



POWERED BY RENEWABLE ENERGY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Solar Energy subscription?

A solar subscription is a program where participants sign up for a share of solar energy produced at an off-site facility, instead of (or in addition to) rooftop solar installations. Community solar gardens are the most common type of solar energy subscription program, where participants subscribe to a share of power produced at a central location and in return, receive a credit on their utility bills for the solar power produced.

What is the Renewable Connect program?

Renewable*Connect is a renewable energy subscription service from Xcel Energy that allows participants to purchase solar power produced at large off-site solar photovoltaic facilities in Colorado. Lakewood's solar energy comes from the 50-megawatt Titan Solar Farm near Deer Trail, CO. The solar energy facility is connected to the electric grid and Xcel customers, like the City of Lakewood, draw electricity from the grid to meet their electricity needs.

What are Lakewood's renewable energy goals? Why is renewable energy important?

The city's Sustainability Plan has a target of generating 45% of municipal energy from renewable sources by 2025. In 2020, 52% of municipal electricity use was generated from renewable sources.

The transition to renewable energy sources reduces greenhouse gas emissions, which provides both environmental and public health benefits. Clean energy investment increases our energy security, boosts local economic development, and ensures current and future Lakewood residents have a health environment to live, work, and thrive.

Why aren't the recreation and civic centers part of this renewable energy program?

The solar subscription was intended to provide off-site renewable energy to facilities and equipment that don't have the potential to have on-site (rooftop) solar generation in the future.

Why aren't more facilities 100% powered by renewable energy?

The City of Lakewood's current renewable energy portfolio balances environmental benefits with available cost and resources. We remain committed to our renewable energy goals and continue to look for opportunities to increase renewable energy use through both on-site and off-site infrastructure.

Does the City of Lakewood have rooftop solar panels anywhere?

The City of Lakewood currently does not have any rooftop solar installations. However, we have performed preliminary solar potential studies for our largest facilities and are currently analyzing data to guide our next steps.

How do I subscribe to off-site solar energy as a resident?

Visit our Energy and Water Resource page for information on how to subscribe to a community solar garden: www.lakewood.org/saveenergyandwater