



## Community Solar Share Initiative (CoSSi) - Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Newton's Community Solar Share Initiative (CoSSi)?

Newton's Community Solar Share Initiative (CoSSi) is a program that enables Newton households that are eligible for Eversource's low-income electricity rate to obtain additional savings on their electricity bills, based on credits generated by the City's Department of Public Works (DPW) solar paneled carport at 70 Elliot Street. Each eligible household saves approximately \$40 per year as a result of the program.

### How does the program work?

Solar panels on a carport constructed over the DPW parking lot generate electricity that goes into the New England electric grid. In exchange for this electricity, the City receives net metering credits that can be used to lower the City's cost of electricity. The City uses about 60% of the credits to offset the cost of the solar project and allocates about 40% to Newton electricity customers who qualify for Eversource's low-income rate.

### How is the CoSSi program implemented?

When the program began, Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) sent a letter from the Mayor to eligible households explaining the program. ABCD will send out such a letter in the future on a periodic basis.

### Which residents will get the credits?

Any Newton electricity customers that receive the low-income electric discount rate from Eversource are automatically eligible for a share of the net metering credits unless they decide to opt out of the program. All participating households get an equal share of the credits.

### How many households in Newton are eligible for the credits?

ABCD has informed the City that about 1300 households in Newton receive the low-income electric discount rate.

### Is anything else required to participate?

Participants must allow ABCD and Eversource to share their electric account numbers with the City. No other information is shared with the City, and participants' identifying information is kept confidential.

### What happens if someone receiving credits moves, or otherwise terminates their relationship with Eversource?

Eversource notifies the City, and the City can allocate that household's credits to other customers who become eligible.

### What happens when someone new becomes eligible for the low-income discounted electric rate from Eversource?



The process will be the same as for enrolling residents in the program the first time; that is, the household will receive a letter explaining the program. Customers who want to participate don't have to do anything and are enrolled automatically. If they don't want to participate, they sign the enclosed form and send it to ABCD.

**Can a participating household leave the program?**

Yes, at any time, by contacting ABCD or the City.

**How do you apply for credits?**

To find out if you are already eligible for the Eversource low-income rate or to apply for that rate, contact one of the City's social workers, Emily Kuhl, 617-796-1672, at the Newton Senior Center, or Meghan Kennedy, 617-796-1420, at Newton City Hall.

**I need general information about the CoSSI program. Who should I contact?**

For general information about the CoSSI program, contact Amalia Timbers in the office of Mayor Ruthanne Fuller, 617-796-1102.