

Arcadia

SB143 Electricity – Net Energy Metering – Accrual of Net Excess Generation
Maryland Senate
445th Session of the General Assembly
February 21, 2022
Position: Favorable

Testimony of Arcadia on SB143

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this legislation. Arcadia urges the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee to favorably report out this important legislation with amendment. Below is an introduction to Arcadia (or “the Company”) and an explanation of why we support this legislation with amendment.

Introduction to Arcadia

Arcadia is building the software necessary for Marylanders to realize the full benefits of clean energy. Today, customers face a bewildering assortment of energy technologies – ranging from energy efficiency and renewable energy to battery storage and electric vehicles – all of which have unique capabilities, costs, and user experiences. Arcadia’s software makes it possible for energy technology providers to delight their customers and move clean energy forward by enabling a simple user experience that saves people money.

The Company’s software is revolutionizing community solar, making it easy for people to sign up with guaranteed savings and without any risk. Today, Arcadia manages more than 84 MW across 54 projects in Maryland and more than 1 gigawatt nationwide, making it the largest community solar subscriber manager in the country.

Support for SB143

The Community Solar Energy Generating Systems (CSESGS) program allows Marylanders to access local renewable energy while receiving guaranteed savings on power bills, each month. Of course, a community solar farm’s electric output varies throughout the year, generally producing more in the summer and less in the winter. The amount of credits generated by the solar farm vary in an identical manner.

To ensure subscribers receive reliable community solar credits and savings, it is essential that their credits be allowed to rollover month-to-month without expiration, for the life of the project. This allows projects to properly allocate credits to subscribers in a consistent, predictable manner.

When it is forbidden to rollover credits, subscribers have a bad experience. Generally, the Maryland utilities pay out unused credits to subscribers in March or April of each year. How they do so varies but it is sometimes via a check sent through the mail. When subscribers are used to receiving their savings in the form of credits applied to their monthly power bill, receiving a small check from the utility, often in an amount of a few dollars, is a very confusing experience.

Ensuring customers have a reliable billing experience is essential to program success. Other leading community solar programs allow credits to rollover indefinitely, including those in New York and Delaware.

The amendment proposed by the Coalition for Community Solar Access, ensures this legislation applies to the CSEGS program. We support this amendment and have included it in the appendix for convenience.

Conclusion

Arcadia asks for a favorable report on SB143 with amendment. I appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony and would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me at James.Feinstein@arcadia.com or 202 999 8916 if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,



James Feinstein
Senior Policy Manager
Arcadia

APPENDIX: Coalition for Community Solar Access's proposed amendment to SB143

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 4, after line 21, insert the following: "SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That ~~it is the intent of the General Assembly that~~ the provisions of this Act shall also apply to subscribers to community solar energy generating systems authorized under Public Utilities Article § 7-306.2, except that each subscriber shall by default accrue net excess generation for an indefinite period under Public Utilities Article § 7-306(f)(5)(i)2 unless the subscriber elects to accrue net excess generation for a period not to exceed 12 months under Public Utilities Article § 7-306(f)(5)(i)1.".

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 4, in line 22, strike "2" and substitute "3".

Explanation: The purpose of this amendment is to clarify that the changes to the accrual of net excess generation implemented by SB143 also apply to the subscribers to community solar energy generating systems, with indefinite rollover of credits the default option.