



Community Solar Value Project

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Community-Solar for Low and Moderate Income Subscribers

General Resources

National Community Solar Partnership

The National Community Solar Partnership's (NCSP) mission is to leverage momentum in the public and private sector to expand solar access to new markets. This includes convening stakeholders to assess market barriers and catalyze deployment in low and moderate income (LMI) communities.

Website: <http://energy.gov/eere/solarpoweringamerica/national-community-solar-partnership>

George Washington University, GS Solar Institute

Among other resources from the GW Solar Institute, the Report, Bridging the Solar Income Gap, summarizes a 2014 symposium on the topic and provides specific recommendations for how to expand solar energy in lower income communities.

Website: <http://solar.gwu.edu/research/bridging-solar-income-gap>

ISEIF

The Illinois Science and Energy Innovation Foundation (ISEIF) mission is to empower consumers to understand and adopt smart grid technologies and related programs; to create positive changes in consumer behavior related to patterns of energy use; and to transform cultural norms regarding the relationship between the consumer, the utility and energy consumption. While specific to projects and operations in Illinois, they provide an array of outreach and marketing resources that can be applied universally.

Website: <http://www.iseif.org/resources/#low-income-consumer-engagement>

CPN

The Community Power Network (CPN) includes grass roots, local, state, and national organizations working to build, and promote locally based renewable energy projects and policies. They work together as a resource and strategic partner to a diverse, nonpartisan membership that includes: private citizens, nonprofits, developers, contractors, consultants, financiers, and manufacturers of renewable energy.

Webpage with low income focus - <http://www.communitypowernetwork.com/node/9486>

LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps keep families safe and healthy through initiatives to assist with energy costs. LIHEAP provides federally funded assistance, often working with local utilities, to assist with:

- Home energy bills
- Energy crises assistance

- Weatherization and energy-related minor home repairs

Website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/programs/liheap>

RREAL

Minnesota-based Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL) has leveraged the LIHEAP construct into multi-state project to install residential solar thermal systems in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin with their Solar Assistance effort.

Website: <http://www.rreal.org/#!/community-solar-for-community-action/c1tpi>

Specific Projects

See also, <http://www.communitysolarvaluproject.com>, where CSVP has archived the November 2105 webinar, featuring Grid Alternatives projects and projects from Solar Holler, a non-profit that has used controlled water heater storage as a companion measure to community solar.

Grid Alternatives

GRID Alternatives developed a model to make solar PV technology practical and accessible for low-income communities that need the savings and jobs the most. In addition to serving as the statewide program manager for California's \$162-million Single-family Affordable Solar Homes (SASH) program (the country's first dedicated solar rebate for low-income families), Grid Alternatives also has programs in Colorado. Efforts there include completing the first phase of a community solar project for Grand Valley Power Electric Cooperative and a recent \$1.2 million grant to implement a low-income solar demonstration project, from the Colorado Energy Office.

Website - <http://www.gridalternatives.org/>

Rural Renewable Energy Alliance

Expanding on its successful Solar Assistance program, the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance RREA is supporting the planning and development of a nationally relevant community solar demonstration project for a rural Minnesota community action agency, HRA, or Local Unit of Government on behalf of low-income families.

http://media.wix.com/ugd/eed9c8_85e8f825029242069838dcf1af972800.pdf

Solar in Your Community Challenge

The Solar in Your Community Challenge is a project of the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative. Local teams from all over the nation are innovating and competing to provide low-income communities with greater access to solar.

Challenge website - <http://www.solarinyourcommunity.org/>

The Community Solar Value Project (CSVP) is focused on improving utility-driven community-solar programs by innovating strategic solar design and procurement, target marketing, and companion measures (solar + storage + demand-response) that help to lower net grid-integration costs. Summaries above, drawn from cited web sources, 9/2017. See CSVP website for more information and disclaimers: <http://www.CommunitySolarValueProject.com>