Dear Religious Leader,

What if there were an easy way for your congregation to be more faithful stewards of creation and of your community’s financial resources...at the same time? Thanks to recent advances in NY solar energy regulations, there now is a way to achieve this without any special equipment, with no up-front investment, and regardless of your access to the sun. Individuals, small businesses and nonprofits such as houses of worship or religious organizations can participate in a program called Community Solar. Community Solar allows you to subscribe to a local, community scale, solar array (also known as solar farms or gardens) ideally situated to provide solar electricity to the grid. Your share of electricity produced generates credits on your electricity bill that offset your electricity consumption, the results in up to a 10% reduction of your electricity bill.

Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action thinks this is such an easy way to make a meaningful impact that one of our first projects is to make as many faith communities aware of it as possible. Over 40 local congregations have already signed up and are seeing their electric bills drop while offering their members a thrifty way to responsibly care for our planet.

Since finding subscribers is a large portion of the costs associated with a community solar project, some community solar companies are offering donations to faith communities just for signing up. There is no cost to sign up, subscriptions are typically renewed after one year and can be cancelled without any fees (usually with a few months advance notice). RAICA has developed a relationship with Ampion, which is representing the local community solar farms recently installed by Abundant Energy. Ampion will make a donation to RAICA for each house of worship or religious institution referred (using the promotional code RAICA) of which RAICA will pass $150 on to the house of worship. In addition, houses of worship or religious organizations that subscribes to Ampion’s solar array will receive their own promotional code to receive a $50 donation for each person who signs up using their promo code.

You can find more information, including how to sign up at<https://www.raica.net/communnity-solar-campaign>.

We encourage every congregation to research its options for community solar providers, as contract terms, rates and incentives vary.

NYSERDA (NY State Energy Resource and Development Authority) has a website which shows community solar projects by location:<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/NY-Sun/Solar-for-Your-Home/Community-Solar/Community-Solar-Map>. Not all projects are currently operating or accepting new subscribers and some projects may operate through a variety of different firms with various roles.

We believe that the following (in addition to Abundant/Ampion) are currently accepting subscribers:

In the RG&E service area:

Astral Power (/Delaware River Solar): [https://www.astralpower.com](https://www.astralpower.com/); 866-922-7335.

Arcadia Power (/ForeFront): [www.arcadiapower.com/community-solar/new-york/](http://www.arcadiapower.com/community-solar/new-york/)

In the National Grid service are:

Blue Rock Energy: <https://bluerockenergy.com/grandislandsolar/>

In the NYSEG service area:

Blue Rock Energy: [https://bluerockenergy.com/solarfarm/](https://bluerockenergy.com/solarfarm/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

We invite you to explore our website, www.raica.net, for an abundance of resources to help your congregation participate in reversing climate change and in integrating caring for creation into your faith community. Subscribe to our website notifications to keep up to date on events and happenings. Click on Member login to become a member of our website and participate in conversations with other religious communities on environmental stewardship. Feel free to contact us for support on implementing Community Solar or other initiatives.

Living in hope,

Your Friends at Rochester Area Climate Action