



## Business and Residential Demand Strong for Affordable Community Solar in Minnesota

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*NRG Reaches Renewable Energy Agreements with Flagship National Business Customers*

PRINCETON, N.J.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Sep. 27, 2016-- NRG Energy, Inc. (NYSE:NRG) today announced that its renewables business has broken ground on its first five community solar projects in Minnesota and reached agreements to subscribe several national business customers to its solar farms in the state.

This Smart News Release features multimedia. View the full release here: <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20160927005390/en/>



“Across Minnesota we are hearing the same strong message from residents and businesses alike: they want to be powered by affordable, renewable energy,” said Drew Warshaw, Vice President, Community Solar, NRG. “Community solar gives them that opportunity – a simple, cost-effective path for residents and businesses to go solar without having to put panels on their roofs.”

NRG’s commitment to developing community solar in Minnesota (the state where NRG began operations in 1989) is moving forward with 25-year Solar Subscription Agreements (SSAs) signed by more than 1,000 residents and several large businesses in the state including:

- **U.S. Bank** – the 5th largest commercial bank in the United States, with six sites subscribed, including the iconic U.S. Bank Plaza in Minneapolis;
- **Land O’Lakes** – a national member-owned agricultural cooperative based in the

NRG has broken ground on its first community solar sites in Minnesota. Pictured here: one of the company’s existing sites in Freetown, Mass. (Photo: Business Wire)

Minneapolis-St. Paul suburb of Arden Hills, with its corporate headquarters subscribing;

- **Macy’s** – one of the nation’s premier retailers, with three of its retail sites subscribing;
- **Ecolab** – the global leader in water, hygiene and energy technologies and services headquartered in St. Paul, with several corporate facilities subscribing.

“We seek out partnerships that positively impact the environment and participating in this unique community solar garden initiative is a great example of that,” said Reba Dominski, senior vice president, Corporate Social Responsibility at U.S. Bank. “We are proud to be a subscriber along with Land O’Lakes, Macy’s, Ecolab and others, and congratulate NRG for its leadership and investment in this important work. We are excited to see the positive impact the gardens will have on our communities.”

NRG’s renewables business has broken ground on five projects in Minnesota that will provide clean energy:

- Forest Lake Project in Washington County – 6.7 MW dc (5 MW ac);
- Farmington Project in Dakota County – 6.1 MW dc (5 MW ac);
- Pine Island Project in Goodhue County – 3.5 MW dc (2.9 MW ac);
- Highway 14 Project in Olmstead County – 6.7 MW dc (5 MW ac);
- Dodge Project in Dodge County – 6.1 MW dc (5 MW ac).

All of the projects are slated for completion by early 2017. The five solar farms will serve both businesses and residential customers.

*How it works:* Business and residential customers in Minnesota subscribe to an NRG community solar farm by signing a 25-year SSA. Electricity generated at the solar farm goes to the local utility’s grid. Customers then receive a bill credit from their utility — in this case, Xcel Energy, Inc. — for their subscribed share of the electricity produced by the community solar farm.

"We'd like to thank Xcel Energy, Governor Dayton and the State Legislature for supporting this innovative community solar program," added NRG's Drew Warshaw. "Their forward-thinking leadership – along with that of our flagship customers in four Minnesota counties – is paving the way for other states to follow suit."

For more information on NRG's community solar program in Minnesota, [click here](#).

#### **About NRG**

NRG is the leading integrated power company in the U.S., built on the strength of the nation's largest and most diverse competitive electric generation portfolio and leading retail electricity platform. A Fortune 200 company, NRG creates value through best in class operations, reliable and efficient electric generation, and a retail platform serving residential and commercial businesses. Working with electricity customers, large and small, we continually innovate, embrace and implement sustainable solutions for producing and managing energy. We aim to be pioneers in developing smarter energy choices and delivering exceptional service as our retail electricity providers serve almost 3 million residential and commercial customers throughout the country. More information is available at [www.nrg.com](http://www.nrg.com). Connect with NRG Energy on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @nrgenergy.

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