

Definitions-Scott County

Community Solar Energy System (also called a "Solar Garden") – a solar-electric (photovoltaic) array that provides retail electric power (or a financial proxy for retail power) to multiple community members or businesses residing or located off-site from the location of the solar energy system, under the provisions of Minn. Statutes 216B.1641 or successor statute.

Solar Array – Any number of solar photovoltaic modules or panels connected together to increase voltage and/or power to the level required for a given system.

Solar Collector – A device, or combination of device, structures, or part of a device or structure that transforms solar energy into thermal, chemical, or electrical energy and that contributes significantly to a structures' s energy supply. see Definition in Chapter 1.

Solar Energy System – A complete design or assembly consisting of a solar energy collector, an energy storage facility (where used), and components to the distribution of transformed energy (to the extent they cannot be used jointly with a conventional energy system). To qualify as a solar energy system, the system must be permanently located for not less than ninety (90) days in any calendar year beginning with the first calendar year after completion of construction.

Solar Energy System. Ground Mounted – A solar energy system mounted on a rack or pole that sits on the ground or has its own foundation and is not attached to a building.

Solar Energy System. Roof-top – A solar energy system mounted on the roof of a building and is accessory to the principal land use.

Solar Structure – A structure designed to utilize solar energy as an alternative for, or supplement to, a conventional energy system.

Definitions-Carver County

ARRAY (SOLAR) – Any number of solar photovoltaic modules or panels connected together to provide a single electrical output.

LARGE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM – A solar farm, where the primary land use of the parcel is for a solar array. Solar farms are composed of multiple solar panels on multiple mounting systems (poles or racks), and generally have a direct current (DC) rated capacity greater than 100 kilowatts.

MODULE (SOLAR) – A number of individual solar cells connected together in an environmentally protected housing producing a standard output voltage and power. Multiple modules/panels can be assembled into an array for increased power and/or voltage.

PHOTOVOLTAIC ARRAY – A group of solar photovoltaic modules connected together to increase voltage and/or power to the level required for a given system.

PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVICE – A system of components that generates electricity from incident sunlight by means of the photovoltaic effect, whether or not the device is able to store the energy produced for later use.

RENEWABLE ENERGY – Energy from sources that are not easily depleted such as moving water (hydro, tidal and wave power), biomass, geothermal energy, solar energy, wind energy, and energy from solid waste treatment plants.

SMALL SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM – A solar array that is an accessory use.

SOLAR CELL – The basic unit of a photovoltaic solar panel.

SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM (SES) – A set of devices whose primary purpose is to collect solar energy and convert and store it for useful purposes including heating and cooling buildings or other energy-using processes, or to produce generated power by means of any combination of collecting, transferring, or converting solar-generated energy. (See also: LARGE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM and SMALL SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM).

Definitions-Blue Earth County

Solar Energy System - A set of devices whose primary purpose is to collect solar energy and convert and store it for useful purposes including heating and cooling buildings or other energy-using processes, or to produce generated power by means of any combination of collecting, transferring, or converting solar-generated energy

Large Solar Energy System - A solar array or system with a power capacity equal to or greater than 100 kilowatts

Small Solar Energy System - A solar array that is a minimum of 120 square feet in size with a power capacity of less than 100 kilowatts

Photovoltaic Solar Energy System - A system of components that generates electricity from incident sunlight by means of the photovoltaic effect, whether or not the device is able to store the energy produced for later use

Reflecting Solar Energy System - A solar energy system that includes a device to reflect light onto the collector surface for the purpose of increasing the energy production of the system

Substations - Any electrical facility designed to convert electricity produced to a voltage for interconnection with transmission lines

Solar Array - Any number of solar photovoltaic modules or panels connected together to provide a single electrical output

Definitions-Waseca County

SOLAR FARMS - A solar array composed of multiple solar panels on ground-mounted rack or poles which is the primary land use for the parcel on which it is located and that are connected to the electric grid.

SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS ACCESSORY - A solar panel or array mounted on a building, pole or rack that is secondary to the primary use of the parcel on which it is located and which is directly connected to or designed to serve the majority of the energy needs of the primary use