

NEWS RELEASE



1414 W. Hamilton Ave.
P.O. Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008
(715) 737-2565 – Media Line
www.xcelenergy.com

Xcel Energy announces plans for Solar* Connect Community garden in Ashland

ASHLAND, WIS. (Jan. 4, 2018) - Community solar gardens continue to grow in Wisconsin. Today, Xcel Energy announced plans to develop a third, one-megawatt solar garden in Ashland. The garden will be part of Solar*Connect Community, Wisconsin's largest community solar garden program.

If sufficient customer interest is demonstrated, the Ashland garden will be built in 2019 by [OneEnergy Renewables](#), a leading developer of community and utility-scale solar projects across the country. The solar garden will be located on property near Xcel Energy's Ashland service center.

"This past year, we've had tremendous support for our Solar*Connect Community program from both residential and business customers," said Mark Stoering, president, Xcel Energy, Wisconsin. "They have told us they want more options when it comes to their energy and this program allows them to support locally sourced solar energy and receive bill credits at the same time."

The program's first one-megawatt community solar garden was energized in October 2017 in Eau Claire and construction of a one-megawatt garden in the greater La Crosse area is planned for 2018.

Customers looking forward to another locally-sourced community solar option

Xcel Energy customers are excited about having a solar garden in the area. "Xcel Energy's development of a local solar garden is outstanding news," said Michael Miller, president, Northland College. "It will assist with Northland's goal of investing in renewable energy and becoming carbon neutral and assist the entire region in becoming resiliently self-sufficient. We applaud the development and will be in discussions about how to participate and support the effort."

Subscriptions available now

Subscriptions are on a first-come, first-served basis and open to any Xcel Energy electricity customer in Wisconsin. Customers can learn more at a UW Extension Renewable Energy Workshop on Feb. 8 or the Xcel Energy "60 Minutes of Solar" meeting on Feb. 22. Both events will be held in Ashland.

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For more information, visit xcelenergy.com/SolarConnectCommunity.

For more information about OneEnergy Renewables, visit www.oneenergyrenewables.com

About Xcel Energy

Xcel Energy (NASDAQ: XEL) provides the energy that powers millions of homes and businesses across eight Western and Midwestern states. With its Wisconsin headquarters located in Eau Claire, the company is an industry leader in responsibly reducing carbon emissions and producing and delivering clean energy solutions from a variety of renewable sources at competitive prices. For more information, visit xcelenergy.com or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).