



Community Solar: A creative renewable solution for aging businesses and buildings

Stewards of community resources

The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation seeks to improve the quality of life in the communities throughout Linn County, Iowa. Though its goal is simple, its activities are ambitious and far reaching. With over \$190 million in assets, the organization serves as a convenor and connector to donors, funders and nonprofit organizations working together to address community needs and opportunities. Through grants to nonprofits and investments in community initiatives, the Foundation helps create more vibrant and inclusive communities.

The Community Foundation is invested in improving the future. That includes prioritizing environmental sustainability. The organization began to explore how it might utilize renewable energy at its headquarters, a historic building in downtown Cedar Rapids.

When Foundation staff investigated solar roof panels and awnings, they realized they could not install the necessary equipment without damage to the building. That's where Alliant Energy entered the picture.

The right fit for any architecture

At the end of 2022, the Foundation became a key subscriber in Alliant Energy's Cedar Rapids Community Solar program. Community solar lets customers share the benefits of solar power without the need to install panels on their property. Subscribers purchase blocks of energy from the solar garden and receive monthly credits on their electric bills for the 20-year life of the project.

Thanks to its investment in community solar, the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation will offset 100% of its energy use with renewable energy.

Aligning values and opportunities

"We had researched solar energy opportunities for years, specifically ones that would be suitable for our aging building," said Karla Twedt-Ball, president and CEO of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. "When we learned of Alliant Energy's Community Solar garden, we determined that it made good economic sense. This is a sound business decision that also aligns with our vision of creating a vibrant community."



The community solar garden is a perfect fit for customers like the Foundation that are unable to install solar panels on their property. It's also great for customers who simply don't want the hassle of installing and maintaining panels.

The Community Foundation found an environmentally sustainable energy solution that aligns with its mission to strengthen the community through philanthropy, and to use innovative solutions in the process. "Innovation is a key value at the Community Foundation," said Karla. "We know that in order to respond to changing needs, opportunities and challenges, we must be open to creative strategies."

In this case, a creative strategy will provide the Foundation the energy it needs to perform its vital work and make a difference.

To learn more about the Alliant Energy Community Solar program or to subscribe, gift or donate solar blocks, visit alliantenergy.com/communitysolar.

