

# New Jersey's Community Solar Energy Program Stakeholder meeting



April 24, 2023



# Welcome

This is the public stakeholder meeting for

[Docket No. QO22030153](#)

In the Matter of the  
Community Solar Energy Program

This meeting will focus on all parts of the Community Solar Energy Program (CSEP) Straw Proposal released on March 30, 2023.



# Webinar Instruction Page

- All attendees will be automatically muted.
- Questions? Please use the Q&A function in Zoom.
- We will address clarifying questions at the end of each section. These will be collected as FAQ and posted on our website as relevant.
- Please note that the Chat function in Zoom is not available for this meeting.
- This meeting is being recorded. A copy of the recording and slides will be made available on the BPU website:  
<https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/public/>

# Disclaimer

This presentation is provided for informational purposes only and should not be taken to represent the views of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, its Commissioners, or the State of New Jersey. Please be aware that any information presented is subject to change if there are changes to New Jersey statutes, rules, or policies.

**All viewers are responsible for ensuring that they rely only on current legal authority regarding the matters covered in the presentation.**

# Written Stakeholder Comment Guidelines

- The deadline for comments on the CSEP Straw is 5:00 p.m. ET on Monday, May 15, 2023
- Please submit comments directly to Docket No. QO22030153, using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s Public Document Search tool.
- Comments are considered “public documents” for purposes of the State’s Open Public Records Act and any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3.
- Written comments may also be submitted to:  
Sherri L. Golden  
Secretary of the Board  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor  
Post Office Box 350  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350  
Phone: 609-292-1599  
Email: [board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov)

# Agenda

[NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR)

1. Overview of Community Solar Pilot Program
2. CSEP eligibility and capacity
3. Project registration process
4. Standards for subscribers
5. Billing processes
6. Public comment

# 1. Overview of community solar

[NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR)



*Caven Point, Jersey City – Hartz Mountain/PowerMarket*

# Community Solar: What is it?

[NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR)

- A large solar array that is virtually divided among multiple participants (subscribers) by means of a credit on their utility bill.
- Is generally remotely located, as opposed to being located on the subscriber's own roof.
- Enables access to solar energy for those who have not been able to go solar in the past, including renters and households, institutions, or businesses where the roof isn't appropriate for solar installation, or solar is cost-prohibitive.

# Community Solar Pilot Program

[NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR)

- Program Year 1
  - The Board awarded 45 projects with 76 MW on December 20, 2019.
  - 20 projects with 44 MW have come online.



Mount Laurel – Photo courtesy Solar Landscape

# Community Solar Pilot Program

[NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR)

- Program Year 2
  - The Board awarded 105 projects with 165 MW on October 28, 2021.
  - 8 projects with 5.9 MW have come online.
  - Remaining projects have a completion deadline of November 4, 2023.
- The Board elected to forego PY3 and develop the permanent Community Solar Energy Program.



