



Comments to BPU on Permanent Community Solar Energy Program

Docket Number QO22030153

November 17, 2023

Unitarian Universalist FaithAction NJ is a faith-based group that affirms the worth and dignity of every person and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. For these reasons, we are especially determined to make sure that state policies support good health and quality of life for all people, living beings and natural systems in New Jersey.

UU FaithAction has commented on and supported the pilot Community Solar Program, and we have been pleased to see it develop and grow to 29 projects providing 50 MW of capacity, reaching 6000 New Jersey households. We hope to see it grow much more, and more rapidly, in the future. Our primary motivation in supporting it was to ensure access to renters and low-income households that would otherwise not have access to solar energy.

To increase participation in community solar projects, we urge the Board to reach out to municipalities and local news outlets to publicize their availability. We support provisions to simplify income verification, including self-attestation, as in the bill A4782 now moving through the Assembly. Finally, please simplify bill-paying by requiring a single bill to a customer.

We appreciate the good work of the Board of Public Utilities on this program.