

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><b>[216B.1641] Community solar garden.</b></p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Definitions.</b> Defines terms.</p> <p><b>Subd. 2. Solar garden; project requirements.</b> 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><b>Subd. 3. Solar garden plan; requirements; nonutility status.</b> Strikes existing definitions that are now part of subdivision 1.</p> <p><b>Subd. 4. Community access project.</b> 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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