

**Solar Gardens Institute Membership Form**

The Solar Gardens Institute (SGI), a Colorado Nonprofit, provides training and open source tools for developing inclusive community solar policy and projects everywhere.

**Solar Gardens Institute Mission Statement**

* To **educate** and learn from the public about community solar energy.
* To promote good community energy **policy** at the federal, state, and local levels
* To **assist** **local organizations** in organizing, developing, and managing community-owned solar energy projects everywhere.
* To provide a way for everyone to own solar panels, making clean energy **affordable and available** for all humanity.

**SGI Member Benefits**

An SGI member may -

* (Individual members only) Become a certified Solar Gardener through the Solar Gardener Training in order to –
	+ Receive policy and project assistance and consultation
	+ Seek project finance from qualified developers via the SGI Request for Proposal process
	+ If the SGI Request for Proposal process is used, receive payments upon project completion and for subscriber referrals
* Use theSolar Gardens Institute name and logo in a responsible and appropriate manner, always including the URL solargardens.org
* Vote and run in elections for Elected Roles (individual members only)
* Apply to serve in the capacity of one or more Individual Rolesor Organizational Roles
* Participate in person in the annual General Meeting and regional Confluences
* Participate in Regional Group meetings and email lists
* Receive the Monthly Member Report
* List available skills and request expert help from other members on the Skills Exchange
* With a specified minimum donation, list name and organization on the SGI Website and Map
* Display positive actions for community solar through social media on the News Feed
* Suggest news items for the News Feed
* Review the minutes of Council Regular Meetings
* Refer disputes to the Council for Dispute Resolution
* Request action by Council through their Regional Coordinator
* Vote on charter amendments approved by Council (approved on two-thirds vote of membership)

**SGI Member Duties**

An SGI Member will -

* Display the SGI Logo and endorse the SGI Mission Statementon website (organizations) or via social media (individuals).
* Follow the SGI Best Practices in dealings with or through SGI
* Each year, make a donation of at least $1 to SGI or an associated tax-deductible fund. While there are suggested donations for each membership level, the amount is less important than the act of donating. One member / one vote always applies, regardless of the size of a donation. Up to 75% of any donation may be pledged in support of a particular project, working group, regional group, or roleholder.
* Each month, take at least one positive action for the community solar movement (large or small) and report it via the SGI Positive Action form. This could take as little as a few minutes – the amount of time spent is less important than the intention behind the act itself. If you choose, the action will be shared on the SGI blog, newsletter, and in real time on social media. While there is no limit to the number of possible actions, SGI maintains a list of example positive actions.
* Not use SGI to promote specific products, services, or business models

**Contact Information**

**\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Organizational Membership**

**Name:**

**Organization:**

**Country:**

**City/County: State:**

**Street Address:**

**Home Phone: Office Phone: Mobile Phone:**

**Website:**

**My Electric Utility is:**

**\_\_\_\_ List me in the SGI Directory**

**Roles**

\_\_\_\_ **Solar Gardener** - I am interested in becoming a Community Organizer plus Project Manager through the Solar Gardener Training

\_\_\_\_ **Host** - I own or know of a site for a community solar array

\_\_\_\_ **Project Developer** - I am interested in co-developing projects with SGI

\_\_\_\_ **Intern** - I am interested in studying community solar at school

\_\_\_\_ **Master Gardener** - I have already developed a community solar project and am interested in sharing what I’ve learned

\_\_\_\_ **Fellow** – I have relevant knowledge through my industry, nonprofit, faith-based, or educational role, and would like to be considered for nomination as an SGI Fellow.

\_\_\_\_ **Elected Role** - I am interested in serving as an Officer, Councilmember, or Group Coordinator as described in the Charter

\_\_\_\_ **Utility** - I work with a \_\_\_\_Municipal, \_\_\_\_Cooperative, \_\_\_\_Public, or \_\_\_\_Investor Owned Utility

**Regional Groups**

I’m interested in the following regional groups:

