

Island Community Solar Cooperative Project Site Selection Criteria

Island Community Solar Cooperative (ICSC) focuses on helping people and organizations participate in increasing the amount of distributed, clean, solar photovoltaic (PV) generated electricity in the Vancouver Island region. Here are some of the criteria we look for when reviewing prospective project sites with potential Clients:

Excellent solar exposure	<p>The building roof or facility the solar PV system is proposed to be installed on will ideally have these qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern exposure, tilted at 35 degrees (horizontal is acceptable but won't generate as much electricity); • Low or no shading from roof features or adjacent trees, buildings, hills etc
High electricity consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33,000+ kWh/year (total grid supplied) or; • 25,000+ kWh/year (total step 2 BC Hydro RS 1101 or diesel generator supplied)
High electricity cost	<p>Current electricity source is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grid-supplied BC Hydro residential rate RS 1101 with significant step 2 consumption; • Diesel generated electricity; • Grid-supplied BC Hydro small general service RS 1300
Long remaining roof lifetime	Solar PV systems can produce reliable power for 25 to 30 years so it's desirable to install on a roof that doesn't require renewal for at least the 20 year solar PV system lease period
Long term site facility lifetime	Since the cost of the solar PV system is spread out over time, ICSC requires the facility or building that the solar PV system is mounted on to last as long, or longer, than the life of the system
Long term business relationship	ICSC's best fit is with organizations that are looking for relationships that are financially and socially beneficial over the long term. Our typical Clients will be cooperative housing developments, residential apartment or condominium buildings, small remote communities etc that do not have enough savings available to pay the significant up-front cost for a large solar PV system but do have sufficient, steady cash-flow to cover their existing electricity bills
Support of the ICSC Mission	<i>"To empower individuals and communities in the Vancouver Island region to invest in transitioning towards a distributed renewable energy future by developing local solar projects"</i>
Support of the ICSC Vision	<i>"For everyone to be able to participate in making solar power a significant contributor to energy self-sufficiency on Vancouver Island"</i>