar Project. Please take the short (6 min) survey: www.opalco.com/survey. Deadline is June 2, 2017. Results will be shared online, at the County Fair and at our Fall Open House events. Your input will help shape this project, slated for construction in 2018. Thank you!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is Community Solar?

Community Solar, also known as a Solar Garden or Virtual Net Metering, is a power-generating solar array located in one area for the benefit of members with homes or businesses elsewhere. Community Solar projects give more members access to the benefits of solar energy, removing the expense and complexities of installing your own panels. For a fraction of the cost, Community Solar projects let individuals invest in smaller units of local renewable power and get a bill credit for the power produced.

Where will the array be located?

For this first project, we chose a sunny location on Decatur Island, on property that OPALCO owns. A siting survey in 2016 showed the Decatur Substation property is an ideal location. It is close to the facilities (substation and transmission lines) necessary to tie the power generated into the OPALCO grid, has a minimal visual impact, room for potential expansion, and phenomenal exposure to the sun. We continue to assess other locations for future Community Solar projects as we grow our local power resources.

When will OPALCO build it?

The project is included in the 2018 Construction Work Plan. In 2017, the budget includes the planning phase of the project, which includes gathering member feedback. Please take the member survey (www.opalco.com/survey) to give your input.

How do members invest and how much does it cost?

We are still in the planning stages for OPALCO's project but, typically, Community Solar arrays are offered to investors in units (measured in watts) that represent a portion of a single panel. Members can purchase one or more units (typically between 50-60 watts each) – up to a maximum that prevents any one entity from owning a majority of the whole project. OPALCO's project costs are to be determined, but other Co-op Community Solar projects typically offer one unit for a range of \$100 - \$300. The total power produced will be calculated monthly, proportionately allocated to each Solar Unit, and applied as an energy credit on your bill either monthly, quarterly or annually (let us know which you prefer in the survey).

How can I be involved? How can I get project updates?

During this year of planning, we want to hear from you! There are a variety of ways to be involved:

- participate in our Community Solar Survey (www.opalco.com/survey)
- attend our Open Houses scheduled for the fall
- attend our Board of Directors meetings on the third Thursday of each month
- give your name and email address to Jon Blomgren (EnergySavings@OPALCO.com) for Community Solar updates
- subscribe to our email newsletter (www.opalco.com)

LEARN MORE AT ENERGYSAVINGS.OPALCO.COM

NAME THE NEW SUBMARINE CABLE! WIN A GOLDEN TICKET to get UP CLOSE!

In 2017, OPALCO will replace the submarine cable between San Juan and Lopez islands. This is a historic moment for San Juan Islanders! The new cable will increase the reach and reliability of our power distribution and fiber optic communications for decades to come.



You can win one of eight golden tickets to witness the cable installation in person in September 2017 as the barge and construction crew carefully lay down the approximately 230 tons of cable.

To enter:

1. Check out the photos and videos of our new Sumitomo submarine cable and come up with a name for the big cable.
2. Post your name submission on OPALCO's Facebook page (Orcas Power & Light) and tag it #MYsubmarinecable.
3. Send an email to solson@opalco.com with your name idea along with your full name, OPALCO member number and email address.
4. Upon confirmation of your member status, Facebook post and complete entry, an email will be sent to the address you provide to confirm your contest entry.
5. Deadline is 9:00 pm PDT on Saturday, August 19th.

See full rules at www.opalco.com/MYsubmarinecable



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT: [WWW.OPALCO.COM/POWER-SYSTEM/SUBMARINE-CABLE-PROJECT/](http://www.opalco.com/POWER-SYSTEM/SUBMARINE-CABLE-PROJECT/)