



August 6, 2020

RE: Community Solar Project Update

Dear Environmental Defenders' Members and Friends,

On behalf of our Board of Directors and Solar Committee, I want to thank you for your patience and interest in The Environmental Defenders' plans to build a community solar farm. *We want to bring you up to speed!*

In June, The Environmental Defenders renewed its agreement with Community Green Energy to continue the advancement of our proposed community solar installation at our Dean Street property in Woodstock. While design plans, special permitting, and ComEd Facilities Study have all been completed for some time now, there simply were not enough funds in the state's solar credit program to bring our plans to fruition in the timeframe that we had hoped. Because the number of community solar project applications in Illinois far outweighed expectations, thanks to the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA), there was a great deal of competition for those funds.

Now, there is a new avenue that The Defenders is exploring through the Illinois *Solar for All* program. The *Solar for All* program funds projects that bring community solar and clean energy to LMI (Low-Middle Income) individuals and families and it is our plan to apply to this program for the next cycle of funding this month. This opportunity to reach out to underserved communities in McHenry County is also consistent with The Environmental Defenders' 2020-2023 Strategic Plan. We are hopeful that as a non-profit organization we will be approved as an "anchor" tenant and then fully subscribe our community solar project with both Defenders' members and our county's LMI residents.

This is an exciting opportunity for us. It would help us with our application for the *Solar for All* program if you could answer two questions for us:

1. Are you still interested in subscribing to The Defenders' community solar project?
2. Do you qualify as a Low-Middle Income household? (To qualify, your annual household income must be less than \$44,250 if you are a one-person household, less than \$50,660 if you are a two-person household, less than \$56,900 if you are a three-person household, and less than \$63,200 if you are a four-person household. See the 10th line in this chart for the income cutoff for households with more than four people:

<https://www.illinoisfa.com/app/uploads/2019/02/0219-ILSFA-income-chart-v4.pdf>

Again, it would help us so much if you could provide the answers to these questions, which will not be shared with others, by contacting me at the email or phone number below. We will be in touch again soon with more details and news. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'C' and a trailing flourish.

Cynthia Kanner, Executive Director
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