



May 3, 2022

To Whom It May Concern / BPU,

I am writing on behalf of Sustainable Jersey City to support the Community Solar Energy Program and its transition to a permanent Program. Sustainable Jersey City is a catalyst organization whose mission is to educate, empower and activate community stakeholders, to make Jersey City NJ and the region, a more sustainable and resilient place to live and work.

Our vision is for Jersey City to become the greenest, most sustainable, and resilient city in New Jersey, with community stakeholders that are educated about and committed to environmental, economic and social justice. We are keenly aware of the program and have helped both Power Market and Solar Landscape subscribe Jersey City residents to eligible Year 1 community solar projects. We want to ensure those benefits continue and recommend the following as part of the stakeholder feedback:

1. **The BPU should continue to award community solar projects through a competitive scoring process.** My organization has seen an extraordinary level of support (financial and otherwise) from solar companies as a direct result of those companies' competing for my organization's partnership in order to score points on their project applications. And my organization's constituents have been direct beneficiaries of discounts and other perks from solar companies wanting to win over customers. Changing to a first-come-first-served project-selection process would eliminate these substantial benefits of the competitive process.
2. **The BPU should award more community solar projects.** Community solar projects provide real, tangible benefits to my organization and my organization's constituents, many of whom cannot benefit from traditional residential solar (e.g., because they do not own their homes and/or live in buildings without suitable rooftops). Community solar is the best – and, in many cases, only -- way for my community members to get the savings and other benefits of green energy. We need more community solar.
3. **The BPU should reduce barriers to low-income and moderate-income (LMI) subscribers.** Households that have "low income" or "moderate income" should be able to qualify as LMI customers for community solar without needing to jump through invasive hoops (e.g., proving that they are on food stamps). If someone swears in writing that he or she qualifies as having low income or moderate income, that should be enough. Asking for more deters residents from wanting to sign up for the community solar program.

Thank you for considering these comments. We look forward to continuing to promote clean energy equity in our community.

Sincerely,

Deb Italiano  
President  
Sustainable Jersey City