



**Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager**

# Board of Directors Considers Community Solar Project

As I have reported in previous newsletters, the Clark Electric Cooperative Board of Directors is in the process of considering construction of a solar generation project. The project, based upon member interest, would be a 50 kilowatt (kW) community solar garden to be located next to the cooperative's new headquarters facility. By taking advantage of economies of scale, we hope to offer a highly competitive solar product to our membership.

The general concept is designed for those members interested in an affordable option to purchase renewable solar energy. Members have the opportunity to purchase a subscription unit and receive credit equal to their share of the array's output on your electric bill.

By utilizing a solar garden approach, issues such as inadequate space for solar panes near your home, too many trees that would block the sun at your residence, cost of a small PV (solar) array, installing panels on your rooftop, insurance, and interconnection of the PV system to the grid all go away. In addition, all operation and maintenance issues would be handled by Clark Electric Cooperative. Any residential/seasonal member, regardless weather you own or rent your home and where you live, who pays a monthly electric bill to Clark Electric Cooperative could be a potential candidate for participating in the community solar project.

A participation unit sells for \$940. If you would like



more information on Clark Electric Cooperative's community solar project, please give us a call, or complete the form below and return it to our office (with your electric bill is fine). We have reached the stage where we are ready to take commitments for participation in the project. We would like to have enough participants to move forward with this project by April 15, 2015. Below are some frequently asked questions regarding the solar project.

### Clark Community Solar Garden Frequently Asked Questions

**Why is Clark Electric Cooperative building community solar?** A segment of the Clark Electric Cooperative membership has expressed a significant interest for a cooperative-owned source for renewable energy. The purpose of the program is to provide Clark Electric Cooperative members with an affordable option to acquire locally produced renewable energy.

**How do I participate in the Community Solar Garden project?** You must sign a Solar Subscription Agreement and make a one-time payment for subscription unit(s) in the amount of \$940 per unit.

**Are there any restrictions or limitations on who may subscribe to Clark Electric's community solar project?** Yes, the subscribing member must have a single-phase account with Clark Electric Cooperative. Time-of-day metering will not qualify under this program.

**What size is the solar array and where is it located?** The Clark Community Solar Garden is a 50.4 kW array located at the Clark Electric Cooperative headquarters facility in Greenwood.

**Why doesn't Clark Electric Cooperative just install solar without payment from members?** Obtaining power from small-scale renewable generation sources costs more today than traditional sources. Many of our members indicated they do not want to pay more for renewable generation. However, some of our members are willing to invest in this technology. This project was identified as a way to meet the needs of members who want their generation from a renewable resource.

**What is a subscription unit?** A subscription unit represents 360 watts of energy-producing capacity. The energy-producing capacity of Clark Community Solar Garden totals 50,400 watts (50.4 kW). The co-op will offer 133 units for sale. Five percent of the total energy-producing capacity of the Solar Garden is being reserved to fund routine operation and maintenance.

*(Continued on page 28 ►)*

#### I would like to learn more about Clark Electric Cooperative's Community Solar Project

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Clark Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 190, Greenwood, WI 54437

# Annual Meeting Set for April 9, 2015

Clark Electric Cooperative's annual meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2015, at the American Legion Hall in Loyal, Wisconsin, starting at 9:30 a.m.

The annual meeting is an important event for the cooperative. Members will hear reports about the cooperative and the electric industry, review financials, conduct business,

and elect their representatives to serve on the board of directors.

