

Tuesday, April 12th, 2011

Last August, the nation's [first community solar garden](#) was activated in El Jebel, Colorado. Three hundred forty solar panels collectively owned by local residents is the first of its kind and may spur similar innovative projects to launch.

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Community solar gardens allow residents of condos, shaded homes, or those who want to reap the benefits of solar energy. Participants can take use solar energy without a large up-front investment. There are many policies surrounding community solar gardens that have to be considered with such an extensive project.

The land in El Jebel was otherwise unusable, making it the perfect site for solar panels. Clean Energy Collective (CEC) sold the parcels of solar to residents for as little as \$725. CEC predicts a 67% increase of community solar energy in the next five years.

Would you participant in a community solar garden? What would the pros and cons be for you?

