

NEWS RELEASE

From the Brodhead Watershed Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photo: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mfkbCHTahYUugGhtXUG-jSDtmY_JNCdr/view?usp=share_link

Caption: Community Solar May Be Coming to Pennsylvania

Protecting Clean Water Together Series: Community Solar Saves Water. Keeps it Clean. Saves Money, Too!

by Carol Hillestad for Brodhead Watershed Association

Huh? What the heck does solar-generated electricity have to do with keeping drinking water clean and pure and abundant?

Other ways of generating electricity consume water in mind-boggling amounts. Fracking for gas-powered electric plants takes millions of gallons of water for every gas well. Coal mining uses tens of millions of gallons a day. Even hydroelectric loses prodigious amounts of water to evaporation.

Using solar panels consumes no water, emits no pollution, and releases no greenhouse gases. *Manufacturing* them, however, uses massive amounts of water and some pretty nasty chemicals.

So why is solar a better option?

In effect, electricity that comes from oil, gas, and coal uses water and spews pollution every time you turn on a light. Solar has a one-time, upfront “pollution expense” when it’s manufactured — and then provides decades of pollution-free, water-friendly electricity.

Like a lot of people in the Brodhead watershed, though, you may live in the woods, with way too much shade to even think about solar, no matter how much it protects water and human life on earth.

A different way to go solar

What if shade-dwellers, renters, and anyone who can’t afford the upfront cost of installing solar could tap into a *community* array of solar panels?

Community solar may be coming to Pennsylvania, if the state legislature and governor okay an initiative by State Senator Rosemary Brown.

Community solar customers can either buy or lease a share of the solar panels in an offsite solar array. They get a credit on their regular electric bill for electricity generated by their share of the community system. So community solar saves money, too.

If getting electricity from the sun appeals to you, find out more about community solar in Pennsylvania. It has bi-partisan support — tell your state representatives to get on board!

More about community solar in PA at:

<https://www.penncapital-star.com/energy-environment/bipartisan-pa-bill-would-authorize-community-solar-projects-monday-morning-coffee/>

Brodhead Watershed Association is dedicated to conserving and preserving pure, abundant water. Find out more at www.brodheadwatershed.org.

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Brodhead Watershed Association is a nonprofit environmental organization formed in 1989. BWA is dedicated to protecting and preserving water resources and the environment of the Brodhead watershed, and the water quality of the Brodhead, Cherry, Marshalls, McMichael, Paradise and Pocono creeks and their tributaries. BWA assists municipalities, residents, businesses and groups with protecting natural resources through education, workshops, seminars, public programs and stream monitoring. For information: info@brodheadwatershed.org or 570-839-1120.