



## D.C. Council Votes to Bring Virtual Net Metering to City

**October 17, 2013: The Community Renewable Energy Act will allow DC ratepayers to subscribe to power from solar facilities that are not located on their property.**

The D.C. Council voted unanimously to pass Community Solar legislation on October 1, 2013. First introduced on January 8, 2013, the Community Renewable Energy Act of 2013, promises to lower the barrier for going solar and diversify solar market participants by allowing DC ratepayers to subscribe to power from solar facilities that are not located on their property using Virtual Net Metering. With this favorable vote, D.C. becomes the tenth state in the nation to enact community solar legislation. Other states that have passed similar legislation include CO, MA, VT, CA and CT.

Through this bill, businesses, homeowners and renters with shaded roofs or no roof space, and low-income utility customers who are unable to install a solar energy system on their roof – either for financial reasons, or because their property is unfit for installation – will be able to access the benefits of solar energy. It does so by giving utility rate payers access to virtual net-metering. Virtual net-metering permits anyone to subscribe to a solar installation. Once they have done so, the electricity produced by their portion of the solar installation will be credited to their monthly electric bill.

The bill should also have a positive impact on DC Solar Renewables Energy Credits (SRECs). SRECs represent the environmental attributes from a solar facility, and are produced each time a solar system produces one thousand Kilowatt-hours (KWh) of production. For every 1000 kilowatt-hours of electricity produced by an eligible solar facility, one SREC is awarded. Currently DC is the only under supplied SREC market with approximately 8MW of the 250 MW of solar capacity required by 2021. In recent transactions, DC SRECS are trading for \$480/SREC. As more solar systems are installed, increasing SREC availability, there will be an impact on SREC pricing.

### **Community Renewable Energy Act of 2013 Includes the Following Stipulations:**

- Community Energy Generating Facilities cannot be larger than 5 MW in capacity and must have at least 2 subscribers
- Subscriptions cannot be for more than 120% of the subscriber's 12 month electricity usage
- Utilities may be able to require all subscribers to be on the same billing cycle
- The owner(s) of the Community Energy Generating Facility owns the rights to SRECs produced from the power
- In months where subscribers receive credit for more power than they consume the excess power will be credited towards the next month's electric bill
- Excess power credits at the end of the annual cycle (ends in April of each year) will be lost and reallocated to rate payers eligible for the District's Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program

**About RER Energy Group** ([www.rerenergygroup.com](http://www.rerenergygroup.com)). RER is dedicated to providing cost-effective, high quality renewable energy systems. RER offers solar electric, solar hot water and hot air, biodiesel fuel and waste-to-energy systems throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. The company has developed over 20 megawatts of solar energy systems and obtained over \$15 million of grant proceeds for its clients.

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