



## Texas Community Solar Program 2017 Annual Report

As a subscriber to the El Paso Electric Company (“EPE”) Texas Community Solar Program (“TCSP” or “Program”), you are receiving this report to provide you with information on the status of the TCSP and the amount of solar energy generated during the past year by the Texas community solar facility. Program subscribers will receive this report annually, and EPE will also file a copy with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (“PUCT”) pursuant to the reporting requirements described in the final order for PUCT Docket No.44800.



### 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, 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 rate that never increases and 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, 2017, 1,468 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.

### Texas Community Solar Facility

The energy for the TCSP is provided by the Texas Community Solar Facility (TCSF), a three megawatt (“MW”) solar power plant located in Far East El Paso, which began commercial operation on May 31, 2017. The TCSF is owned, operated, and maintained by EPE and consists of 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.



*Texas Community Solar Facility in East El Paso, TX*

In 2017, EPE had several warranty claims but the claims had no impact on solar energy output as all issues were mitigated and fixed during night time.

The TCSF's energy output varies monthly depending on the season and weather conditions. 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.

### Energy and Environment

In 2017, the TCSF generated 4,868,646 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy, enough to power over 42 thousand laptops for a year.

As a result of operating the TCSF, over 5.8 million pounds of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), 7000 pounds of nitrous oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) and 32 pounds of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) 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 the last seven months of 2017 was \$376,808.40. This revenue is used to recover the cost of the TCSF's construction, operation, and maintenance, as well as the TCSP's implementation costs.

### Program Expansion

Given the positive response from EPE's Texas customers and the amount of customers waiting to join the Program, in spring of 2018 EPE filed an application with the PUCT to expand the TCSP by an additional two MW. EPE's proposal is currently undergoing the approval process with EPE's Texas regulators. If approved, 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 9.4%, from \$20.96 to \$18.99.

### New Mexico Community Solar Program

In April 2018, EPE filed an application with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission to implement a community solar program for customers in its New Mexico service territory. Like the Texas program, if approved EPE's New Mexico customers will have the opportunity to subscribe, on a voluntary basis to solar generation from a new two MW solar facility to be owned, operated, and maintained by EPE.

### Renewable Energy Education

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



*Texas Community Solar tour for EPE customers*

During 2017, EPE provided over 15 presentations to local elementary, middle and high schools, universities, civic groups, government agencies and Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics ("STEM") education events. Presentations included hands-on educational displays such as a solar powered car race track; solar toys and EPE's plug-in electric vehicles. Additionally, EPE has conducted numerous tours of the Texas Community Solar facility to program participants, environmental organizations, and other interested EPE customers.