



Sustainable Energy Options for the City of Elgin

NOVEMBER 17, 2021



Happening
Tonight

Current and Past Efforts

Moving Forward: Sustainable Options for Elgin

Recommendations

Next Steps

Questions + Discussion



CURRENT AND PAST EFFORTS

NOVEMBER 17, 2021

SOLAR INITIATIVES

- Awarded SolSmart Silver Designation in 2019.
- Elgin was largest subscriber to the first community solar project in the state.
- Solar ordinance adopted in 2014.
- Permits: x in 2014; x in 2015, x in 2016, x in 2017, x in 2018, x in 2019, x in 2020, x in 2021



ENERGY INITIATIVES

- Municipal electric aggregation.
- LED lighting retrofits to buildings, parking decks/lots and streetlights.
- Home energy saving reimbursement program.
- Resource conservation kits.





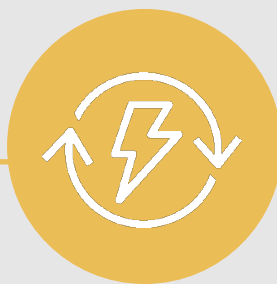
MOVING FORWARD: SUSTAINABLE OPTIONS FOR ELGIN

NOVEMBER 17, 2021

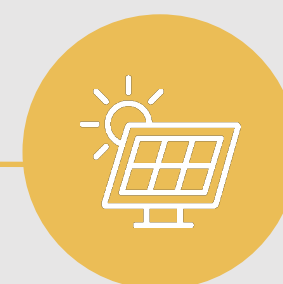
SUSTAINABLE OPTIONS FOR ELGIN



Municipal
Aggregation



Renewable
Energy
Credits
(RECs)



Community
Solar

MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION



FIXED PRICE

- Price is locked in from the retailer (alternative energy provider).
- Potential for price to go above or below ComEd's.
- Entirety of community enrolled with anytime opt-out option.
- Opportunity for cost savings or cost premium for residents.

PRICE MATCH

- Price will always match ComEd's daily rate.
- Residents never charged above ComEd's rate.
- Partial community enrollment with opt-out option; opt-in available non-enrolled customers.
- Creates savings for retailer which is split with municipality, generating revenues.

SUSTAINABLE OPTIONS FOR ELGIN

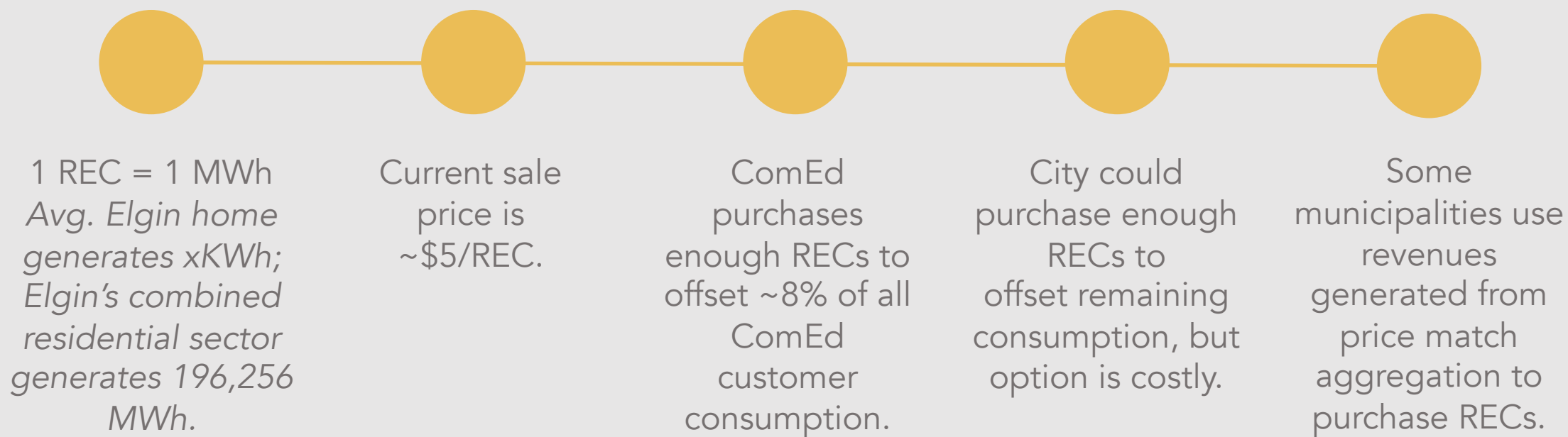
RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS (RECs)

