

Charlotte Community Shared Solar Farm

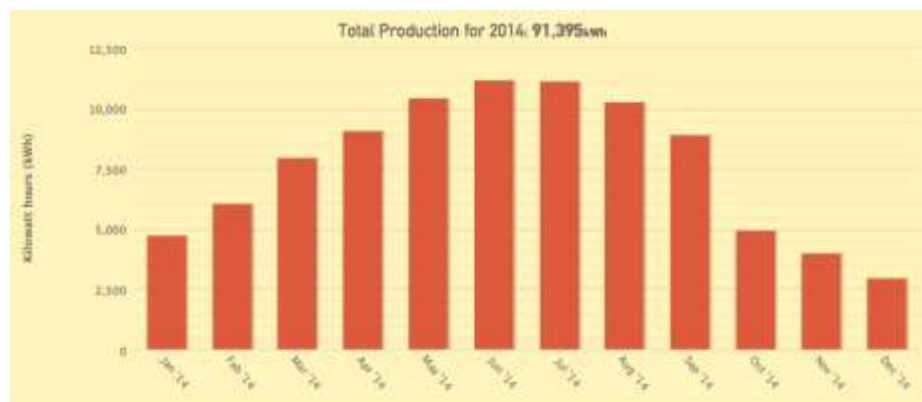
AllEarth Renewables

John Quinney, General Manager for the Energy Co-op of Vermont, wanted to “walk the talk.” So in August of 2014 he signed up to get his electricity from the Charlotte Community Shared Solar Farm. John learned about the Charlotte Solar Farm from AllEarth Renewables founder, David Blittersdorf, who’s company developed the 58kW project in 2013 located behind his house in Charlotte, Vermont. The project began after he noticed a growing number of people interested in solar but for whatever reason, were unable to put it on or at their home or business.



Quinney was particularly taken by how easy the process was – no worries about panels on his roof, wiring in his house and just a page and a half power purchase agreement and 1-page bank account form got him going. Now his monthly bills for the 350 kWh he signed up for are automatically withdrawn from his checking account.

In addition to Quinney, the Charlotte Community Shared Solar Farm includes a group of about 15 residential customers from Green Mountain Power territory in Chittenden and Addison counties. Each customer is able to purchase a percentage of the array’s power through a basic Power Purchase Agreement, typically 3-4% of the project, with AllEarth Renewables using the remaining power. The agreement includes fixed priced electricity with no fees for maintenance, no monthly fee, no exit fees, and once a customer signs up they can exit the agreement with just 30 days notice. Customers simply contact AllEarth Renewables, join the group and go solar the following month. The company also retains and will not sell the renewable energy credits (RECs) for the solar farm.



2014 Production

Source: www.allearthrenewables.com/energy-production-report/detail/1539

Renewable Energy Credits:

Power Purchase Agreement states the RECs for the project will not be sold so the customers may make all environmental claims for the solar.

How It Worked:

After identifying client interest in off-site solar, the project was simpler than most due to two factors; location and financing. The founder of the company offered a portion of his property for the array and the project was financed through the company's financing arm. A 58kW array was built as that's what fit on the site and because simpler permitting regulations exist for arrays under 150kW. With a location secured and in-house financing, the project was built first then customers found by word of mouth and social media. It's a project AllEarth Renewables is interested in replicating in the state in the future.

Keys To Success:

- **Simplicity** – A simple (and short) Power Purchase Agreement. This included simple terms, no locked-in length of the contract and only a 30-day exit notice requirement. Customers don't want to be overburdened by the legal aspects of solar and flexibility is key.
- **Confidence** – AllEarth Renewables were confident they had the demand to fill up the cue for the solar array. This confidence allowed them to permit, build and connect assigned to their own company's power demands before finding customers and then attract customers to an already-commissioned project.
- **Start small** – Smaller arrays are easier to permit. The tangible size of the project and having the project local made it desirable for customers throughout Green Mountain Powers territory.

Contact:

Phone: 802-872-9600

Email: info@allearthrenewables.com

Website: <http://www.allearthrenewables.com>