



Planning, Development, and Assessment

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Memorandum

To: Climate Action Plan Steering Committee
From: Lewis Kuhlman, AICP
Date: August 21, 2023
Re: **Solar*Connect Community Program Subscription Preapproval**

On Wednesday, June 7th, Xcel Energy notified City staff that a 3.4 kW subscription to their Wisconsin Solar*Connect Community program became available and the City of La Crosse was next on the waitlist. Xcel wanted a response within 3 business days, which was not enough time to consult the Climate Action Plan Steering Committee (CAPSC) about the use of its funds. If the CAPSC wants to participate in this program, it can create preapproval parameters, such as a maximum budget, for staff to respond by the deadline.

The subscription cost is \$1600/kW, plus a \$200/kW enrollment fee—for 3.4 kW, the total cost would have been \$6,120.00. The total subscription fee is due in-full upfront. The solar credits are applied to the City's billing statement based on the previous month's solar generation from the Solar*Connect Community gardens. They begin within 1-2 billing cycles and continue for up to 25 years (or until cancelled or transferred). If the subscription is cancelled, a refund would be process based on the schedule outlined in the tariff/rules.

In June, there were about 40 customers on the waitlist, and the average wait time is 2-3 years. The City of La Crosse was initially put on the waitlist on September 14, 2021, and is now back at the end of the list.

For more information, the legislative file includes reference materials about the Solar*Connect Community program, such as the WI Solar*Connect Community Contract, Frequently Asked Questions, and website.