



New Jersey's Community Solar Energy Pilot Program



July 27, 2020



OPENING REMARKS



Agenda

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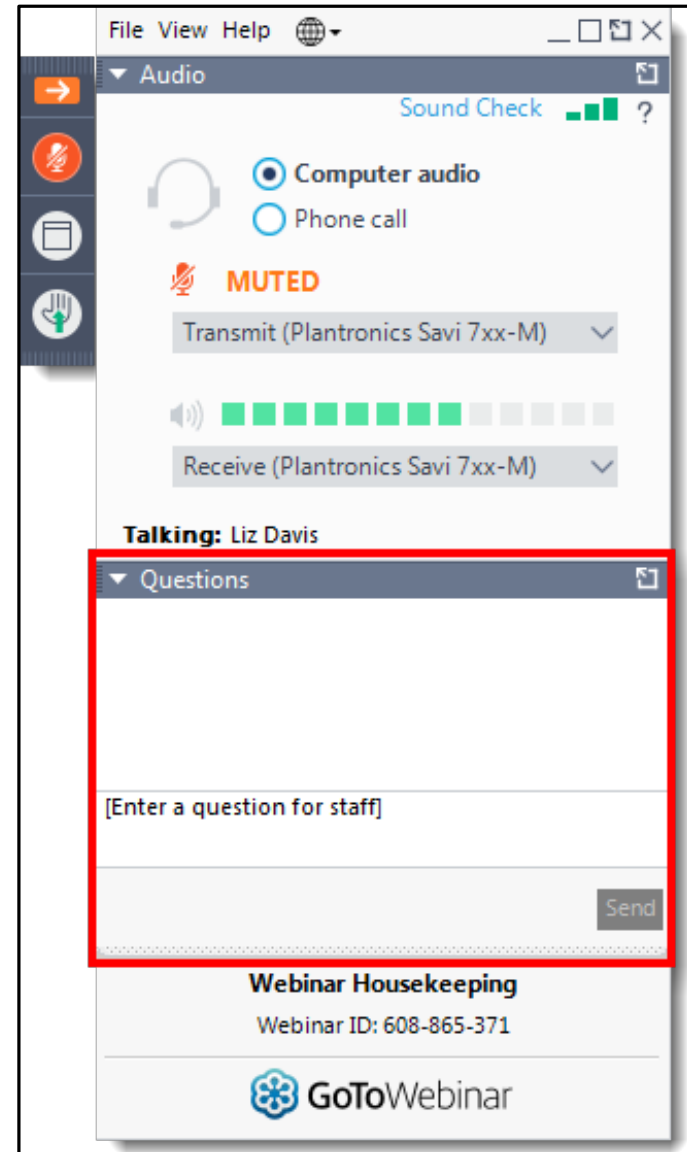
- 10:00 a.m. – Welcome, Introductions, and Stakeholder Meeting Logistics
- 10:10 a.m. – NJBPU Staff Presentation, Followed by brief Q&A
- 10:30 a.m. – Topic 1: Equity and the Inclusion of Low- and Moderate-Income Households
- 12:00 p.m. – Lunch Break
- 1:00 p.m. Topic 2: Program Year 1 Application Form and Application Process
Topic 3: Program Year 2 Application Process
Topic 4: Other
- 3:00 p.m. – Meeting Conclusion

Webinar Logistics

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Logistics:

- During each topic session, speakers will be called on in the order in which they registered
- Please submit questions at any time during the meeting using the questions box on the right of your screen.
- The webinar is being recorded.



