



Texas Community Solar Program 2018 Annual Report



Mary Kipp
PRESIDENT AND CEO

Thank you for being a part of the solar community in Texas!

As a subscriber to the El Paso Electric Company (EPE) Texas Community Solar Program (TCSP or Program), you know that the program is the easiest way to go solar! You and over a thousand other customers have made this program a great success as the program was fully subscribed in less than one month! Before Community Solar, solar power was only an option for those who were able or willing to install solar panels on their roof. Today, because of this program, clean solar energy is available to all our customers, including renters, homeowners and businesses.

The Texas Community Solar Facility (the Solar Facility) is in far east El Paso and utilizes 33,060 solar panels to deliver homegrown solar power every day. I am proud to be a part of a community with citizens like you who are making a difference in the place where we live!

2018 in Review



1,400+

Residential Customers
Subscribed



30+

Businesses
Subscribed



33,060

Solar Panels
Operating



8.4M

Kilowatt Hours (kWh) of
Solar Energy Generated

What is the impact of **8.4 million kWh** of solar energy generation in one year?

1,269
Cars

off the road **OR** planting more than

98K
Trees

OR enough energy to power about

1,058
Homes

Texas Community Solar Facility

The energy for the TCSP is provided by the Solar Facility, a three-megawatt (MW) solar power plant located in far east El Paso, which began commercial operation on May 31, 2017. The Solar Facility is owned, operated and maintained by EPE and consists of over 33,060 thin-film solar panels that utilize a single-axis tracking system. The single-axis tracking system shifts panels during the day to follow the direction of the sun.

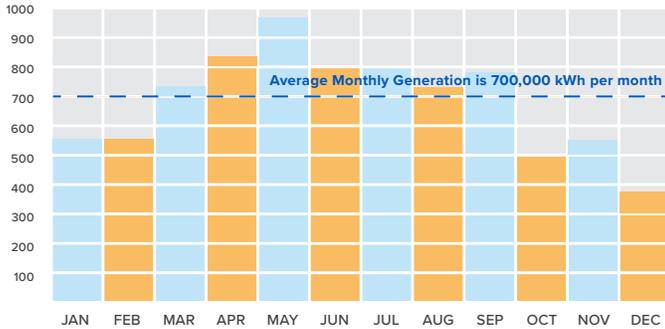
In 2018, EPE had a single warranty claim with substantially no impact on solar energy output.

The Solar Facility's energy output varies monthly depending on the season and weather conditions, which is typical for solar resources. In the winter, with shorter days, the amount of sunlight that reaches the system is lower, which in turn reduces solar production. In the summer, the sun sits at a higher angle in the sky and the days are longer, providing more sunlight and increasing solar energy production.



Texas Community Solar Facility in East El Paso, TX

Below is a summary of monthly solar generation.



Energy and Environment

In 2018, the Solar Facility generated 8.4 million kWh of energy, or an average of 704,074 kWh a month.

As a result of operating the Solar Facility, over 9.7 million pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂), 9,299 pounds of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and 48 pounds of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions were avoided last year.

Program Use of Funds

The cost to build and implement the TCSP was \$ 7.7 million. The total revenue collected from subscribing customers in 2018 was \$752,652. This revenue is used to recover the cost of the Solar Facility’s construction, operation and maintenance, as well as the TCSP’s implementation costs.

Renewable Energy Education

EPE continues to educate our community about solar, other renewable energy technologies and electric transportation.

During 2018, EPE provided over 20 presentations to local elementary, middle and high schools, universities, civic groups, government agencies and Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education students. Presentations included hands-on educational displays such as a solar powered race track, solar toys and EPE’s plug-in electric vehicles. Additionally, EPE has conducted numerous tours of the Solar Facility to program participants, environmental organizations and other interested EPE customers.

About the Program

At its inception, the TCSP was the first community solar program in the state of Texas owned and operated by an investor-owned public utility. The Program provides customers several benefits including:

- No solar panels on their roof;
- Easy enrollment process;
- A portable subscription that can be transferred with the customer within EPE’s Texas service territory;
- No penalties for leaving the program; and
- A fixed solar rate that could potentially decrease as EPE expands the Program.

EPE’s TCSP opened for enrollment in late March 2017 and was fully subscribed in less than one month. As of December 31, 2018, 1,463 customers were enrolled in the Program. EPE continues to place customers who are interested in participating in the Program on a waiting list until additional capacity becomes available. Currently, the TCSP has a waiting list of over 1,000 customers.

Program Expansion

Given the positive response from EPE’s Texas customers and the number of customers waiting to join the Program, in spring of 2018 EPE filed an application with the Texas Commission to expand the program by an additional two MWs. EPE’s proposal was approved on May 9, 2019, by the Texas Commission and should be approved by the remaining municipalities by the end of June. Once the program expansion is approved by all regulating entities, customers on the waiting list will be able to join the program

and the monthly capacity charge will be reduced for all customers in the Program by 15.8%, from \$20.96 to \$17.64.

Program Expansion Facts:

-  2 MW of solar will be added to the program through a second facility;
-  The new and reduced subscription price for all participating customers will be \$17.64 and
-  The expansion should be available on July 1, 2019.