

#110

CB 117243

Jack Brautigam  
SCL, Community Solar Program Amendment, ORD  
June 22, 2011  
Version #3

**ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_**

AN ORDINANCE relating to the City Light Department; amending the Community Solar Program established in Seattle Municipal Code 21.49.087.

WHEREAS, Ordinance 123479 established SMC 21.49.087 which authorizes City Light to offer a Community Solar program and establishes a Community Solar rate; and

WHEREAS, all Seattle City Light customers will be eligible to participate in the program, subject to limited space availability; and

WHEREAS, SMC 21.49.087 includes specifications that the Community Solar program be offered on a first-come, first-served basis; and

WHEREAS, this revision to the legislation will allow City Light to implement the Community Solar program using methods to select program participants that are equitable to all customers and more in line with the principles of Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative, without impacting the goals, intent, or rates associated with the program;

NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Section 21.49.087 of the Seattle Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

21.49.087 Community Solar Program

A. The Community Solar Program allows customers to receive credits based on energy production from a solar photovoltaic (PV) array owned and managed by Seattle City Light.

B. The Community Solar Program ~~((shall))~~ may be offered on a voluntary basis ~~((and available to all customers on a first-come, first-served basis))~~ beginning in 2011. All Seattle City Light customers are eligible to participate, subject to limited space availability. Interested customers will initiate their participation with a voluntary one-time upfront payment and signed participant contract.



1 C. Each participating customer will receive an energy credit for each kWh produced by  
2 their portion of their assigned solar PV array, to be distributed annually as specified in a standard  
3 participant contract developed by the Department.

4 D. The credit for kWh produced by community solar PV arrays shall be equal to Seattle  
5 City Light's small general service energy charge for the City of Seattle (Schedule SMC)  
6 for all community solar participants, regardless of the rate schedule they fall under  
7 themselves.

8 E. Each participating customer will also receive annual renewable energy production  
9 incentive payments in accordance with RCW 82.16.110, as available through June, 2020.

10 F. The first community solar array owned by Seattle City Light will initially be funded by  
11 a Department of Energy grant of \$300,000. The voluntary Community Solar Program  
12 payments (enrollment fees) will replace some or all of the grant funding, and will be used  
13 to finance additional arrays in the same manner.

14 G. Seattle City Light has the right to terminate enrollment of new customers into the  
15 program at any time, but will meet obligations to participating customers through the  
16 term of their contracts.

17 H. Terms and conditions of the program will be developed by City Light and made  
18 available to program participants prior to their enrollment.

19 Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by  
20 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it  
21 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.  
22



1 Passed by the City Council the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011, and  
2 signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this  
3 \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
5 \_\_\_\_\_  
6 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

7  
8 Approved by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

9 \_\_\_\_\_  
10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 Michael McGinn, Mayor

12  
13 Filed by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15 \_\_\_\_\_  
16 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

17 (Seal)



**FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS**

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Contact Person/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Analyst/Phone:</b>
City Light	Leslie Brazeau / 684-3864	Calvin Chow / 684-4652

**Legislation Title:**

An Ordinance Relating to the City Light Department; amending the Community Solar Program established in Seattle Municipal Code 21.49.087

**Summary of the Legislation:**

**Background:**

SMC 21.49.087; established by Ordinance 123479, authorizes City Light to offer a Community Solar program beginning in 2011. The Community Solar Program allows customers to receive credits based on energy production from a solar photovoltaic (PV) array owned and managed by Seattle City Light, thus increasing access to and voluntary use of solar energy.

The purpose of this legislation is to revise SMC 21.49.087 without changing the goals, intent, or rates associated with the program. SMC 21.49.087 (B) currently specifies that the program be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Because, City Light has determined that there may be program delivery methods of greater value to its customers and more in line with Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative, this legislation would strike the "first-come, first-served" language and replace it with language that states all Seattle City Light customers are eligible to participate, subject to limited space availability.

Please check one of the following:

**This legislation does not have any financial implications.**

**This legislation has financial implications**





City of Seattle  
Office of the Mayor

July 19, 2011

Honorable Richard Conlin  
President  
Seattle City Council  
City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Dear Council President Conlin:

I am pleased to transmit the attached proposed Council Bill which would amend Seattle Municipal Code, Chapter 21.49.087 to provide needed flexibility in the implementation method for the City Light Community Solar program. Passage of this Council Bill is an important step toward providing City citizens with this renewable energy option.

SMC 21.49.087, established by Ordinance 123479, authorizes City Light to offer a Community Solar program in 2011. The Community Solar Program allows customers to receive credits based on energy production from a solar photovoltaic (PV) array owned and managed by Seattle City Light, thus increasing access to and voluntary use of solar energy. SMC 21.49.087 also establishes a Community Solar Rate for crediting participating customers.

SMC 21.49.087 (B) also specifies that the program be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. However, City Light has determined that there may be other program delivery methods of greater value and equity in accessibility to its customers, and more in line with Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative. The more appropriate language, suggested by this legislation, should reflect that all Seattle City Light customers are eligible to participate, subject to limited space availability.

An amendment to SMC 21.49.087 will not change the goals, intent, or rates associated with City Light's new and innovative Community Solar program. Instead, this technical correction will give City Light authority to implement the program in the way most fair and valuable to its customers. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. Should you have questions, please contact Glenn Atwood, Director, Conservation Resources Division at 684-3740.

Sincerely,

Michael McGinn  
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Honorable Members of the Seattle City Council

