



COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDENS PROVIDE CLEAN ENERGY FOR THE WESTERN SLOPE

A 12-acre solar garden outside Palisade provides solar power for residents and buildings all over the region. The project, online since 2019, is part of a portfolio of six community solar projects producing over 18,000 kWh of clean power for the Western Slope, with the gardens currently serving the Mesa County Libraries, Grand Junction Housing Authority, and subscribers in Palisade, Grand Junction, Rifle, and Fruita.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **\$1.8M** energy cost savings
- **18,000+ kWh** of clean power annually
- **2 MW** solar

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Grand Valley is the first community solar garden in the state to prioritize low-income ratepayers. [GRID Alternatives Colorado](#) partners with cooperative, municipal and investor-owned utilities to expand the benefits of solar to families living on low or fixed incomes. Currently, the program serves 30-35 households in the Grand Valley Power service territory.

The 2 MW solar garden—owned and operated by Standard Solar—will fully offset electricity costs for Palisade, saving the town \$1.2 million in energy costs over the next 20 years. The town also receives annual land lease payments for the project from Denver-based solar developer Oak Lead Energy Partners. Similarly, the city of Grand Junction is anticipated to save \$600,000 in energy costs. The garden also provides affordable, clean power to local Mesa County school districts while meeting 75% of the electricity needs for the Grand Junction police station.

Colorado has seen strong demand for community solar, with nearly 70 gardens operational across the state. Community solar helps to expand solar energy by allowing those who may not otherwise be able to install solar panels to reap the benefits. The Grand Valley garden generates enough renewable energy to offset GHG emissions from 2,971 passenger vehicles driven annually.

SUPPORT MORE PROJECTS LIKE THESE

Making the investment tax credit (ITC) for solar refundable, supporting increased access to advanced energy for local governments, and providing incentives to reduce energy burdens for low-income customers can bring more projects like this to Colorado.