- A 'receipt' of renewable energy.
- Generated from a renewable source, typically wind or solar farms, and sold for organizations to purchase.
- Help to offset carbon usage, and REC owner can claim as much renewable energy as has been purchased via RECs.

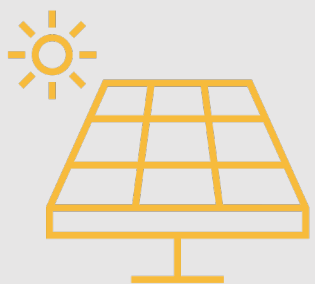


SUSTAINABLE OPTIONS FOR ELGIN

RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS



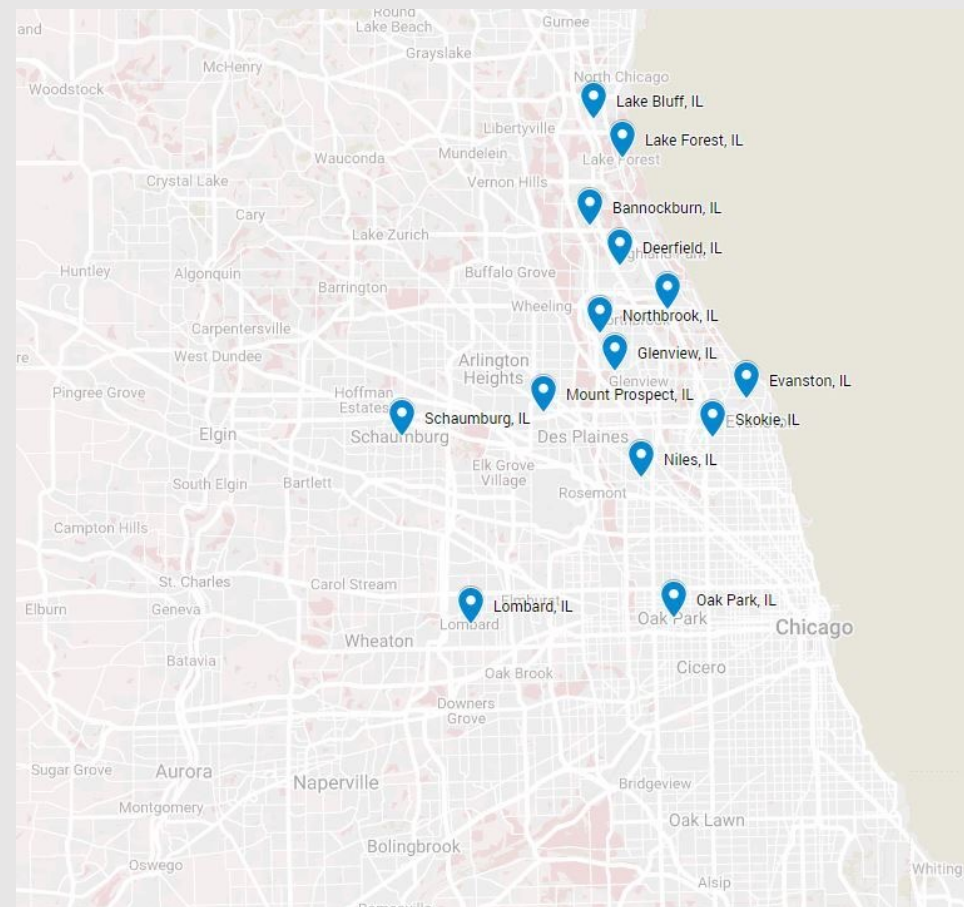
COMMUNITY SOLAR



*Participating
Farms*



*MMC CS2
Communities*

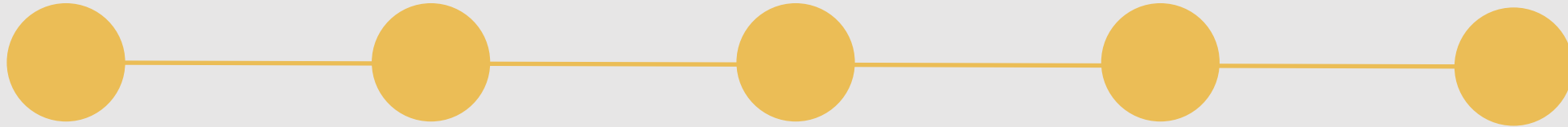


SUSTAINABLE OPTIONS FOR ELGIN

COMMUNITY SOLAR



No roof?
No problem.



Not installing solar panels, but rather subscribing to existing solar farms in Northern Illinois.

Offers consistent 20% savings to consumer – an equivalent of ~\$100 savings per home per year.

Branded as a City program, but all costs to administer are covered by the solar developers.

Currently, plenty of volume exists with capacity for ~15,000 homes.

Climate & Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) adds additional solar farms every year going forward, creating long-term sustainability for the program.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
OPTIONS FOR ELGIN

COMMUNITY SOLAR

How it works

1

Customer subscribes to a solar farm located within the region.

2

Energy generated from solar farm flows into the grid, joining electrons generated from all energy sources (wind, carbon, nuclear, etc.).

3

Co-mingled energy from the grid powers residents' homes.

4

Net metering credits are credited to solar subscribers' (Elgin residents') accounts, creating an automatic 20% savings for subscriber. For the average Elgin resident, this equates to ~\$100 savings per year.



RECOMMENDATIONS

NOVEMBER 17, 2021

RECOMMENDATIONS