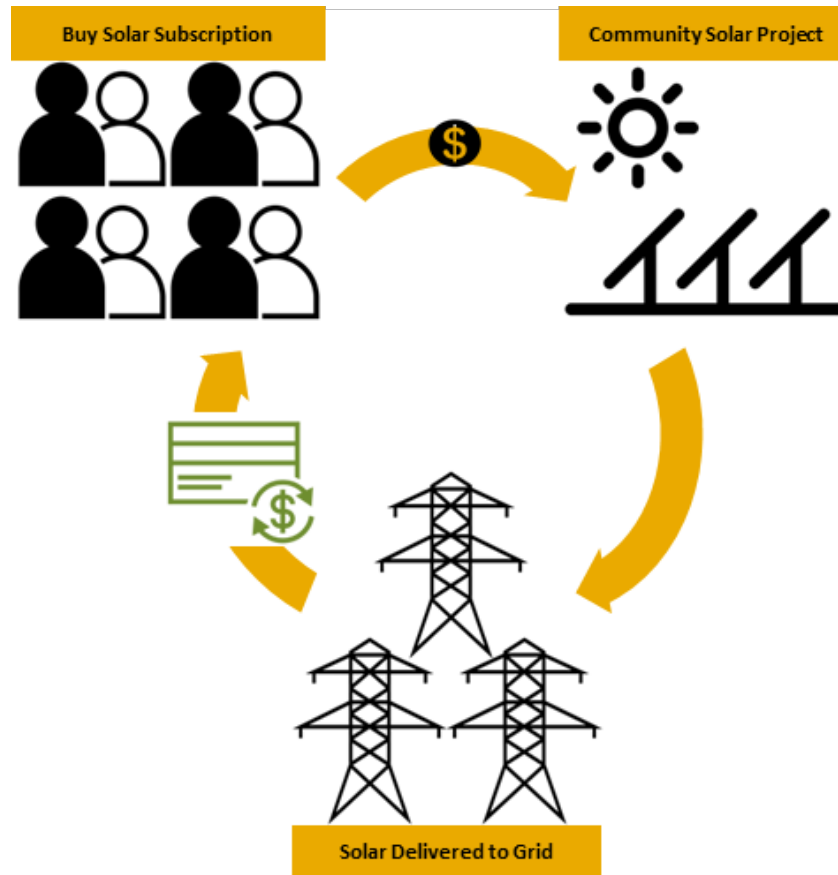
Introduction: What is Community Solar?

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- A large solar array or facility that is virtually divided among multiple participants (“subscribers”) by means of a credit on their utility bill.
- Is generally remotely located as opposed to being located on the subscriber’s own location.
- Enables access to solar energy to those that haven’t been able to go solar in the past, including renters and households, institutions, or businesses where the roof isn’t appropriate for solar or solar is cost prohibitive.

Community Solar Cycle

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History of Community Solar in NJ

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- **Community Solar Energy Pilot Program** established pursuant to the Clean Energy Act of 2018.
- **Pilot Program Rules** published on February 19, 2019.
- Three-year Pilot Program (2019, 2020, and 2021), followed by a permanent Community Solar Energy Program.

Program Year (PY) 1 Process

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- **PY1 Application Period:** April 9, 2019 – Sept. 9, 2019
- **PY1 Capacity Assigned:** 75 MW, of which at least 30 MW (40% of PY1 capacity) must be allocated to projects with at least 51% of project capacity allocated to low- to moderate-income (LMI) subscribers (i.e., LMI projects)

PY1 Applications

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252 total applications received (approx. 652 MWdc)

