



To learn more, contact  
John Kinch, Executive Director at:  
517.337.0422 ext. 305 •  
[jkinch@michiganenergyoptions.org](mailto:jkinch@michiganenergyoptions.org)

## Community Solar

Community solar is simple, affordable, local. It allows customers to support clean, renewable energy without having to install panels on their own roof, while receiving on-bill utility credits. We are currently implementing and managing two community solar projects in Michigan, with plans for more projects soon. Our first project is located in East Lansing on a former capped landfill. Our second project on an industrial site is in Marquette and is the Upper Peninsula's first community solar garden.

In each location, we are not only helping to introduce clean, renewable energy into these communities, we are also introducing pollinator-friendly plants to these sites. Why? For the bees!

## Ecological and Agricultural Benefits

Pollinator-friendly solar power is a win-win. Planting native, drought-tolerant vegetation complements the environmental benefits of clean energy by aiding the declining populations of honeybees and other pollinating species. Instead of using gravel or turf grass (common for solar installments) native pollinator species can also improve soil and water quality, increasing organic matter and reducing stormwater runoff. Native wildflowers, grasses, forbs and similar species also provide habitat—and are beautiful.

## National Network

We are working with national experts to design these projects to be pioneering models for future solar developments across the state of Michigan. Our network includes the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Environmental Protection Agency, Fresh Energy of Minnesota, MSU Extension and Department of Energy.

## Join us

If you have apiary, native wildflower or other relevant expertise, we'd love to hear from you about your possibly joining our "groundbreaking" effort.