

NOLA Public Schools
2401 Westbend Pkwy
New Orleans, LA 70114

March 28th, 2024

Clerk Lora W. Johnson
Clerk of Council
1300 Perdido Street, 2nd Floor West
New Orleans, LA 70112
Office No. (504) 658-1085
Fax No. (504) 658-1140
lwjohnson@nola.gov

Dear Councilmembers,

I'm writing in support of the rule changes to New Orleans' community solar program that are being suggested by Together New Orleans + the Alliance for Affordable Energy. NOLA Public Schools hopes to develop its own community solar projects, and we believe that clearer rules that incentivize development and prioritize equity will help community solar flourish in New Orleans.

We support, in particular, the rule changes relating to:

1. Utility-consolidated billing via a net crediting mechanism. We feel strongly that the success of New Orleans' community solar program depends on customers being able to see and pay their electricity and solar-related charges on one rather than multiple bills.
2. Simple methods for low-income verification. Allowing for multiple ways to verify LMI status, and only having to prove it once, are nationwide best practices that should be adopted in New Orleans to enable broad and simple access for LMI customers.
3. Calculating subscriber credits transparently, as demonstrated in NREL's analysis. ENO should confirm that it will calculate community solar credits as shown in NREL's analysis.

With these changes, we are excited to participate in standing up a thriving community solar program in New Orleans.

Thank you for the consideration,



Don P. LeDuff
Chief Operations Officer, NOLA Public Schools