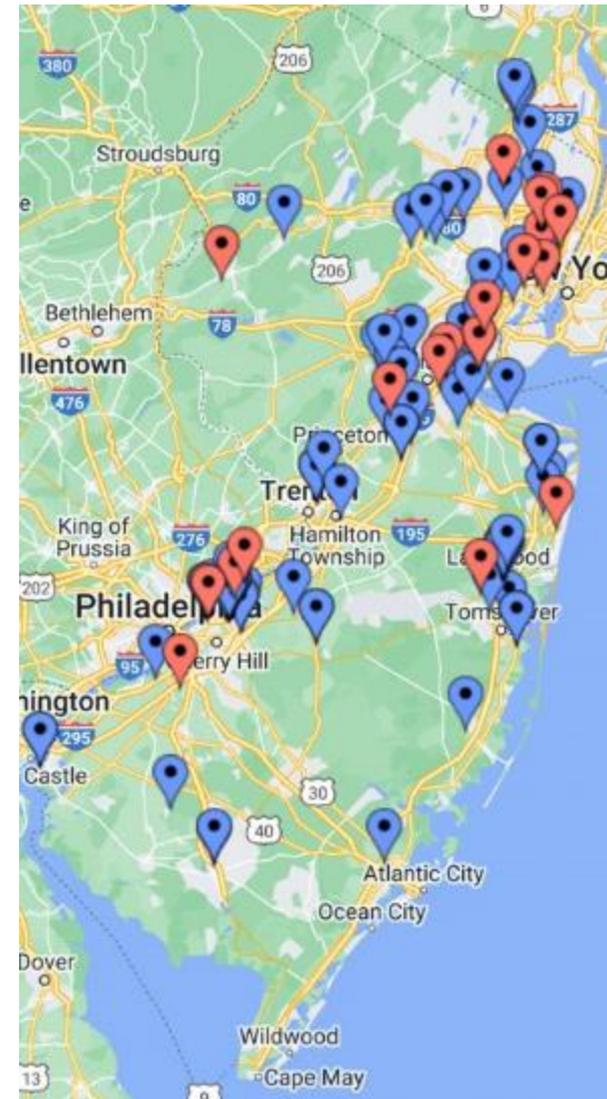
Photo courtesy Solar Landscape

# Pilot Program awards

NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

## 150 applications selected (243 MW)

- All 150 are LMI projects
  - At least 122 MW will be carved out for LMI subscribers
- 126 projects located on rooftops
- 18 projects on landfills
- 2 projects on brownfields
- 3 projects on parking canopies
- 1 project on a former sand and gravel pit



Red: In service  
Blue: In development

# 2. CSEP eligibility and capacity

[NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR)



*Linden Hawk Rise Solar, Linden – Navisun*



# CSEP eligibility and capacity

[NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR)

## Overall program capacity

- Energy year 2024: at least 225 MW
- Energy year 2025: at least 225 MW
- Energy year 2026 and beyond: at least 150 MW
- Projects approved to participate in the Pilot that did not reach operation may continue to register and would not count against or be subject to capacity limits.

# CSEP eligibility and capacity

[NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR)

## Megawatt block tranches

- Capacity will be divided proportionate to EDCs' sales (approximate values based on 225 MW total annual block)
  - PSE&G: 128 MW
  - JCP&L: 65 MW
  - ACE: 28 MW
  - RECO: 4 MW
- Each tranche will be closed when the final registrant exceeds its capacity.

# CSEP eligibility and capacity

[NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR)

## Siting

- Projects may be sited on:
  - Rooftops;
  - Carports and canopies over impervious surfaces;
  - Contaminated sites and landfills; and
  - Man-made bodies of water that have little to no established floral and faunal resources (i.e., floating solar).



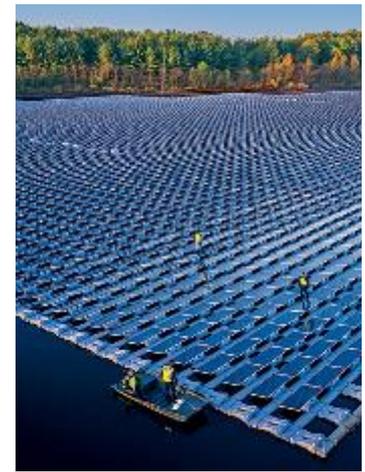
*Solar Landscape*



*Sunwealth/Citrine/Pfister*



*Navisun*



*New Jersey Resources*

# CSEP eligibility and capacity

[NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR)

## Project size

- Community solar projects are statutorily limited to 5 MW.
- Co-location of multiple community solar projects at the same property or contiguous properties is not permitted.

# Q&A – ELIGIBILITY



# 3. Project registration process

[NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR)



*Tri-County Landfill Solar Farm, Delanco – Soltage/AC Power*

# Project registration process

NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

## Maturity requirements

- Similar to ADI Program
- Part 1 interconnection agreement
  - $\geq 1$  MW – completed
  - $< 1$  MW – applied
- All non-ministerial permits
- Subscriber acquisition plan
- Community engagement plan
- For contaminated sites and landfills, NJDEP verification of eligibility with BPU certification, permit readiness checklist, and approved site mitigation plan

# Project registration process

NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

## Maturity requirements (cont.)

- Subscriber acquisition plan
  - Registered subscriber organization
  - Marketing plans or materials
  - Partnerships with municipalities or community organizations
  - LMI and non-LMI segments
- Community engagement plan
  - Goals to foster long-term collaboration
  - Proof of localized community benefits
  - Sample material for educational outreach and expectation setting

# Project registration process

[NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR)

