

## **New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy Recognized as “Community Solar Champion”**

*Coalition for Community Solar Access honors Murphy for leadership on New Jersey Community Solar Program*

Trenton, NJ. (October 19, 2021) – The Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA) is marking a year of significant growth and momentum for community solar by recognizing individuals and organizations for their dedication to supporting and expanding community solar programs. In New Jersey, Governor Phil Murphy has been selected as a recipient of the 2021 Community Solar Champion Award among a nationwide group which includes state legislators, environmental and sustainability advocates, labor leaders, advocates for disadvantaged communities and farmers and agricultural groups.

Governor Murphy has a strong platform built on community solar and establishing a clean energy economy that serves all New Jerseyans. His work to pass enabling legislation in 2018, his Energy Master Plan, and his commitment to transition to non-carbon emitting resources have been thoughtful and inclusive. He has shepherded the community solar pilot program to a permanent part of the state's economy.

“Governor Murphy has been a leader on community solar since Day One of his administration,” said Leslie Elder, Mid-Atlantic Regional Director for CCSA. “From the passage of legislation establishing a community solar program in 2018 to today, he has dedicated tremendous time, effort and energy to develop a program that will expand access to solar, serve overburdened communities and power the Garden State economy. Working with a range of stakeholders, Governor Murphy has championed a program that will serve low-income residents and frontline communities to help meet New Jersey’s clean energy and climate goals, and modernize our grid by investing private capital in New Jersey’s economy. I thank him for his commitment and hard work and am proud to honor him as a CCSA 2021 Community Solar Champion.”

Through community solar, customers can enjoy equal access to the economic and environmental benefits of solar generation by subscribing to small local solar arrays. They then receive a credit on their utility bill for their share of the power that is produced, just as if the panels were on their own roof.

This is significant because more than 75 percent of American households don’t have access to solar power because they either rent, live in a multi-tenant building, or have roofs unable to host a solar system.

There are currently 21 states and the District of Columbia with policies in place that permit third-party community solar and multiple states advancing legislation to enable new programs.

New Jersey’s Community Solar Pilot Program is among the nation’s most comprehensive and equitable renewable energy programs and will help achieve Governor Murphy’s goal of 100 percent clean energy for New Jersey by 2050.

Community Solar Pilot Year 2 project selections will be announced no later than November 2021 and following Pilot Year 2, there will be a rapid deployment of a permanent program. Community solar capacity of 1125 MW will be advanced through 2026, sending strong market signals to the community solar industry and guaranteeing the market capacity that is needed to serve more New Jersey residents.

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### ***About Coalition for Community Solar Access***

The Coalition for Community Solar Access is a national Coalition of businesses and non-profits working to expand customer choice and access to solar for all American households and businesses through community solar. Our mission is to empower every American energy consumer with the option to choose local, clean, and affordable community solar. We work with customers, utilities, local stakeholders, and policymakers to develop and implement policies and best practices that ensure community solar programs provide a win, win, win for all, starting with the customer. For more information, visit <https://www.communitysolaraccess.org> and follow the group on [Facebook](#).