

Northwind Solar has 16 years of history consulting on, developing, and building solar projects across the State of Wisconsin. We've worked with over 14 different utilities in the State to interconnect over 700 distributed solar and solar + storage projects behind the meter. We're committed to foster access to low and moderate income households to reap the benefits of distributed solar.



The challenges we've faced when contemplating community solar projects in Wisconsin are primarily rooted in a lack of legislative and regulatory clarity around developing non-utility owned projects. Despite bills being introduced in the last two State legislative sessions attempting to provide clarification on the matter they have not passed. Developers and community solar advocate organizations continue to face a situation with too much uncertainty to justify putting time into actual project development.

However, with the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act at the Federal level and the incentives it provides to rural electric cooperative utilities there is seemingly a new opportunity to partner with these entities to develop community solar projects that provide access to the benefits of solar power generation to low and moderate income people in rural areas. There are 24 distribution cooperatives in WI spread out throughout the State. Most of them lack the technical expertise to develop, own, and operate their own solar generation facilities on their distribution system.

That is where we can help. Northwind has the technical expertise to work with both cooperative utilities and community partners to educate utilities and their members and to build and maintain the physical infrastructure. The utilities understand very well their own own distribution grid infrastructure and the load profile on it through out the year. They have longstanding relationships with farmers and other landowners that can yield targeted siting of these projects to make them the most beneficial to the distribution grid and effectively offset costs to cooperative members generally and subscribers to a community solar program specifically.