

# A Community Solar Garden in Summit County

**A SOLAR GARDEN** is a large solar (photovoltaic) array, optimally sighted in Summit County for ideal solar production, and then parceled out and sold to 'subscribers' throughout the County. Subscribers can be individuals, businesses, local governments, non-profits, or other entities within Summit County who are retail customers of Xcel Energy.

## **TO SUBSCRIBE:**

Fill out our subscriber letter of interest, available online:

[www.highcountryconservation.org/SolarGarden.html](http://www.highcountryconservation.org/SolarGarden.html).

Return it to the project developer, Clean Energy Collective, or the High Country Conservation Center. You will need to know how much you would like to subscribe for and your Xcel account number. We can help you decide how many kilowatts (kW) to purchase based on your usage over the past 12 months.

## **THE NUMBERS:**

1 kW = \$3,000 - \$3,500 (final pricing will be available by August, 2012, when payment is collected)

Minimum subscription size: 1 kW

Maximum subscription size: no more than 120% of historical usage, or no more than 40% of the whole system

1 kW produces more than 1400 kWh per year.

Purchase 1 kW and this equates to a reduction on your bill of \$15-\$20 monthly and a simple payback of 15 years or less on your original investment.

Panels production is guaranteed for 40 years for least 85% of the original productivity.

Lifetime cost of power: \$.032/kWh (current residential rate is approx \$.10/kWh)

Return on investment: 6% annual, 900% lifetime

## **ESTIMATED TIMELINE**

Submission of Xcel Application:	January, 2011
Acceptance of Xcel Application:	February, 2012
Subscriber Proposal from CEC	March, 2012
Review of Proposal & Acceptance:	March - April 2012
<b>Refundable 30% deposit due</b>	<b>April 2012</b>
Construction Completion of Array:	July - August 2012
Binding Subscription Agreements Provided (on or before):	August 2012
Execute Subscription Agreements and Close on Purchase:	September 20
<b>Deposit becomes non-refundable and remaining balance due</b>	<b>September 2012</b>



Garfield County's 800 kW Solar Garden in Holy Cross Energy territory

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For additional information or to sign up for the Solar Garden Subscriber list, please contact Lauren Martindale at the Clean Energy Collective, [lauren@easycleanenergy.com](mailto:lauren@easycleanenergy.com), or Lynne Greene at High Country Conservation Center, 518 E main Street in Frisco: (970) 668-5703 or [lynne@highcountryconservation.org](mailto:lynne@highcountryconservation.org).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What if I move or sell my home?

If you plan to sell your home, you can transfer your subscription to any meter in the county, or sell the subscription with your home, or separately. At any time, you can sell your share back to the project developer at current market value.

### Where and how big will it be?

The Clean Energy Collective will apply to Xcel Energy for two systems on behalf of Summit County citizens. The 500 kW system will be located on 3 acres of Town of Breckenridge land. The 2 MW system will also likely be located on 10 acres of Town of Breckenridge land. Thank you Town of Breckenridge! If you are wondering how much 500 kW really is, the average Summit County solar system is currently 4-5 kW in size. Smaller homes will use less than this to completely offset their energy use. One of the benefits to a solar garden, is that an individual entity can buy in for 1 kW, so a 500 kW project could involve 500 different homes and businesses. A 500 kW system is capable of fully powering 100-200 homes, and a 2 MW system is capable of powering 400-700 homes.

### How much clean energy will it produce?

The 500 kW system will produce over 700,000 kWh of clean energy annually, saving over 560 tons green house gas emissions annually. The 2 MW system will produce over 2,800,000 kWh of clean energy annually, saving over 2,240 tons green house gas emissions annually.

### Who pays for the array to be built?

A solar garden will be possible in Summit County through partnership with a developer and financier, which will pay the upfront cost of building the system (several million dollars). This group also takes the tax credit associated with installation, the Renewable Energy Credits, and passes savings along to the consumer. They handle liability, operations and maintenance, as well as the software enabling the remote monitoring of share output.

### Who is the developer?

The Clean Energy Collective. They successfully developed neighboring Garfield County's 800 kW solar array and are involved in several other projects in Colorado. Check them out: <http://www.cleanenergycollective.com/>

### What if panels breaks or are damaged?

Panels are fully insured for 40 years. For maintenance issues, such as clearing snow off panels, 5% of every subscription payment will be held in a third-party escrow account for operations and maintenance. The subscriber organization is responsible for all maintenance issues including breakage and snow loads. The price of inverter replacement is included in the operations and maintenance fund. The developer will accept bids for installation services.

### What is the High Country Conservation Center's role?

Our role in this project is to help facilitate a successful application to Xcel Energy and work with appropriate partners for the project to ensure it is a complete success.

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