Thank You!

The East Lansing Community Solar Park is performing even better than we anticipated! Our native flowers and plants we’ve planted are taking hold. We have modern new signage on site. And we have you to thank for your support and participation!

Performance

So far 2020 solar power generation is doing better than 2019. We are attributing this to more sunshine hours than last year, along with some technical tweaks we’ve made to the system to enhance performance. June 2020 has been the highest performing month so far at nearly 56,000 kWh.

In 2019, the park generated enough energy to power 45 homes for a year: 381,000 kWh. That’s the equivalent of taking 58 cars off the road and sequestering carbon in 352 acres of forest.

Our Subscribers

Most of our subscribers are residential: 131. This equates to 93.5% of all subscribers. Residents account for 477 panels (47.7% of the 1,000 panels on site).

Nine subscribers are commercial, which translates into 523 panels, or 52.3%.

We currently have a wait list of customers—some 200 panels—interested in participating in community solar.

Preventative Maintenance

The solar park had its annual preventive maintenance in July. These visits are a comprehensive review of the systems—panels, combiner boxes, inverters—at the park that aim to identify any potential or existing issues. We do this to optimize the park’s production of clean, green, renewable energy.

In addition to our annual “PM,” the park has real-time monitoring and analytics to provide an instantaneous snapshot of energy production and possible issues. If anything is amiss, our monitoring sends alerts to our staff that allows us to respond immediately.
Habitat Restoration

The East Lansing Community Solar Park is on a former capped landfill, also known as a "brownfield." Our ongoing habitat restoration is introducing various native grasses and wildflowers, such as coneflowers, milkweed and daisies popping up!

These efforts will provide food and habitat for insects and birds, benefiting East Lansing, which is designated as a pollinator-friendly community.

Community Outreach

At the outset of 2020, in collaboration with the East Lansing Public Library, and with funding from the Capital Region Community Foundation, Michigan Energy Options hosted several workshops on the project overall, solar basics for homeowners and establishing pollinator habitat.

In March, MEO led a tour of the park for the Engineering Society of Detroit/Michigan Waste and Recycling Association’s 30th Annual Solid Waste Conference. MEO also led a tour for a small, social-distanced group of Michigan industry professionals. We aspire to have more tours for school groups, community groups and others when it becomes possible to do so. Please contact us for more details.

The solar park has been featured in the State News and the Lansing State Journal as well as various websites including WILX, the State of Michigan, the City of East Lansing, and Solar Market Pathways.

2019 Project of the Year


You can find a video celebrating our receipt of the award on the Project Highlights page of the MEO website.

Questions?

Have questions about our community solar park? Email us at info@micommunitysolar.org.

Thank you, again, to our project partners: Lansing Board of Water & Light, City of East Lansing, Pivot Energy, SunLarge, LLC., Michigan Wildflower Farm, and east arbor architecture (for our new signage design!).