

# Survey Questions

Welcome to the OPALCO Community Solar survey! This survey should take only 6 minutes of your time.

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this important survey regarding the upcoming OPALCO community solar project. Your thoughts and opinions on this subject will help inform the planning process later this year and help us to better understand and meet member needs and expectations. This is the first step of many in sharing information about this exciting project.

The survey will close at midnight (PDT), on **Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**. This survey is for informational purposes only. Your email address is required in order to ensure each member takes the survey only once. However, your personal information will remain anonymous, and you will receive no further direct communications from us related to this study unless you sign up (at the end of the survey) and volunteer your name. In any case, your survey responses will be kept anonymous.

Please click “Next” to begin[SO1] [ND2] .

## Page 2 - Initial Demographics

What is your email address: [include required fill-in option if this is selected]

Which island in our service territory do you reside on?

- San Juan Island
- Lopez Island
- Orcas Island
- Shaw Island
- Decatur Island
- Other [include required fill-in option if this is selected]

How much do you already know about solar energy?

Not much

I'm an Expert

1

2

3

4

5

### Page 3 - Gauging Your Interest in Solar

What are the reasons you would be interested in OPALCO's community solar project? Please rank from most important (1) to least important (7).

- It would reduce my monthly electric bill.
- It would give me more control over my electricity usage.
- It would be an environmentally friendly thing to do by reducing our carbon impact.
- It would decrease our islands' dependence on mainland energy sources.
- It would create a local power supply for emergency situations.
- It's the right thing to do.
- Other [include required fill-in option if this is selected]

What are the most important factors to you as we consider the community solar project? Rate each item from most important (1) to least important (8).

- My out-of-pocket costs.
- How much money I would get back on my power bill.
- How much OPALCO's rates will go up to pay for this project.
- How much power the new system will produce (kW).
- How much carbon output the project will offset.
- Community recognition of my participation in the project.
- How the project affects the aesthetics of our island communities.
- Other [include required fill-in option if this is selected]

What factors would prevent you from participating in the community solar project? Please select all that apply.

- My out-of-pocket costs.
- I only want solar if it's on my own property.
- I don't think OPALCO should put resources into this.
- I am concerned about how community solar will affect OPALCO rates.
- I am worried the solar arrays will impact the aesthetics of my community.
- I am concerned about tree removal for solar projects.
- I don't feel I have enough information to make an informed decision.
- Other [include required fill-in option if this is selected]

How should OPALCO's first Community Solar project be funded?

- 100% individual member-investor funded.
- 100% funded through rates (full membership).
- 50% individual member-investors and 50% rate incentives (full membership).
- Mostly individual member-investor funded with some rate-funded incentives.
- Other: [include required fill-in option if this is selected]

#### **Page 4 - Preferences on Solar Near Your Home**

How would you feel about having a large solar array near your home?

Very negatively      Negatively      Neutral      Positively      Very Positively

What factors would prevent you from installing solar on your own home? Please select all that apply.

- It's too expensive/I can't afford it.
- I don't have a good location or solar orientation on my property.
- I don't want to remove any trees.
- I don't want to maintain it.
- Solar systems are too complex.
- I wouldn't like the appearance on or near my home.
- Other [include required fill-in option if this is selected]

How interested are you in working on the development of neighborhood-organized community solar projects, including funding, construction and administration/billing?

Very Interested      Interested      Neutral      Not interested  
Strongly opposed

**Page 5 - Investment and Reporting**

If you were to invest in Community Solar, how important would it be to recoup your investment costs?

Very important    Important    Neutral      Not Important    Not important at all

Community Solar projects are typically sold in units that represent a portion of a solar panel.

The typical cost per unit is about \$150. How much total money would you be willing to invest in OPALCO's community solar project?

- \$150 total
- \$300 total
- \$450 or more
- Other: [include required fill-in option if this is selected]
- I am not able to invest money in this project.
- I would prefer not to invest money in the project.

Investors typically receive a credit on their power bill for the solar production relative to the units purchased. If you were to invest, how would you prefer to receive your production credits:

- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Annually

Are you interested in investing in other forms of local renewable energy?

- Hydro

- Tidal / wave
- Wind
- Other [include required fill-in option if this is selected]

Would you be willing to donate some part of your production credit (or purchase a unit of community solar that is dedicated) to help members of low- and fixed-income households pay their energy bill?

- Yes
- No

How would you prefer to see the results of the community solar project reported?

- On the website.
- Along with my bill.
- Through quarterly reports.
- Through video feeds / live monitoring.
- Other [include required fill-in option if this is selected]

### **Page 6 - Extended Demographics**

What is your annual household income?

- Less than \$20,000
- \$20,000-\$35,000
- \$35,000-\$50,000
- \$50,000-\$75,000
- \$75,000-\$100,000
- Greater than \$100,000
- Prefer not to answer

How would you rate your level of tech savvy?

Low High  
1    2    3    4    5

What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? If currently enrolled, what is the highest degree you have received?

- Some high school, no diploma
- High school graduate, diploma or the equivalent (for example: GED)
- Some college credit, no degree
- Trade/technical/vocational training
- Associate degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Professional degree
- Doctorate degree

How old are you?

- 18-22
- 23-35
- 36-54
- 55+
- Prefer not to answer

## **Page 7 - Stay Informed and General Feedback**

Lastly, what kind of communication would you like to receive about the project going forward?

Select all that apply.

- I would like to get regular updates about the project (requires name, home island).
- I would like to invest in the project and have someone at OPALCO contact me about next steps (requires name, home island).
- Neither of the above.

[Display if either "I would like to get regular updates about the project." or "I would like to invest in the project and have someone at OPALCO contact me about next steps ..."] We're glad you're interested in the community solar project! Please provide your full name and home island so we can follow up with you:

- Full Name: [Fill in field.]
- Home Island [drop down menu]

Note: Your personal information will be kept separate from your survey answers, which will be tabulated anonymously.

Do you have any other thoughts on the project you would like to share with us?

- [Fill in field.]

### **Page 8 - Thank You**

Thank you for completing our survey. We will use the information you've provided as we plan our first major Community Solar project later this year.

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