

Case Study: How Habitat for Humanity of Greater Bangor Raised Funds and Saved Money with Community Solar



About Habitat for Humanity of Greater Bangor:

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, non-denominational Christian housing ministry, with a mission to bring people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

One way they help accomplish these goals is through their ReStore location in Bangor. It's a retail space enabling community members to shop for reasonably priced, lightly-used furniture and home supplies. The revenue generated helps support Habitat Bangor's housing mission.

Why this matters:

Habitat partnered with Ampion to save money and to further its mission of helping locals. This partnership exemplifies how nonprofits can leverage Community Solar not just as a cost-saving tool for their own operations, but as a way to raise funds and extend savings to their community.

Challenge:

Habitat Bangor wanted to address three organizational needs through Community Solar:

1. **Reduce operational costs:** As a non-profit organization, Habitat Bangor needs to control operating expenses to maximize resources for their core mission. They considered rooftop solar as a way to reduce electricity costs, but sought a simpler, more immediate solution that didn't require upfront capital or new infrastructure.
2. **Raise funds for programming:** Beyond cost savings, Habitat Bangor needed innovative ways to generate funds for their programming without diverting staff time or resources from their primary housing initiatives.
3. **Extend savings to the community:** True to its mission of helping others, Habitat Bangor looked for opportunities that would not only benefit their organization, but also bring meaningful cost savings to community members who need it most—all while supporting environmental sustainability.

Solution:

Habitat Bangor chose Ampion as a Community Solar provider and partner to accomplish all three of those goals. Community Solar offered Habitat Bangor the ideal solution:



Consistent Savings: Community Solar allows Habitat Bangor to lower its electric bills with no construction or installation. "We're always looking for ways to reduce our operating costs and be good stewards of the donor support that we receive," said Melissa Huston, Executive Director of Habitat Bangor.



Minimal Internal Lift: Unlike rooftop solar, which requires significant capital expenditure, site structural assessments, and ongoing facility maintenance, Community Solar allows organizations to reduce their carbon footprint and energy costs without onsite construction or operational oversight.



Partnership Program: Beyond its own savings, Habitat Bangor extended the benefits of Community Solar to the broader community by partnering with Ampion. For every new signup through Habitat Bangor's referral, Ampion makes a donation to the organization.

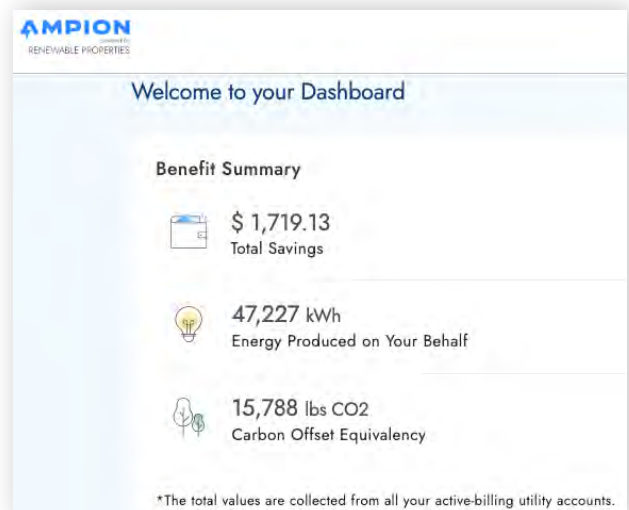
Results:

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Bangor's move to Community Solar provides predictable, ongoing savings and community benefits:

- **Over \$1,700 in savings in the first 4 years.** Regular savings of up to 15% on electricity costs for their compact retail and office footprint.
- **Incentives through the Partnership Program:** Not only does every new Community Solar subscriber referred by Habitat Bangor generate a donation from Ampion, but customers also receive a Visa gift card.
- **Community savings:** Habitat Bangor enables its community to save on electricity costs through Community Solar, helping the organization live out its mission of providing affordable housing and home-related services.

"Managing operating expenses is essential to staying within our budget. We want to be responsible stewards of both our donor support and natural resources. The better we manage our overhead, the more we can invest in delivering programs to the community. We were drawn to Ampion's commitment to giving back and its program designed to support nonprofits."

Melissa Huston
Executive Director



Wondering if Community Solar could work for your organization? Reach out to an Ampion consultant today!