

Document5

**Subject** Community solar gardens**Authors** Long**Analyst** Bob Eleff**Date** March 8, 2021

## Overview

House File 1397 provides for a new type of Community Solar Garden: a Community Access Project (CAP), in which at least half of the capacity is represented by residential subscribers.

## Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <p><b>[216B.1641 Community solar garden.</b></p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Definitions.</b> Technical; organizes current definitions into a separate subdivision.</p> <p><b>Subd. 2. Solar garden; project requirements.</b> Technical; organizes current provisions in a separate subdivision.</p> <p><b>Subd. 3. Solar garden plan; requirements; nonutility status.</b> Technical; organizes current provisions in a separate subdivision; strikes definitions moved to subd. 1.</p> <p><b>Subd. 4. Community access project; eligibility.</b> Authorizes a utility to designate a solar garden as a community access project (CAP) if the owner commits in writing that 50 percent or more of the garden's capacity will be subscribed by residential customers; that the owner will not discriminate against subscribers based on income or credit scores; and that at least one meeting will be held annually with the owner/manager and subscribers.</p> <p><b>Subd. 5. Community access project; financial arrangements.</b> Requires a utility to purchase all excess generation from a CAP at the retail rate and to charge the owner no more than one cent per watt of the garden's capacity for any refundable application deposit required by the utility. Renewable energy credits generated by the garden belong to subscribers unless the operator has made other contractual arrangements.</p> |
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**Subd. 6. Community access project; reporting.** Requires a CAP owner to include in an annual report how subscribers can provide input to solar garden decisions; the amount of revenues allocated to operating costs, debt service, etc.; and an estimate of the proportion of low-and moderate-income households that are subscribers.

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

Enter section summary text