The members will be asked to elect three directors, for three-year terms. Directors whose terms are expiring this year are Chuck Bena from the Town of Mead area, Herman Seebandt from the Town of Weston area, and Marvin Verkuilen from the Town of

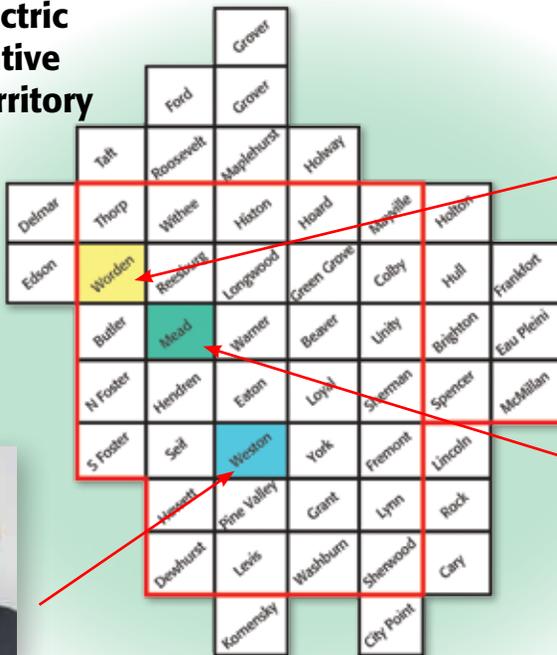
Worden area. All three directors are eligible for re-election. Nominations for the director positions are taken from the floor of the meeting.

The cooperative's bylaws establish the minimum qualifications for being a director. A copy of the bylaws is available on the cooperative's website at [www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com) or by calling the office, 715-267-6188. If you have any additional questions about becoming a director, please contact Tim Stewart, CEO/GM, at the business office.

Directors are expected to attend monthly board meetings; represent the co-op in state, regional, and national affairs; and take advantage of NRECA educational opportunities such as classes, seminars, and workshops. Directors need to read, study, and analyze a lot of information throughout the month to keep informed on the electric industry as a whole. Directors will spend approximately 20 to 35 days a year in performance of their duties.

Plan to attend the annual meeting, enjoy a nice meal, register for door prizes, and help conduct the business of your electric utility. Member involvement is critically important to the success of your cooperative. ■

## Clark Electric Cooperative Service Territory



Marvin Verkuilen



Herman Seebandt



Chuck Bena

Directors whose terms are expiring this year and the town in which they reside are shown here.

## Scholarship Applications Due March 9

Clark Electric Cooperative is once again offering scholarships to graduating students from participating high schools in our service area. One \$1,000 scholarship will be available for a student from each school or group of schools in our service area. To be considered, the student's parent or legal guardian must be a member of Clark Electric Cooperative and currently receive electric service at their primary residence from the co-op. Applications are available from high school guidance counselors, at [www.cecoop.com](http://www.cecoop.com), and at the co-op office, 124 N Main St., Greenwood.

**All applications must be returned to the cooperative office by 5 p.m. Friday, March 9, 2015.**

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Nelson, administrative assistant, at 715-267-6188 or 1-800-272-6188. ■



## Solar Q & A

(Continued from page 4)

**How much will each 360-watt subscription unit cost?** The cost is \$940 per 360-watt unit based upon on a 50.4 kW installed system.

**Is there a limit on how many units a member can buy?** Units are sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Do I pay the full \$940 per unit price in advance?** During the subscription period, members who want to subscribe to the Clark Community Solar Garden project will be asked to pay \$300 per unit. The balance will be due at a date to be determined. The deposit will not be refunded unless the project does not proceed as anticipated or if the subscriber requests the deposit refunded within 10 business days of paying such deposit.

**If I buy more than one unit, is there a price reduction for additional units?** No. Since the benefit of each unit purchased is equal in energy production, and to make available the best pricing for every member, there will be no discount for multiple unit purchases.

**How can I pay the deposit and final payment?** Cash, personal checks, or money order. Credit cards will not be accepted for this. Forward Financial may provide financing for qualified customers to pay subscription units.

**Can I file and collect the federal tax credit to cover a portion of the cost of my participation as a subscriber?** Based on recent IRS guidance, the cooperative does not believe that the purchase of subscription units according to the terms of the Subscriber Agreement would qualify for a federal residential tax credit. However, the cooperative is not

in a position to provide tax advice and therefore interested members should consult their personal tax advisor.