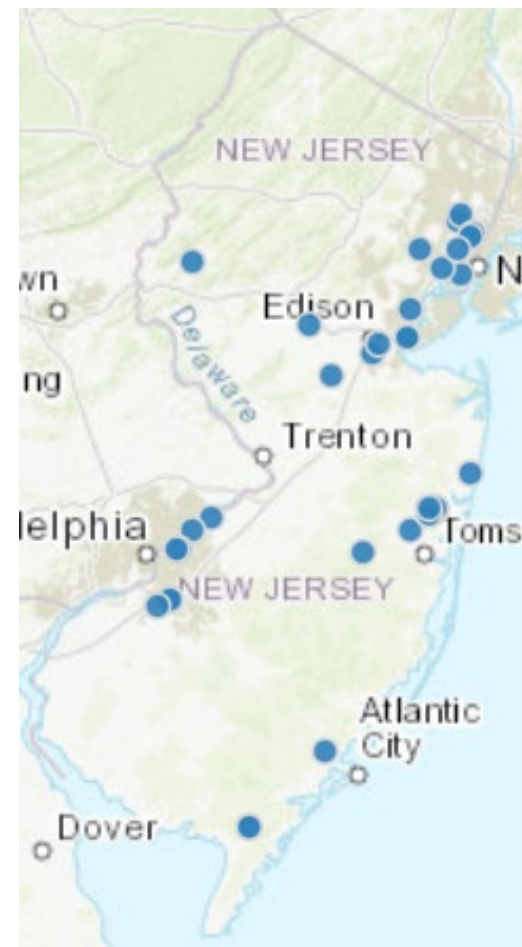
- 232 applications for LMI projects (approx. 600 MWdc)
- 112 applications for projects sited on rooftops
- 54 applications for projects sited on brownfields, landfills, parking canopies
- 75 applications for projects sited in part or in whole on farmland

PY1 Awards

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45 applications selected (approx. 78 MWdc)

- All 45 applications are LMI projects
 - At least 39.8 MWdc will be carved out for LMI subscribers
- 31 projects located on rooftops
- 14 projects located on landfills, parking canopies, combined rooftops and parking canopy, a brownfield, and a former sand and gravel pit



Map Credit: NJDEP

Program Implementation Updates

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Program Forms and Documents:

- [Community Solar Subscriber Organization Registration Form](#)
- [Community Solar Subscriber Disclosure Form](#)
- [Community Solar Bill Credit Calculations and Sample Bills](#)
- Program Year 1 public applications (both [selected](#) and [non-selected](#))

Always check the NJ Clean Energy Program [website](#) for the most recent version of forms and documents.

Next Steps

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August 10, 2020 at 10 a.m.: Deadline for Written Comments

- Please see Public Notice for instructions on how to submit comments, and be sure to use “Community Solar PY1 Comments” as the subject line.

Fall 2020: Program Year 2 Application Window

Winter 2020-2021: Program Year 2 Application Evaluation and Selection

Next Steps

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Spring – Fall 2021: Pilot Program Year 3 Application Period and Application Selection

Spring 2021: Stakeholder engagement on permanent NJ Community Solar Energy Program begins

February 2022: Permanent NJ Community Solar Energy Program established

More Information

EMAIL

communitysolar@njcleanenergy.com

VISIT

<https://www.njcleanenergy.com/renewable-energy/programs/community-solar>

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



TOPIC 1: EQUITY AND THE INCLUSION OF LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS



Topic 1: Equity and Inclusion of Low- and Moderate-Income Households

Background:

- Pilot Program Rules mandate that at least 40% of the Pilot Program annual capacity be reserved for LMI projects
- By definition, LMI projects are those in which at least 51% of project capacity is allocated to LMI subscribers
- Pilot Program Rules include definition and verification method for LMI subscribers

Evaluation Criteria	Max. Points
Low- and Moderate-Income and Environmental Justice Inclusion Higher preference: LMI project	30
Siting Higher preference: landfills, brownfields, areas of historic fill, rooftops, parking lots, parking decks Medium preference: canopies over impervious surfaces (e.g. walkway), areas designated in need of redevelopment No Points: preserved lands, wetlands, forested areas, farmland Bonus points for: landscaping, land enhancement, pollination support, stormwater management, soil conservation	20 Max. possible bonus points: 5
Product Offering Higher preference: guaranteed savings >10%, flexible terms* Medium preference: guaranteed savings >5% No Points: no guaranteed savings, no flexible terms* *Flexible terms may include: no cancellation fee, short-term contract	15
Community and Environmental Justice Engagement Higher preference: partnership with municipality, partnership with local community organization(s), partnership with affordable housing provider Medium preference: letter of support from municipality, project owner is a government and/or public and/or quasi-public entity, project owner is an affordable housing developer	10
Subscribers Higher preference: more than 51% project capacity is allocated to residential subscribers	10
Other Benefits Higher preference: Provides local jobs/job training, demonstrates co-benefits (e.g. paired with storage, micro-grid project, energy audit, EE measures)	10
Geographic Limit within EDC service territory Higher preference: municipality/adjacent municipality Medium preference: county/adjacent county No Points: any geographic location within the EDC service territory.	5

