

Subject Community Solar Gardens

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Overview

House File 2432 makes several changes in the statute governing community solar gardens, including requiring other public utilities besides Xcel to operate a solar garden program; increasing the maximum garden capacity from one to five megawatts; removing the requirement that subscribers live in the same county as the generating facility or in an adjacent county; and creating a new category of garden in which at least 50 percent of generating capacity is held by residential subscribers.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	<p>[216B.1641] Community solar garden.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Solar garden; project requirements. Requires each public utility providing retail electric service in Minnesota to file a plan with the commission by January 15, 2024, to operate a community solar garden. Increases the maximum capacity of a solar garden from one to five megawatts. Removes the requirement that subscribers to a solar garden must be located in the same county as the generating facility or in a contiguous county.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Solar garden plan; requirements; nonutility status. Strikes existing definitions that are now part of subdivision 1.</p> <p>Subd. 4. Community access project. Establishes a new category of solar garden in which: (1) at least 50 percent of its generating capacity is subscribed by residential customers; (2) the owner certifies that no discrimination occurs based on income or credit score; (3) the operator maintains a physical address in Minnesota; and (4) at least one annual meeting between the owner/manager and subscribers is held.</p>
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Subd. 5. Community access project; financial arrangements. Provides that: (1) the public utility purchasing energy from a community access project may charge no more than one cent per watt of the garden's capacity for a refundable deposit the owner may require of subscribers; (2) the utility must purchase energy at the utility's retail rate; and (3) all renewable energy credits associated with garden generation belong to subscribers, who may sell them to a third party or the utility.

Subd. 6. Community access project; reporting. Specifies information that must be included in an annual report to subscribers and the interconnected utility.

Subd. 7. Commission order. Requires the commission to issue an order addressing the requirements of this section within 180 days of the effective date of this section.



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