**By participating, do I own part of the Clark Community Solar Garden?** No, members are purchasing the capacity to produce renewable energy, not the hardware or components of the actual solar array. There are no rebates or tax benefits for participating.

**Are there additional annual costs to participate in the Clark Electric Community Solar project for the first 25 years?** No, not directly. For 25 years following the in-service date, no additional out-of-pocket fees or charges will be assessed to the member participants except those specified in the Solar Subscription Agreement. The cost of insurance and maintenance will be paid from a separate account established by the cooperative. In the event of unanticipated maintenance or repair costs (not covered by the manufacturer's warranty), the Subscription Agreement allows for the cooperative to reserve up to 10 percent of the energy production capacity of the Solar Garden, which would proportionally reduce the net metering credit allocated to participants.

**How is the monthly energy production attributed to a subscriber's account calculated?** It shall be determined by dividing the monthly kWh energy production attributable to the available capacity of the solar facility in the prior month by the number of total subscription units. The resulting amount will be the credits in kWhs allocated per subscription unit. Each participating member's account is credited the kWh for each unit they own, offsetting energy purchase in that month on a kWh-for-kWh basis, in effect lowering the monthly electric bill by the amount of renewable energy produced per unit.

**Will one subscription unit cover my entire electric bill?** No, each unit will generate approximately 470 kWh annually. Energy production will vary based on total sunshine and time of year. Solar credit (kWh) over subscriber's monthly usage will be "banked" and credited to the subscriber's account as provided in cooperative Policy No. 417 – Distributed Generation.

**Can the subscriber sell his/her subscription units?** Yes. Subscribers may sell all of their subscription units to the cooperative at a surrender value to be determined according to the number of years elapsed from the start-up date at the time of repurchase. The unit can also be transferred to another qualifying account or sold to another qualified Clark Electric member.

**What if I move?** Subscribers will have four options:

- Sell the subscription unit(s) back to the cooperative.
- Keep the subscription unit(s) with existing home if the new member wants to purchase them.
- Sell the subscription unit(s) to another qualified member that is already served by the cooperative.
- Transfer the unit to another one of your qualifying accounts.

**What is the term of the Subscription Agreement?** The term is 25 years from the in-service date, subject to early termination upon sale or surrender of the subscription units, as provided in the agreement.

**What is the life expectancy of the system?** 25 years. The modules are warranted for the same duration. Over time, the electric production will decrease approximately .1 percent per year, according to the manufacturer. ■

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## Years of Service Awards

Clark Electric Cooperative recently recognized two employees for their years of service. Pictured left to right are Warren Luedtke, 25 years, and Jim Mertens, 10 years. We congratulate Warren and Jim for reaching these employment milestones and thank them for their dedicated service.

## Wednesday, June 3, 2015 Dairyland Power Cooperative Annual Meeting

### 11 Delegates and 4 Alternates needed

Representing your cooperative and your fellow members at various meetings is an opportunity that we ask our members to participate in every year. The Dairyland Power Cooperative Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 2015, in La Crosse.

By attending and being a delegate for your cooperative, you help keep Clark Electric Cooperative strong and prosperous. If you would like to represent Clark Electric Cooperative at this meeting, please contact Tracy Nelson, administrative assistant, by Monday, April 6, 2015.

Tracy can be reached by calling the cooperative office at 715-267-6188 or at 800-272-6188.



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Contact Greg Shaw at:

Clark Electric  
Appliance & Satellite, Inc.  
111 E. Miller St. • Greenwood, WI 54437  
715-267-6544 • 866-279-6544



tthermgeo.com

## Daylight Savings Time March 8

If you are on our Time-of-Day Rate, you probably have a time clock controlling devices. Remember to switch the time clock on these devices forward one hour for Daylight Saving Time on Sunday, March 8, 2015. It is important that you reset your time clocks to avoid using electricity during peak times, resulting in a higher-than-normal electric bill.



## Clark Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Tim Stewart, CEO/Manager

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