PY1 Awards: LMI

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Summary of LMI Projects and Subscribers (1)

State	Installed LMI MWac	Pending LMI MWac	Average Subscription Size (Household/MWac)	Potential Subscribers (if all pending LMI MW are installed)
Colorado	4.9	9	170 (R-C)	2480
Connecticut	0.8	1.8	170 (E)	442
Maryland	6.3	4	170 (R-C)	1730
Washington, D.C. ^[a]	2.3	4.5	910 (R-C)	6246
New York	7.3	21	150 (R-C)	4245
California ^[b]	-	32	380 (R-C)	12300
Illinois	-	13	170 (E)	2210
Massachusetts	-	14.9	170 (E)	2533
New Jersey	-	39.3	170 (E)	6681
Oregon	-	16.1	170 (E)	2737
Total	21.6	155.6		41604
Rhode Island ^[c]	3.3	22.2	NA	NA

Notes:

State:[a],[b]: the capacity does not specify DC/AC; [c]: Rhode Island installed LMI and pending LMI refer to total community solar capacity;

Average Subscription Size: R-C: data are collected through reported data and then calculated; E: data are estimated as 170 household/MWac. The potential subscriber numbers may be different due to rounding/multiple programs, see following state slides and the appendix for details.

NREL |



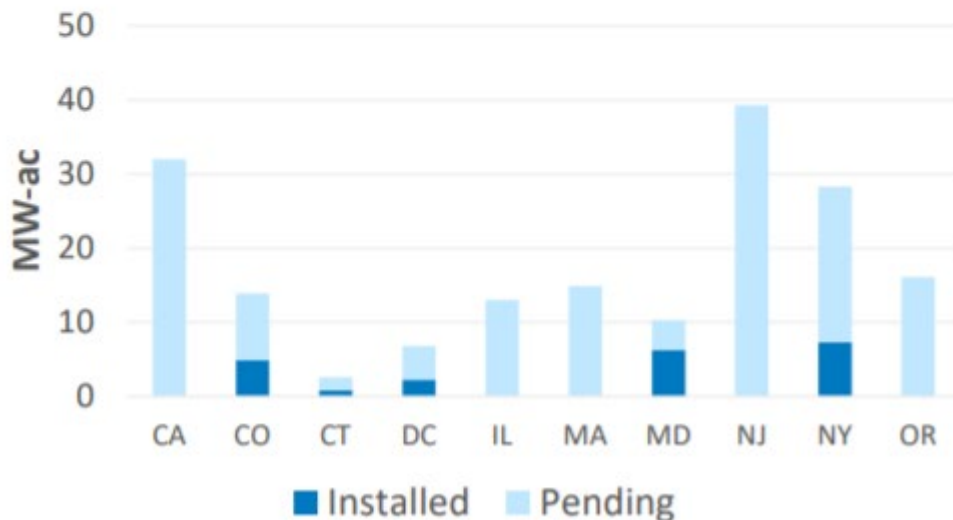
Source: NREL "Community Solar 101"
<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy20osti/75982.pdf>

PY1 Awards: LMI (cont'd)

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Summary of LMI Projects and Subscribers (2)

State Community Solar Capacity for LMI Customers



Based on the most recently available data, 21.6 MW of community solar serving LMI customers are in operation, and 155.6 MW are planned. This LMI capacity will benefit over 40,000 LMI households, once in operation.



