

Background:

The Town of Berwick is developing its first Community Solar Garden, a renewable energy project that allows interested local utility customers to source 100% of their electricity from non-emitting sources. Through a voluntary subscription plan, utility customers can choose to have some, or all of their electricity needs met with renewable energy. With the help of the Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA), and the provincial and federal governments, we're developing this project to make renewable energy more accessible.

AREA:

The Alternative Resource Energy Authority (AREA) develops clean energy projects, and municipal electric utility customer programs, to reduce our towns' costs and environmental footprint. We are 100% municipally-owned, formed in 2014 by the towns of Antigonish, Berwick and Mahone Bay. AREA's mandate is to secure clean and affordable energy for municipal electric utilities in Nova Scotia.

You can learn more about AREA by visiting AREANS.ca

Development, building, and maintaining the Community Solar Gardens

AREA has experience delivering similar projects such as the Ellershouse Wind Farm and will work as the general contractor to implement the project. Together, AREA and the Towns will oversee the development, operations, and maintenance of the Community Solar Garden.

What is a Community Solar Garden?

Our Community Solar Garden is a cluster of solar panels. Similar to a community garden, you can think of the solar panels as garden plots that our community members are able to voluntarily subscribe to in order to source up to 100% of their electricity from non-emitting sources.

The purpose of the Community Solar Garden:

Our Community Solar Garden is built to make solar accessible to everyone, it also:

- provides clean electricity to our residents.
- helps our town decarbonize at a deeper and faster pace, while providing our residents with affordable and equitable access to solar energy.

Some benefits of Community Solar Garden:

Accessible: Whether you rent or own, all of our utility customers can subscribe to the garden on a per panel basis. You can decide to source some, or all of your electricity needs from solar energy.

Convenient: No need to install, operate or maintain your own solar system.

Community Action: Participation helps to preserve stable utility rates and lessen our collective impact on the environment.

Why is the Town building this?

It supports our goals to reduce community greenhouse gas emissions and provides more community members with access to solar electricity.