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

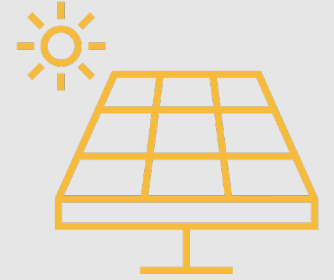
Pursue 100% renewable energy through municipal aggregation, RECs, and community solar.

CONSIDERATIONS

Pursuing 100% renewable energy now would create a cost premium for residents and small businesses as current 100% renewable rates exceed ComEd's daily rate.



Alternative Ways Forward



Pursue an option that secures the highest amount of renewable energy for Elgin residents and small businesses, while maintaining a price match to ComEd's daily rate.

- This can be accomplished through municipal aggregation and community solar, with the option to include RECs.

Securing electricity from community solar, municipal aggregation and RECs will be a big step towards procuring 100% renewable energy for Elgin residents and small businesses.

- Supports renewable energy market development in Northern Illinois
- Puts Elgin on a path to 100% renewable energy
- Maintains residents' daily price for energy at a rate equivalent to ComEd's until market for 100% renewable is favorable.



NEXT STEPS

NOVEMBER 17, 2021

NEXT STEPS



COMMUNITY SOLAR

- City of Elgin would sign up through the MMC.
- Timeline for program implementation: ~4-6 weeks
- Direct mail campaign executed, paid for by developers.
- Residents sign up online.

MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION

- Amend Plan of Governance to reflect best practices.
- Submit RFP and analyze proposals.
- Choose a retailer and inform residents about the upcoming program.
- Implement municipal aggregation.

RECs

- Continue monitoring the market.
- Can purchase at any time.



ELGIN
THE CITY IN THE SUBURBS

Mikala Larson

Sustainability Analyst

City of Elgin

larson_m@cityofelgin.org

847-931-5615