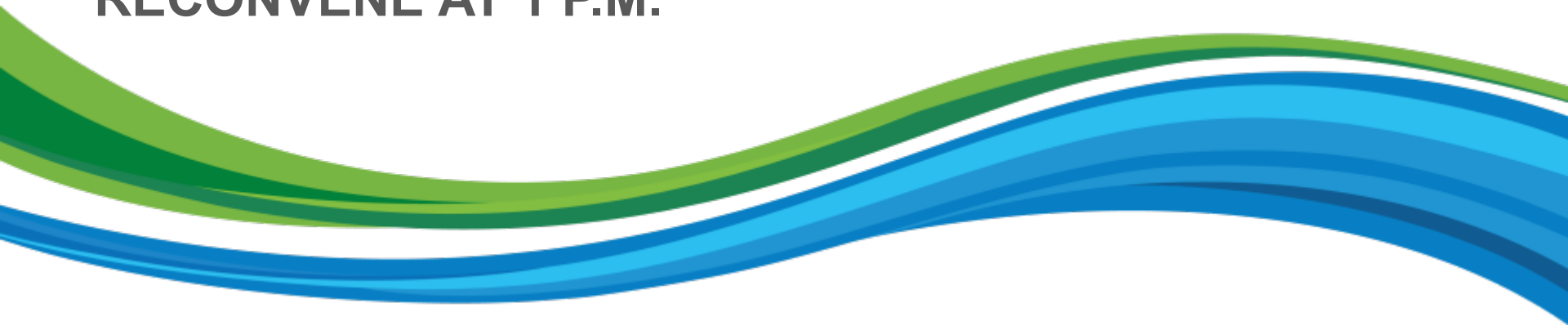
Source: NREL "Community Solar 101"
<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy20osti/75982.pdf>

Topic 1: Equity and Inclusion of Low- and Moderate-Income Households


Specific Issues for Discussion:

- **Question 1:** Potential amendments to the Rules regarding LMI subscriber verification
- **Question 2:** “Opt-in” versus “opt-out” models for subscriber acquisition
- **Questions 3 and 4:** Leveraging existing programs and community organizations to facilitate LMI subscriber enrollment
- **Question 5:** LMI community solar in master-meter buildings
- **Question 6:** Facilitating inclusion of LMI households

**LUNCH BREAK
RECONVENE AT 1 P.M.**



TOPIC 2: PROGRAM YEAR 1 APPLICATION FORM AND APPLICATION PROCESS

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Topic 2: PY1 Application Form and Application Process

Background:

- **Application Submission:** Applications were to be submitted in both hard copy and electronic copy
- **Application Completeness Review:** Out of 252 applications received, 32 were incomplete and could not be scored.
- **Application Scoring:** Consideration for amendments to scoring criteria

Evaluation Criteria	Max. Points
Low- and Moderate-Income and Environmental Justice Inclusion Higher preference: LMI project	30
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Topic 2: PY1 Application Form and Application Process

Specific Issues for Discussion:

- **Question 7:** Process for submitting an application
- **Questions 8, 9, and 10:** Feedback on specific sections on the Application Form
- **Question 11:** Feedback on Appendix A: Product Offering Questionnaire
- **Question 12:** Feedback on Appendix B: Required Attachments Checklist
- **Question 13:** Feedback on Appendix C: Evaluation Criteria

TOPIC 3: PROGRAM YEAR 2 APPLICATION PROCESS

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Topic 3: PY2 Application Process

Specific Issues for Discussion:

- **Question 14:** PY2 capacity
- **Question 15:** Limits to number of applications from a single developer
- **Question 16:** DEP Permit Coordination checklist process
- **Question 17:** Application process for government entities

TOPIC 4: OTHER



Topic 4: Other

Specific Issues for Discussion:

- **Question 18:** Savings guarantee requirement
- **Question 19:** Amendments to construction timelines and extension policies at N.J.A.C. 14:8-9.3(c)
- **Question 20:** Amendment to 10-subscriber minimum exemption at N.J.A.C. 14:8-9.6(d)
- **Question 21:** Impact of ongoing Solar Transition
- **Question 22 and 23:** Resources and support for community solar developers and subscribers

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More Information

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