\_\_\_\_ California

 \_\_\_\_ Bay Area

 \_\_\_\_ Santa Barbara

 \_\_\_\_ Los Angeles

 \_\_\_\_ San Diego

\_\_\_\_ Colorado

 \_\_\_\_ Boulder

 \_\_\_\_ Denver Metro

 \_\_\_\_ Fort Collins

 \_\_\_\_ Colorado Springs

 \_\_\_\_ Arkansas Valley

 \_\_\_\_ San Luis Valley

 \_\_\_\_ Durango

 \_\_\_\_ Grand Junction

\_\_\_\_ Iowa

\_\_\_\_ Maryland

\_\_\_\_ Massachusetts

\_\_\_\_ Michigan

\_\_\_\_ Minnesota

\_\_\_\_ Nebraska

\_\_\_\_ New Mexico

\_\_\_\_ New York

\_\_\_\_\_ Pacific Northwest

 \_\_\_\_ Portland

 \_\_\_\_ Seattle

 \_\_\_\_ San Juan Islands

\_\_\_\_ Wisconsin

\_\_\_\_ I am interested in helping to start a regional group in my country, state, or area

New Region: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Working Groups**

I am interested in participating in one or more working groups:

\_\_\_\_ **Education** – Solar Gardener Training, skills exchange, workshops

\_\_\_\_ **Outreach** – News Feed, media, fund raising, membership, events

\_\_\_\_ **Open Source** – Software, legal documents, financial models

\_\_\_\_ **Project Development** – Project checklist, technical assistance, developer ratings, request for proposal

\_\_\_\_ **Policy** – Legislation, zoning, permitting, interconnection, virtual net metering, tariffs, environmental

\_\_\_\_ **Inclusion** - dedicated to community solar for all income levels and demographic groups

**Donation**

Every SGI member must make a donation of at least one dollar – you can make a tax deductible donation by credit card online at: <https://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/50105/p/salsa/donation/common/public/?donate_page_KEY=9478>

 Or you may mail a check to:

Solar Gardens Institute

518 Sandpiper Dr.

Eastsound, WA 98245

**Monetary donations**

\_\_\_\_ SGI Subscriber: 5-10% of bill credits or return from a community solar investment to support solar ownership by limited income members

\_\_\_\_ Solar Garden (Special Purpose Entity): $1 per kilowatt of peak capacity

\_\_\_\_ $1 Limited income (less than 185% of federal poverty line)

\_\_\_\_ $15 Student

\_\_\_\_ $35 Individual

\_\_\_\_ $100 Flower (Minimum for listing local organization)

\_\_\_\_ $250 Branch

\_\_\_\_ $500 Stem

\_\_\_\_ $1000 Root (Minimum for listing regional organization or utility co-op)

* $5000 Garden Bed (Minimum for listing national organization or Investor Owned Utility)

**In-kind donations**

* + Legal services
	+ Financial modeling
	+ Software – web development
	+ Office work

**Let us get to know you**

How did you hear about the Solar Gardens Institute?

What is your interest in community solar?

What help would you most like from SGI?

What skills can you share on the Skills Exchange?

SGI membership requires that members perform at least one positive action for community solar per month (even if it’s just as simple as posting a link to an article to social media). Positive actions are posted to the Newsfeed and the monthly member newsletter.What positive actions can you make?

**Quick Actions** (a few minutes)

\_\_\_\_ Inviting an individual or organization to become a Member

\_\_\_\_ Sharing a link to the Newsfeed

\_\_\_\_ Sharing a blog post or SGI web page via social media

\_\_\_\_ Providing useful information to a regional email list

\_\_\_\_ Making a donation to SGI

\_\_\_\_ Providing feedback for developer ratings

**Solid Actions** (up to a few hours)

\_\_\_\_ Making an in-kind contribution

\_\_\_\_ Writing a blog post, press release, or news article about SGI

\_\_\_\_ Writing an elected official, zoning board, or utility in support of good policy

\_\_\_\_ Sharing a skill through the Skills Exchange

\_\_\_\_ Performing data entry or office work

\_\_\_\_ Attending the General Meeting, a Confluence, or an informational meeting

**Significant Actions** (over a period of days or weeks) – requires taking the SGI Volunteer and Employee Pledge

\_\_\_\_ Writing a grant for SGI

\_\_\_\_ Locating a potential site for community solar

\_\_\_\_ Serving as an event coordinator for the General Meeting, a Confluence, or an informational meeting

\_\_\_\_ Assisting with organizing the General Meeting

\_\_\_\_ Offering a workshop at the General Meeting or a Confluence

\_\_\_\_ Attending the Solar Gardener Training

\_\_\_\_ Teaching a class for the Solar Gardener Training

\_\_\_\_ Serving as an advisor or teaching assistant for the Solar Gardener Training

\_\_\_\_ Creating an open source document

**Ongoing Actions** (sustained over time) – requires the SGI Volunteer and Employee Pledge

\_\_\_\_ Serving on a Working Group

\_\_\_\_ Serving under an Individual or Elected Role

\_\_\_\_ Developing open source software