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NEWS

Wisconsin regulators approve Superior Water, Light and Power's community solar garden

Superior, Wisconsin — The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin on Oct. 7 approved Superior Water, Light and Power's plan for a community solar garden.

The 470-kilowatt solar garden—large enough to power about 115 homes—will be built at 2828 Hammond Ave., near Heritage Park in Superior. SWL&P submitted its proposal for the "Superior Solar" project on Jan. 3 and expects to begin construction on Superior's first community solar garden in spring 2021.

"This is SWL&P's first electric generation source since the Winslow Generating Station closed in 1981. It's exciting for SWL&P and it's exciting for our customers to have a local renewable power option," said SWL&P President Rob Sandstrom.

The cost of Superior Solar—installation and maintenance over the 25-year life of the program—will be fully paid for by customers that choose to participate in the program. Costs will be fixed, which gives customers protection against changes in energy costs. Superior solar customers will retain ownership of any Solar Renewable Energy Credits.

Subscriptions will be offered in 1-kilowatt blocks. Customers can choose to purchase one block, or a range that includes up to their monthly electricity needs. Residential and business customers can choose from three options: an upfront one-time payment, a fixed monthly subscription fee or a fixed charge per kilowatt-hour.

In each option, participating customers receive a monthly credit for solar energy based on their subscription. All options are based on 25-year agreements, but customers will have the flexibility to leave the program at any time without penalty.

"This project is really about options and choices," said Joscelyn Skandel, Manager of Regulatory Compliance, Policy & Rates. "Our customers are asking for this option, and we are excited to provide the opportunity for customers who choose to receive their power from a renewable source right here in Superior."

Watch for additional information in coming weeks. With an approved tariff, SWL&P can begin officially registering customers for Superior Solar. If you've already signed up as interested in Superior Solar, SWL&P will be in contact with you very soon.

"We recognize COVID-19 has impacted every business in Superior. We are reviewing our list of local business that have expressed interest in the garden to see where their participation levels are at and how the virus may have changed their original interest," Skandel said. "If you are a local Superior business interested in a renewable generation option, please contact us to start the conversation."

SWL&P will accept subscribers on a first-come, first-served basis. Customers can visit www.swlp.com/solar, call (715) 395-6220 or email solarprogram@swlp.com for more information or to be placed on a solar interest list.

Superior Water, Light and Power provides electricity, water and natural gas in the city of Superior and adjacent areas in northwestern Wisconsin. The company has served the area since 1889 and provides services to approximately 15,000 electric customers, 13,000 natural gas customers and 10,000 water customers. More information can be found at www.swlp.com.

The statements contained in this release and statements that ALLETE may make orally in connection with this release that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and investors are directed to the risks discussed in documents filed by ALLETE with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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