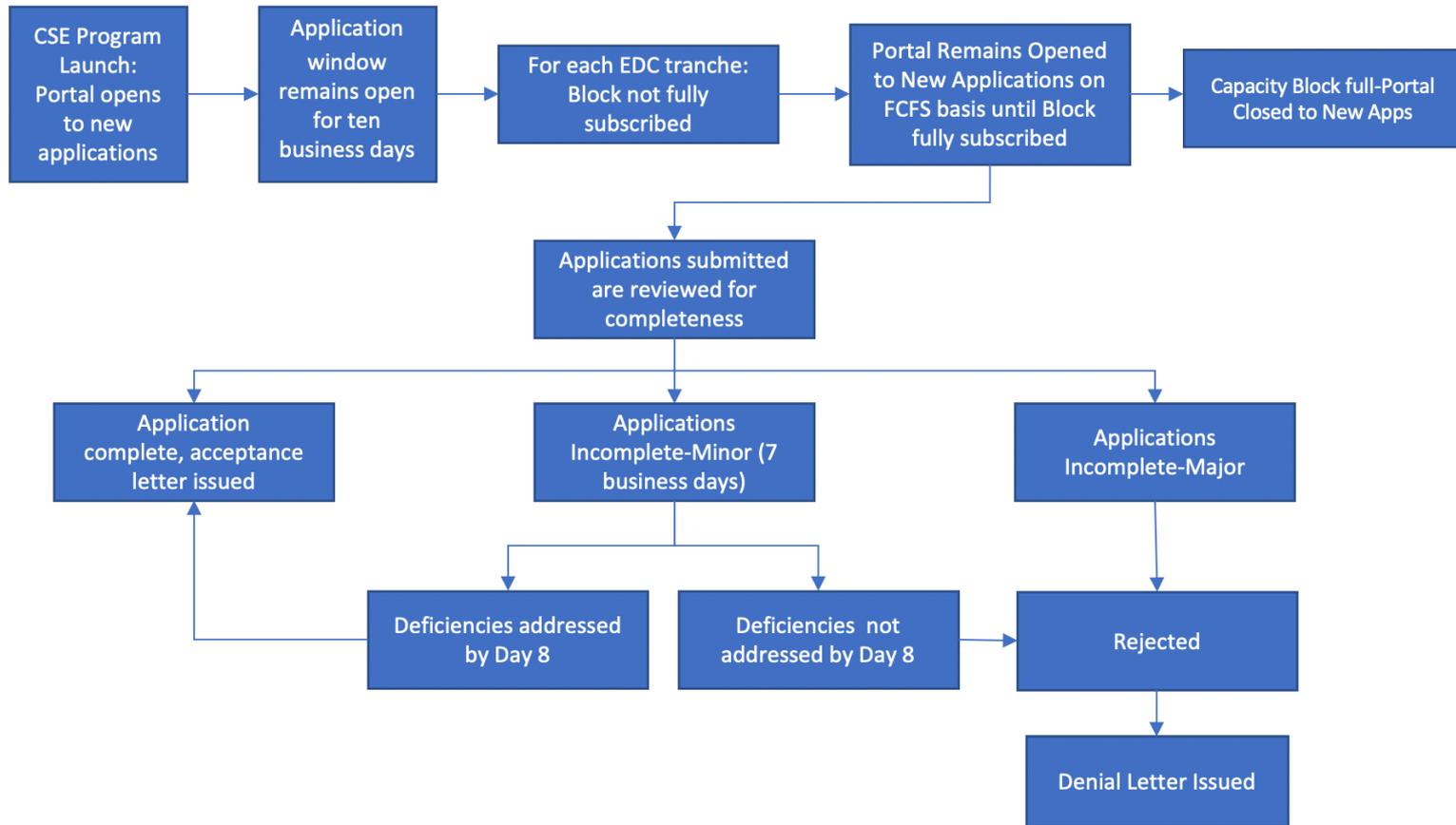
## Application and project selection

- Registration in ADI Portal
- First-come, first-served with potential tiebreaker
- Open registration for initial 2-week period
  - EDC tranche is not filled
    - projects accepted and portal remains open until full
  - EDC tranche capacity exceeded
    - tiebreaker on guaranteed minimum bill credit for subscribers

