



Solar Power From Con Edison Rooftops to Benefit Low-Income Customers

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NEW YORK, NY -- (Marketwire) -- 10/31/16 -- Con Edison proposed a pilot program today to build solar arrays on its company-owned building rooftops and properties to make clean, renewable energy available to low-income customers, a residential sector that has little access to the burgeoning rooftop solar market.

There would be no cost to low-income participants, who could realize savings of up to \$60 per year.

The company said in a filing (<http://bit.ly/2f0Tzwk>) with the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) that it can build up to 11 megawatts of solar generation over five years on more than 40 of its company facility rooftops and other properties in New York City and Westchester County. Con Edison estimated that the solar power generated from its facilities could serve 3,000 to 6,000 customers who are in the company's low-income bill assistance program.

"We are doing our part to help make sure that all our customers, regardless of income level, have access to clean, renewable energy," said Matthew Ketschke, vice president of Distributed Resource Integration for Con Edison. "We're committing to put solar panels on our warehouses, substations, office buildings, garages and other properties to expand access."

Following the model of the state's Community Distributed Generation program that began last year, Con Edison's "Shared Solar Pilot Program" would make solar power available to customers who receive bills directly from Con Edison, and who are enrolled in the company's low-income bill assistance program. They also would be encouraged to participate in an energy efficiency program.

While the value of the solar credit will vary, Con Edison estimates that a customer who signs up for 300 kilowatt hours a month of solar energy -- the amount of energy consumed by a typical New York City residential customer -- could save up to \$5 a month off a bill of about \$80. Customers will never pay more in any given month under the Shared Solar Pilot Program than they would have without participating in the program.

Con Edison's filing is designed to help advance the state's "Reforming the Energy Vision" (REV) initiative, which aims to give customers more access to distributed generation and other products and services that can help them manage their usage.

Several factors have made it difficult for low-income customers to access solar energy. First, many of them rent their homes or live in multi-family buildings where they do not have control of their roofs. The upfront costs of installing solar panels and ability to borrow money can also be barriers. Of more than 10,000 Con Edison customers who have solar panels, only about 200 are in the company's low income program.

Con Edison's plan is to initially build 3 megawatts of generation to serve 800 to 1,600 low-income metered customers. The company said it has already identified eight properties -- four in Queens, two in Brooklyn and two in Westchester County -- that would be appropriate for solar panels.

The company would use a competitive process to select contractors to design and build the solar arrays and then buy the projects from the developers. If the PSC approves the proposed pilot, Con Edison would partner with community organizations to help market the program to eligible customers. Con Edison estimates the cost of the program to be about \$33 million.

Con Edison already has solar panels on its headquarters in Manhattan. Those panels produce 40 kilowatts of power to the building.

Con Edison is a subsidiary of Consolidated Edison, Inc. (NYSE: ED), one of the nation's largest investor-owned energy companies, with approximately \$13 billion in annual revenues and \$47 billion in assets. The utility provides electric, gas and steam service to customers in New York City and Westchester County, N.Y. For additional financial, operations and customer service information, visit www.conEd.com, for energy efficiency rebates and incentives www.coned.com/energyefficiency, and on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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Contact:
Media Relations
212-460-4111

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