



Give Greater Minnesota a Boost: Remove Contiguous County Restrictions on Community Solar

Community solar gardens (CSG) land leases are a lifeline for farmers and agricultural producers across Greater Minnesota – giving them a sustainable option to earn consistent and reliable income. Since 2013, America’s farmers and ranchers have weathered a nearly 50 percent drop in net farm income, the largest four-year drop since the start of the Great Depression, to inflexible

Due to the inflexible “contiguous county” restriction which hinders subscription and capital financing for projects sited in rural

counties, Minnesota’s rural community is missing out on the opportunity to create thousands of jobs, generate millions in local tax revenue, and stimulate millions of dollars in economic development at a time when COVID-19 is taking its toll across the state.



Our Ask

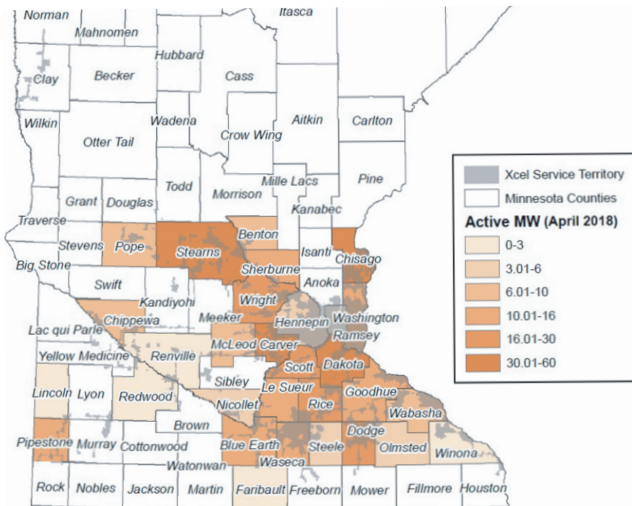
Make it easier for rural farmers and landowners to host a community solar garden within the same or contiguous county to a project. This would:

Generate revenue for rural cities and towns – who are already preparing for historic budget shortfalls

Help farmers in rural parts of the state – many who struggled to operate before the pandemic

Expand clean energy access to rural counties in the state, including towns, schools, and farmers

Lower energy costs for more consumers – many of whom need economic relief



Key Stats

Eliminating the contiguous county rule will provide an economic boost to Greater Minnesota at a time when we need it most.



12,000

new solar jobs in the next 6-24 months and hundreds of solar supply chain manufacturing jobs



\$600 million

in private investment in rural communities over the next 2 years and increase the local tax base for the next 25+ years



300 MW

of new solar energy, enough to power more than 45,000 homes with clean energy

Supported By: MnSEIA, Clean Energy Economy MN, MN Farmers Union and CCSA



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US Solar & IPS Solar VOS Projects By House District