# Project registration process

NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

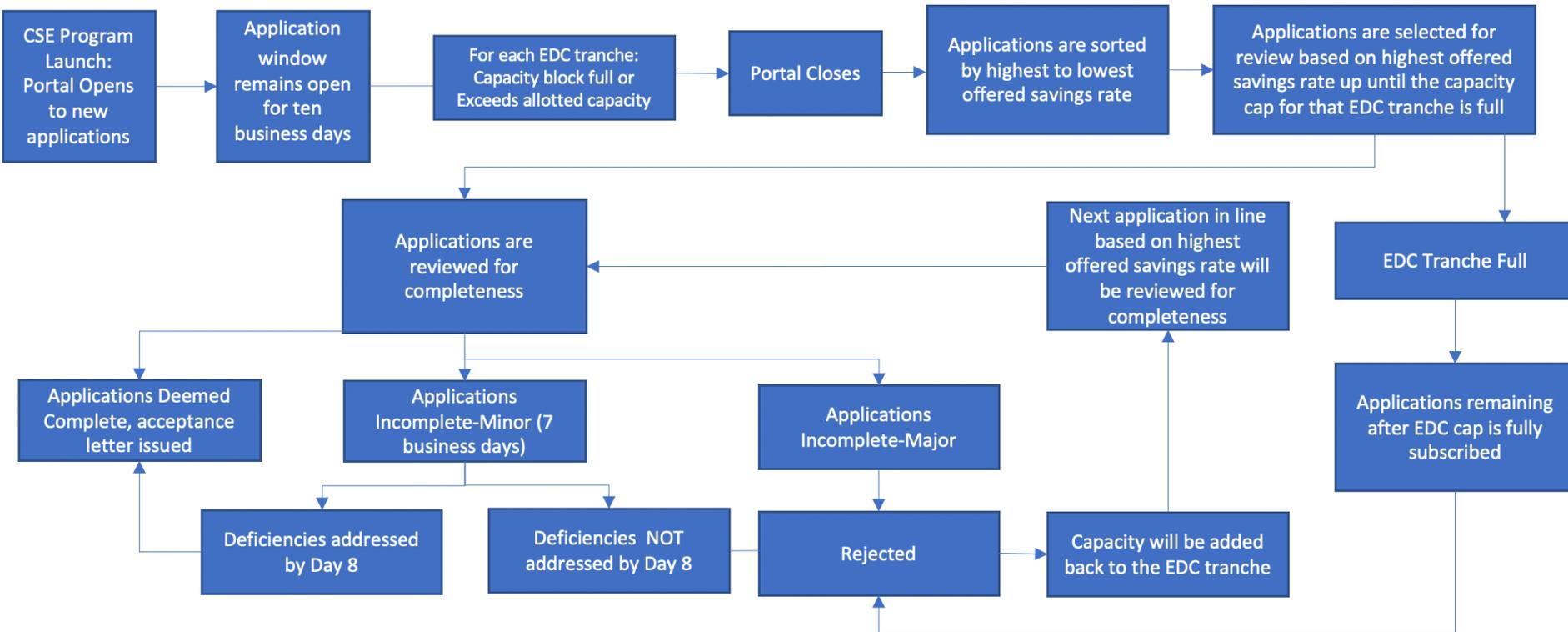
If an EDC capacity block is not fully subscribed:



# Project registration process

NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

If an EDC capacity block is fully subscribed:



# Q&A – REGISTRATION



# 4. Standards for subscribers

[NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR)



*South Brunswick – Nexamp*



# LMI participation

[NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR)

## Low- to moderate-income households

- LMI households have income below 80% of area median income.
- All projects must have 51% of capacity subscribed by LMI subscribers.
- LMI status may be verified with participation in assistance programs, residence in certain census block groups, and self-attestation.
- Self-attestation should be conducted with a standardized form, and recorded by a third party.



# LMI participation

[NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR)

## **Affordable/master-metered housing**

- Master-metered housing units must pass 75% of savings to residents as direct financial benefits.
- Master-metered affordable housing may qualify as LMI by providing an affidavit that they are passing on benefits.
- The bill credit for affordable housing on a commercial electricity rate would include demand charges on an annualized pro rata basis.

# Automatic enrollment

[NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR)

## Automatic enrollment

- Projects owned by a municipality or county, or which have a municipality or county as their subscriber organization would be able to automatically enroll residents.
- The public entity may select residents to enroll, and 80% of the capacity must be LMI.
- Residents must have the opportunity to opt out of subscribing.
- Consolidated billing is a prerequisite to automatic enrollment.

