

## **Solar\*Rewards Community 2024 Standard Offer Process**

The purpose of this process is the equitable and orderly interconnection assessment of Community Solar Garden projects for the Solar\*Rewards Community Standard Offer (S\*RC Standard Offer) program as part of the 2022-25 Renewable Energy Standard (RE or RES) Plan (Proceeding No. 21A-0625EG). This process is intended to augment the existing and approved interconnection process that is detailed in Section XV of the Settlement Agreement to the 2022-25 RES Plan. While this process is not intended to apply to any other RES programs approved in the 2022-25 RES Plan, the Company may consider bringing this or a similar process forward to RES stakeholders or the Commission for broader application in the future, subject to full Commission review.

### **Developer Registration Process**

Each Community Solar Garden (CSG) developer who submits a complete Standard Offer application will be vetted by Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or the Company) program staff with possible assistance or review from other stakeholder entities such as Commission Staff, the Colorado Solar and Storage Association (COSSA), and/or the Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA).

- **Fill Out and Submit Standard Offer Registration Form** – Program will review each form utilizing the criteria referenced below. The registration period will be open for the duration of the Standard Offer. The Company will need at least one week to review the form and confirm eligibility. Applicants should submit the form at least one week prior to the launch of the Standard Offer.
  - **Developer Identification** – Each developer that is successfully registered for inclusion in the interconnection application process will be identified by name and will be listed publicly for participation in the process, interconnection queues, and other information provided by the program for communication purposes.
  - **Developer Vetting** – To ensure interconnection applications are only submitted by a single entity, and in addition to ensuring developers comply with existing eligibility requirements, the Company reserves the right to vet all developers who submit an interconnection request. In vetting developers to ensure a single entity is submitting an interconnection request, the Company may consider, but is not limited to considering, the following information to determine that a participating developer is in fact a single entity:
    - Prior RFP or Standard Offer Participation
    - Evidence of company website including named project staff and leadership
    - Registration as a recognized Business Organization with the Colorado Secretary of State
    - Employer Identification Number (EIN)
    - Annual Reports
    - Participation in Industry Associations
  - **Eligibility Limitations:**
    - Project LLCs or subsidiaries or other subdivisions of a parent entity are not eligible to submit as separate developer entities.
    - Identification codes are non-transferable and may not be sold or re-sold as part of the Solar\*Rewards Community interconnection process.

- **Cure Process** – If a developer presents incomplete or inaccurate information as part of the registration process or is determined through the vetting process to be ineligible, they will be notified in writing and provided ten calendar days to correct the information. The use of fraudulent information, or the intentional circumvention of this process, as determined solely by the Company, will result in the disqualification of the developer and any affiliated entities from continued participation in any S\*RC acquisitions undertaken as part of the 2022-2025 RE Plan.

## Interconnection Request Timeline and Capacity

Interconnection applications will be accepted in three tranches, each with a capacity of 100 MW<sub>AC</sub>, to be released every six months from the date of the prior Standard Offer tranche release. The first tranche will be released within 30 days of the Commission decision authorizing the release of the 2022-25 Standard Offer capacity under the interconnection process identified in this document. The objective of this process is to help mitigate interconnection study and queue congestion for the S\*RC Standard Offer, in addition to the annual release of capacity for the Off-Site Net Metering Standard Offer, the Solar\*Rewards Large RFP programs, and the Solar\*Rewards C&I programs.

### Interconnection Timeline

Date	Capacity Available
<u>06/24/2024</u>	100 MW <sub>AC</sub>
<u>1/06/2025</u> <sup>1</sup>	100 MW <sub>AC</sub>
<u>06/24/2025</u>	100 MW <sub>AC</sub>

- **Process:**

Within 10 business days before each tranche's opening, the Company shall provide a feeder-level distribution queue to registered developers.

In each tranche, developers can create and submit one of the following every ten business days, beginning on the start date of each tranche:

1. One (1) Interconnection application not greater than 10 MW<sub>ac</sub>, or  
**OR**
2. Up to four (4) interconnection applications provided each application is no greater than 250 kW<sub>AC</sub>.

The Company will notify registered developers of the status of the full 100 MW<sub>AC</sub> of application capacity throughout the process. If the full 100 MW<sub>AC</sub> is not approved into the interconnection process, the

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<sup>1</sup> Per the motion, the process is to be suspended from December 15 through January 5 in observance of the holiday season. Applications will be accepted in the second tranche on 1/6/2025

Company will post the public interconnection queue bi-monthly. Regardless, the Company will continue to post interconnection queue information at least monthly.

The Company will also allow for adjustments to interconnection tranche for projects that are reported as withdrawn by the applicant in the online application management system. However, the Standard Offer interconnection capacity associated with withdrawn awarded projects will not be added to a tranche that has been closed. The Company will make a final adjustment accounting for withdrawn project budgets in the final interconnection request tranche depending on the remaining Standard Offer budgets available and withdrawn interconnection requests.

