

Case Study:

Clean Energy for Low Income Communities Accelerator (CELICA)

The Michigan Energy Office (MEO) participated in U.S. Department of Energy's CELICA to support projects that empower and improve the lives of low income communities. In 2017, the Cherryland Pilot Project launched in partnership with a variety of organizations, to bring community solar to 50 low income households.



Why?

Not every household can afford the upfront cost of installing rooftop solar. That's why MEO partnered with Cherryland Electric Cooperative to allow community solar access in Cherryland's six counties. Community solar creates equitable and sustainable solar energy to provide cost savings and decrease the energy burden on



Overview

The Cherryland Pilot Project launched in the Fall, 2017. Eligible households were identified by specific criteria. Then, 50 homes were chosen through an application process. Participants received a 1-year share of 9 solar panels. Bill credits began March, 2018 and are estimated to save 30-40%. There will be an annual evaluation to determine if participants still meet eligibility, and if not the program will be expanded to additional households. Energy data and usage will also be collected throughout the duration of the program.



Moving forward

MEO and its partners will continue to monitor the Cherryland Pilot Project to conduct data analysis and evaluation. The MEO is moving forward to replicate this pilot in other areas.



Project Roles

State of Michigan

- Coordinate partner relations and federal technical assistance, implementation, reporting and initial work plan
- Establish eligibility criteria
- Support shares for 200 solar panel subscriptions
- Conduct data analysis, evaluate metrics, and case study

Cherryland Electric Coop

- Marketing, recruitment and education
- Develop billing structure
- Support shares for 250 solar panel subscriptions
- Lead on Power Purchase Agreement with Wolverine Power/ Spartan Solar

Northwest Community Action Agency

- Identify and select 50 eligible households
- Marketing and educate customers
- Weatherization assistance