# Q&A – SUBSCRIPTIONS



# 5. Billing processes

[NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR)



*North Brunswick – Solar Landscape*

## Consolidated billing

- Utility consolidated billing is required to reduce customer confusion and hassle of two bills
- Subscribers are billed with the net crediting method.
  - The bill discount rate is applied to the applicable portion of the bill.

*Applied bill credit x guaranteed savings rate = net credit*

*Customer bill total – net credit = final amount billed*

- The remainder of the bill credit will be remitted to the project owner, less a utility administrative fee of up to 1%.

*Applied bill credit \* (1 – guaranteed savings rate) \* .99 =  
subscription fee*

# Billing

[NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR)

## Bill savings

- Subscribers will receive at least the project's guaranteed bill credit savings rate
- Bill credit savings rate must be a minimum of 10%

## Bill credit banking

- For subscribers:
  - Surplus allocated credits may be carried over month-to-month until the end of an annualized period
  - Subscribers may select a new start date of the annualized period
- For project owners:
  - Unallocated credits may be banked for 12 months after start of operation
  - These credits may be allocated to subscribers for 24 months after start of operation

# Q&A – BILLING



# PUBLIC COMMENT

Please be respectful of other commenters  
There will be a four-minute time limit for comments

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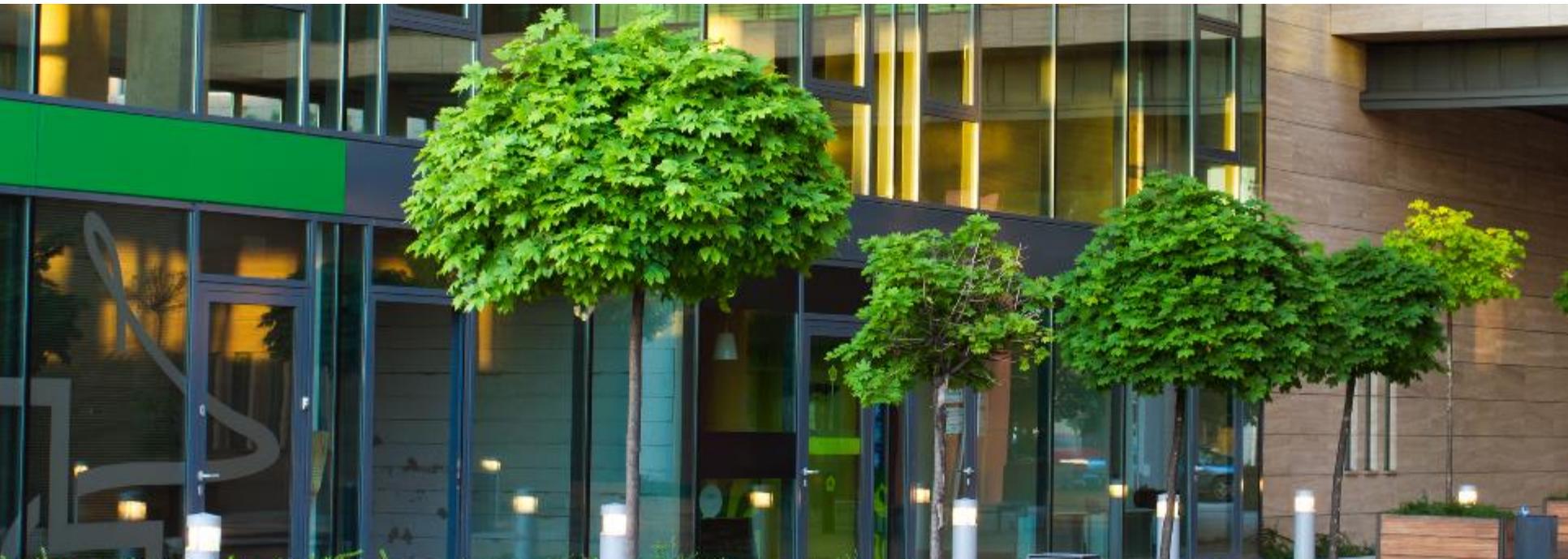


**THANK YOU – Let's continue the conversation**

[communitysolar@njcleanenergy.com](mailto:communitysolar@njcleanenergy.com)

[sawyer.morgan@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:sawyer.morgan@bpu.nj.gov)

Office hours: <https://calendly.com/sawyer-morgan/30min>



# BREAK

Back at 3:15