The Company will host “check-ins” with COSSA, CCSA and interested stakeholders in between each tranche release to evaluate and discuss how the interconnection process is working, the reason for and magnitude of project withdrawals, the capacity roll-forward process, and whether additional modifications to this process may be warranted.

Applications must be submitted in the [Interconnection Application Portal](#). Developers can register for an account prior to the launch of the interconnection tranches. The portal process instructions and required information are available on the [website](#).

- **Interconnection Requirements and Criteria**

Proof of Escrow will be required to be submitted in the portal in the amount of \$100/kW<sub>ac</sub>. Escrow is required per PUC Rule 3882(d)(1) and will be released if the project is withdrawn or once the Company receives the interconnection agreement payment.

Co-Location - The system must be wholly located and interconnected within Public Service’s certificated service territory and must interconnect directly to the Public Service system. Requests for locations outside of the service territory for any reason will be denied. Co-location of CSGs is prohibited and there is a limitation for a single CSG per parcel per vintage. Vintage will be defined as each offering. For the purposes of Public Service’s 2022-2025 RE Plan, this will include any previous vintages (as part of RFPs, Standard Offers, etc.), and each block of Standard Offers issued at different pricing levels. Parcels may not be split after Nov. 3, 2022, the effective date of the 2022-2025 RE Plan. In all cases, each system must have a separate meter and interconnection.

## Awarding Projects

Program awards issued under the S\*RC Standard Offer will be exclusive to the S\*RC Standard Offer program and not part of the capacity of another program as part of the 2022-25 RES Plan.

- **Process:**

Program applications will be awarded until the approved budgeted spend is exhausted. Any withdrawn program spend will roll over into the next tranche available. There will be three pricing levels of Program

budget spend that will be issued as follows<sup>2</sup>:

<b>General Standard Offer Pricing</b>		
<b>Pricing Level</b>	<b>Budget (\$ Year One Cost Max)</b>	<b>Incentive (\$/kWh)</b>
1	3,600,000	(\$0.03415)
2	3,600,000	(\$0.03757)
3	3,600,000	(\$0.04132)
Total	10,800,000	
<b>IQ/DI Community Standard Offer Pricing</b>		
<b>Pricing Level</b>	<b>Budget (\$ Year One Cost Max)</b>	<b>Incentive (\$/kWh)</b>
1	8,400,000	\$0.01507
2	8,300,000	\$0.01356
3	8,300,000	\$0.01221
Total	25,000,000	

The incentive pricing is set based on the weighted average prices in the 2023 Solar\*Rewards Community RFP. If the Producer elects to keep the REC, an adjustment of \$0.01 will be subtracted from the Pricing above.

Applicant can submit the project to the program after executing an Interconnection Agreement and must submit the following information in the interconnection portal to the Program:

1. Proof of Interconnection Application Payment<sup>3</sup>
2. Proof of Program Deposit – \$50/kW<sub>ac</sub>
3. Proof of Non-Ministerial Permit Approval (zoning permits, variance approval, land us, and (if applicable) environmental consultations)
4. Applicant must designate if applying for General or IQ/DIC pricing.

<sup>2</sup> Subject to change. May increase if projects awarded in the 2023 Solar\*Rewards Community RFP withdraw.

<sup>3</sup> Interconnection Applications that have a signed and funded interconnection agreement but were unable to receive an award before budgeted spend was allocated for each tranche will be eligible to participate in the following tranche. Interconnection Agreement payments received will be placed on hold until program acceptance is provided.

- **Subscriber Commitment Requirements**

General – All projects shall have a minimum commitment of at least 50% of CSG capacity that corresponds to residential, small commercial, agricultural, or eligible IQ/DI Community subscribers.

Income Qualified and Disproportionately Impacted Community – All projects shall have commitment of 100% of CSG capacity to IQ/DI community subscribers with a minimum 30% net savings as measured by the difference between the bill credit and the subscription fee. Furthermore, at least 50% of capacity must be fully donated to direct-billed residential Income Qualified subscribers.

[IQ/DI Community Eligibility Requirements](#)

- **Project Extensions**

Extensions to the projects required substantial completeness due date will also be granted to developers with an extension length that corresponds to delays attributable to Public Service or substation upgrades so long as developers plan for Public Service's then-current guidance for expected time for ordering equipment and scheduling applicable work (but not to the extent caused by the developer's mismanagement, negligence, or other breach of applicable agreements); such extensions shall not require forfeiture of deposit or otherwise toll the other extension eligibilities and policies. To be clear, extensions will only be available when Public Service's timeline exceeds the mechanical completion timeline as calculated at the time of Interconnection Agreement execution. Projects also will receive a day-for-day extension for each business day that Public Service exceeds the Interconnection Timelines as provided by the Commission's Interconnection Procedures and Standards Rules.

**Please note that program policies and sample documents are available on the Solar\*Rewards Community Developer Resources section of the Company's website.**