

SolarOPs Toolkit: Community Shared Solar

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Prepared by



For



TOOLKIT SUMMARY

An increasing number of residents are interested in solar, but many do not have the means (e.g., solar access, budget, space, and knowhow) to install a solar system on their home. These residents can still go solar – and municipal governments can help – through Community Shared Solar programs where individuals contribute to larger solar projects being built in a community. A related idea, Community Choice Aggregation, allows these individuals to band together to purchase energy from larger power suppliers as a group. To find out more about this subject or receive complimentary technical assistance, contact the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership by visiting solaroutreach.org/ta or emailing solar-usa@iclei.org with your request for assistance.

DISCLAIMER

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THE CONTENT OF THIS TOOLKIT IS ALSO AVAILABLE @solaroutreach.org/resources

TOOLKIT RESOURCES

Solar Outreach Partnership Resources

UTILITY COMMUNITY SOLAR: PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION

SolarOPs resources on community solar, including a comprehensive utility community solar guidebook, PowerPoint presentation and recorded webinar.

Click [here](#) to view the resources or visit bit.ly/1EAs5j

COMMUNITY SHARED SOLAR: EXPANSIONS UNDERWAY IN SOLAR AMERICA COMMUNITIES

An overview of the status of community shared solar projects in Solar America Communities as of September 2014, as well as some of the differences and similarities among these programs.

Click [here](#) to view the full document or visit bit.ly/1BscqQy

SACRAMENTO SOLARSHARES CASE STUDY

Case study of the organization and results of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District's SolarShares program, which offered an opportunity for residents to purchase shares in local solar energy projects.

Click [here](#) to view the full document or visit bit.ly/1P3sa3X

COMMUNITY SHARED SOLAR SUCCESS STORIES

A webinar discussion about the strategies used by communities that have been successful in implementing community shared solar.

Click [here](#) to view the full document or visit bit.ly/1EO65Xy

AGGREGATE NET METERING: OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A report on the opportunity for aggregate net metering, one legal and accounting mechanism that can enable community shared solar programs.

Click [here](#) to view the full document or visit bit.ly/1EO65Xy

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION FACTSHEET

A primer on Community Choice Aggregation, a mechanism for municipalities to directly negotiate power purchases on behalf of residents.

Click [here](#) to view the full document or visit bit.ly/1zaiaDO

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION WEBINAR

This webinar session provides information on how municipalities are empowered through CCA programs to negotiate electric supply rates with power providers on behalf of the residents and business owners within their jurisdiction, often resulting in significantly lower electricity rates.

Click [here](#) to view the recorded webinar or visit bit.ly/1HOuw6i

Click [here](#) to view the presentation slides or visit bit.ly/1DIvNGU

Other Resources

DOE GUIDE TO COMMUNITY SOLAR

A comprehensive overview of community solar issues and opportunities, sponsored by the US Department of Energy.

Click [here](#) to view the full document or visit 1.usa.gov/1Fvcplo

A GUIDEBOOK FOR COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAMS IN MICHIGAN COMMUNITIES

Overview of the issues faced by communities in developing shared solar programs, written by the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association with the Michigan context in mind.

Click [here](#) to view the full document or visit 1.usa.gov/1J6KJSX

COMMUNITY SHARED SOLAR IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES FOR MA COMMUNITIES

This comprehensive guide on community shared solar (CSS) is intended as a resource for project organizers seeking to implement CSS projects in their communities. It is designed to help MA resident and public entities consider, plan, and implement CSS projects.

Click [here](#) to view the full document or visit 1.usa.gov/1lkh1vE

MODEL RULES FOR SHARED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMS

The Model Program Rules intend to assist stakeholders in developing shared renewable energy programs to broaden renewable energy access to more consumers.

Click [here](#) to view the full document or visit bit.ly/1PThQh9

COMMUNITY SHARED SOLAR: MARKETS AND FUTURE

A presentation from NREL covering the various models for community-based solar, growth trends, existing technical assistance, and scenario tools

Click [here](#) to view the full presentation or visit bit.ly/1bDGTFt

HARVARD SOLAR GARDEN

Program website for the community shared solar project recently completed in the community of Harvard, Massachusetts.

Visit harvardsolar.org

PORTLAND SOLAR FORWARD PROGRAM

Program website for the community shared solar project in development in Portland, Oregon branded as Solar Forward.

Visit: bit.ly/1JPnVr0

COMMUNITY SOLAR HUB

A site designed to make the resources essential for a successful community shared solar project widely available to community solar developers, EPCs, utilities, and community solar organizers.

Visit: communitysolarhub.com

SHARED RENEWABLES

Shared renewable HQ is intended to advance state shared renewable energy policy by sharing best practices and tracking progress.

Visit: sharedrenewables.org

Visit Toolkits on Other Aspects of Solar Energy

INSTALLING SOLAR ON K-12 SCHOOLS

A toolkit for installing solar on K-12 schools designed to provide public school officials with a starting point for pursuing their own solar projects.

Visit: bit.ly/1ILJAn7

SOLAR POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT

The Toolkit is designed to be used as a comprehensive source of guidance for local governments interested in pursuing PPA arrangements, or to provide examples and background on particular subjects or materials that serve a specific need (e.g., a model site lease).

Visit: bit.ly/1K5CV4x

USING SOLAR ENERGY TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

This page provides short summaries and links to online resources grouped under the broad categories of Using Solar Energy to Improve Energy Security and Reduce Economic Uncertainty; Using Solar Energy in Emergency Preparedness and Response; and Using Solar Energy in Hazard Mitigation and Post-Disaster Recovery.

Visit: bit.ly/1dn7455

SOLAR PERMITTING, INSPECTION AND INTERCONNECTION

This toolkit provides clear, efficient and cost effective ways to simplify and streamline solar permitting, inspection and interconnection (PII) procedures. While it targets municipal permit review staff, inspectors, the toolkit should be useful to a diverse audience including other municipal staff, solar installers, and individual and organizations interested in seeing changes to the PII processes in their communities.

Visit: bit.ly/1F3ZEud

