

Solar project—additional information

Maintenance:

If we own the panels outright (without Collective Sun as a partner, see below), we will be responsible for maintenance from the start. Routine maintenance involved clearing snow in the winter and dust/debris in the summer. Sunbridge doesn't provide this service, so they don't have an estimate of cost. Collective Sun, however uses a formula of \$10-20 per kW per year when estimating maintenance costs on systems they own. So on a 129 kW system, \$1290 – 2580 would be the annual range. Additionally, Sunbridge mentioned that much of the routine maintenance can be done in house by our own facilities team if we want, hosing off panels in the summer, and removing snow (as long as they're careful, think brushing, not shoveling) So we would then factor it in terms of staff hours or volunteer hours.

For larger maintenance, much of it will be covered by their workmanship guarantee for 10 years, and the panels/racking/optimizers are covered for 25 years and the inverter for 20 (with extended warranty) So in a scenario where the inverter needs to be replaced in year 15, the manufacturer would still cover the cost of the new inverter, and Sunbridge would charge for labor – around \$500 in today's money. Prior to 10 years, parts and labor would both be covered.

Longevity of bid:

The Sunbridge bid is good until the end of the year, and locks in once initial contracts are signed.

Conservative production estimates:

As Fletcher noted, Sunbridge has provided a very conservative estimate for production of electricity, compared to other installers we have spoken to and proposals he got for his own home. The estimates are produced by a software program, and Rachel said that in part, the conservative nature of the estimate is due to the fact that they plan for more dust than often occurs, they plan for more cloud cover than we usually get, and they estimate conservatively based on the 5 degree angle of the panels.

Collective Sun on the new legislation:

In addition to speaking with Rachel from Sunbridge, we were able to touch base with Nicole from Collective Sun this week. The Inflation Reduction Act was signed into law on the day we spoke with her, and gives us more flexibility in terms of both time and money. She confirmed that the 30% tax credit is locked in with a direct pay to non profits, goes into effective immediately, and will be in place for 10 years. They are waiting to learn about specific rules and information on how to access it, however, they think it likely that for non profits it would coincide with the filing of the 990 tax form.

This erases the need to “safe harbor” the tax credit before the end of the year (it was previously set to step down from 26% to 22%)

It also gives us the option of going forward without Collective Sun as a funding partner. They are still available to partner with us if we would rather not front the entire cost of the system. CS would take the 30% tax credit, put approx half of it toward the cost of our project and keep the other half. They would be then available throughout the installation, own the panels for 6 years, and cover maintenance for that time. Alternatively, we could take the 30% credit in its entirety and own the panels from the beginning; under this circumstance, we may be able to bring in CS for their expertise and pay them on a fee basis for their services – they are currently coming up with a fee schedule for this.