

Case Study: Clean Energy for Low Income Communities

Village of L'Anse, Michigan

The Michigan Energy Office (MEO) in partnership with the Village of L'Anse and the Baraga-Houghton-Keweenaw Community Action Agency (BHKCAA) are establishing a community solar program to make available renewable energy and energy efficiency by implementing solar panels and weatherization services in the community



Why?

Not every household can afford the upfront cost of installing rooftop solar. That's why MEO partnered with L'Anse to allow community solar access to low-moderate income households. Community solar creates equitable and sustainable solar energy to provide cost savings and decrease the energy burden on lower income families.



Overview

The L'Anse Community Solar Project will launch summer, 2019. Eligible households will be identified by specific criteria. Then, 25 homes will be selected through an application process. Two strategies will be piloted including short/long-term payment options to potentially lower electric bills for LMI households through expanded installation of energy efficiency and weatherization services. 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

The MEO is looking forward to the start of the L'Anse Community Solar Project and to conduct a data analysis and evaluation on energy savings for LMI households. in hopes of replicating this pilot in other areas.



Project Roles

State of Michigan

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

Village of L'Anse

- Coordinate design, construction and finance of solar system
- Develop billing structure
- Support shares for solar panel subscriptions
- Assist to develop in marketing, customer application, and program enrollment

BHKCAA

- Identify and select 25 eligible households
- Provide weatherization services
- Assist in customer education materials