



La Plata Electric Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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# NEWS

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## **LPEA Receives Over 500 Applications for Sunnyside Community Solar *Application Period Extended for Income-Qualified Program***

**DURANGO, Colo.** – The application period for La Plata Electric Association’s (LPEA) Sunnyside Community Solar program closed on Thursday, August 29 and received 525 total qualified applications. This new subscription program allows LPEA members to subscribe to locally generated solar energy without installing panels on their homes. Members can access clean energy from a shared solar array and receive credits on their electric bills. The program has two parts: one for income-qualified members and another open to all residential and commercial LPEA members. By subscribing, members contribute to community environmental goals while getting hassle-free access to sustainable energy.

“You never know what you’re going to get when you launch a new program and we’re so excited about Sunnyside’s success – it’s great to see the demand for clean, local utility-scale energy,” said Dan Harms, LPEA Executive VP of Grid Solutions. “Our members’ enthusiasm for sustainable solutions fuels our commitment to expanding these vital programs.”

The general membership program received 260 applications and is for any residential or commercial member not already utilizing solar power whether through their own panels or another preexisting community solar garden. All applicants will be placed in a lottery as the capacity demand exceeds the available supply.

The income-qualified program received 265 applications qualified through partner Four Corners Office for Resource Efficiency (4CORE). This free program is dedicated to members with annual household incomes under 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Additional capacity is available, and the application period has been extended until the program is full. Members can apply at [4CORE’s website](#).

“We estimate there are 40 more spaces for the income-qualified program, and we’d like to see residents take advantage of this program,” added Jenny Hill, Executive Director, 4CORE.

Throughout the enrollment period in September, LPEA and 4CORE staff will contact all applicants whether they were selected or not. They will then work with all members who have been accepted to determine subscription size and sign subscription agreements. Subscriptions will officially start on October 1 and subscribers will see credits and subscription fees, if applicable, reflected on their November bill.

The subscription program, launched in partnership with 4CORE, allows LPEA members to access locally generated solar energy and receive credits on their electric bills, all without installing panels on their individual homes or businesses. The solar array includes 3,627 panels situated on 9 acres off Highway 550 near Sunnyside Elementary in Durango and constitutes LPEA’s first cooperative-owned community solar project. Subscriptions are for 5-year periods with this first period ending after about 4.5 years in March of 2029, at which point participating subscribers may renew or unenroll.

More information about the Sunnyside Community Solar Program may be found at [lpea.coop/sunnyside](http://lpea.coop/sunnyside).

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### **About LPEA**

LPEA is a member-owned, not-for-profit, electric distribution cooperative serving La Plata and Archuleta, with segments of Hinsdale, Mineral, and San Juan counties. LPEA is the fifth largest cooperative of 22 in Colorado, and aims to provide safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost to its approximately 36,500 members. For additional information, contact LPEA at (970) 247-5786 or visit [lpea.coop](http://lpea.coop).

### **About 4CORE**

The Four Corners Office for Resource Efficiency (4CORE) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit with the goal of providing climate solutions for people in southwest Colorado that ensure immediate energy and cost savings, especially for our underserved and underrepresented residents. 4CORE serves Southwest Colorado by promoting resource conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy through education and programs that strengthen the local economy and foster a healthy, sustainable environment. For more information about 4CORE and its initiatives, please visit [www.fourcore.org](http://www.fourcore.org).