

## **Minnesota Community Solar Garden Program Summary**

### **City of Northfield**

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- In 2013, Minnesota legislation directed Minneapolis-based utility, Xcel Energy, to create a program for community solar gardens.
- A community solar garden is a centralized, shared solar project connected to the energy grid that has multiple subscribers.
- Each subscriber receives a credit on their Xcel Energy electric bill based upon the production of the solar facility and their ownership share of that facility.

### **Novel Energy Solutions/MN Community Solar**

- Novel Energy Solutions(NES) was founded by a 5<sup>th</sup> Generation, Century owned MN family farmer from the Rochester, MN area.
- Installed the first 4 Community Solar Gardens (CSGs) in Xcel Energy's Minnesota territory and helped create and define CSGs in Minnesota.
- MN Community Solar is part of NES and acts as the Subscription Agent for NES.
- No upfront investment or future costs
- Annual energy savings
- Xcel Energy remains your Electricity provider
- Support renewable energy
- Keep your energy dollars local- Novel Energy Solutions is a Minnesota company(Rochester).
- Solar Garden facility is professionally maintained and is not on your premise
- Subscription is transferrable. Transferrable to other Subscriber facilities or entities should Subscriber change locations or close a facility
- Two options have been proposed. Northfield's estimated savings over the course of 25 years under the fixed rate option is \$1,571,356 based on subscribing 1,960 kW. The estimated 25 year savings under the floating rate option is \$588,663 based on subscribing the same amount.
- Cost Savings Analysis is based on Xcel rate increases of 2.75% per year. Xcel rate increases have averaged about 3.3% for the past 15 years. 2017 rate increase was 5.7%