

Inclusion in a Time of Covid:

Rhode Island's Proposed Community Solar Program Expansion

*National Community Solar Partnership
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
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RI Community Remote Net Metering (CRNM)

Rhode Island's CRNM Program targeted 30 MW of community solar statewide, with an option for modification/expansion. As the program neared full subscription, the OER convened stakeholders to expand the program with an LMI carve-out and related features to encourage inclusion.

- Two programs exist; CRNM is the focus of this work
- No LMI subsidies, but the program typically saves ~10%
- 20% LMI carve-out *per project*
- Aspects under discussion: eligibility/verification, penalties for developer noncompliance, oversight and evaluation
- OER petition to the PUC anticipated this fall



Proposed Innovations

- **Eligibility:** Customers on National Grid repayment plan are considered in good standing
- **Eligibility:** ONE of 6 options for LMI verification, with emphasis on participation in other LMI programs or residence in an environmental justice community or poverty zip code
- **Eligibility:** Self-attestation option
- **Evaluation:** Commerce REF provides evaluation 2x per year, coordinating with National Grid and OER. Customers with improved income are not penalized
- **Penalties** to developers for non-compliance would be calculated based on lost benefit to the community; directed to agencies or NGOs that represent/serve LMI



Low- and Moderate-Income Customer Inclusion in the CRNM Program

Learn more about the proposal that addresses concerns related to LMI access to renewable energy resources, as well as increasing participation opportunities and communication between renewable energy developers and LMI populations.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

<https://risolarmarketplace.com>

Public Engagement Under Covid

How to Increase Participation in Community Solar

- What can you do to participate in CS

Community Solar Snapshot

3 Project completed

16 Projects in progress

Jill Ciburn

- Stakeholder Working Group, With leadership from Shauna Beland, OER
- 3 Public Meetings for education, discussion and review
 - Security and accessibility
 - Zoom features
 - Informal focus for each meeting; stakeholder partnerships
 - Publicity; realistic expectations
 - Facilitation
- Engagement Options: chat, polling, e-mailing
- Follow-up; PUC process
- Shout-out to OER Energy Equity professional Yasmin Yacoby, support staff & stakeholders