Bill Credit Timing for Solar*Rewards Community Subscribers

Each month the solar production from a community solar garden is recorded in kilowatt hours (kWh). The total kWh production recorded from the community solar garden is then allocated based on each individual’s subscription. The individual allocations are calculated into a bill credit by multiplying the number of kWh for the subscriber by their credit factor ($/kWh). Detailed information on the calculation of the bill credit can be found in the published Electric Tariff on the Xcel website. On the 9th of each month, the production is posted to subscriber accounts as a bill credit.

Despite being posted to subscriber accounts on the 9th of each month, the customer will not always see the previous month’s solar production on their bill. The reason for this is that Xcel customers have different billing cycles. A billing cycle is determined by the day of the month that the meter reading takes place (usually a 3 day window). A few days after the meter is read the Xcel customer is sent their invoice.

If the subscriber is on a billing cycle after the 9th of the month, they will receive their bill credits from the community solar garden production for the previous month. If the subscriber is on a billing cycle before the 9th of the month, they will receive their bill credits with a one month lag. If the subscriber is on a billing cycle upon which the 9th of the month falls, the bill credit may be from the previous month, or may have the one month lag. For this small subset of subscribers, bill credits will not show each and every month, some months may have two months of bill credits, while some months may have no bill credits.

Regardless, each month on the 9th, the bill credits will be posted to customer accounts and will show on the invoice as described above. The reason we are not able to change customers billing cycles is that it would adversely affect meter readings (adding additional cost), since current reading route assignments are based on property location.