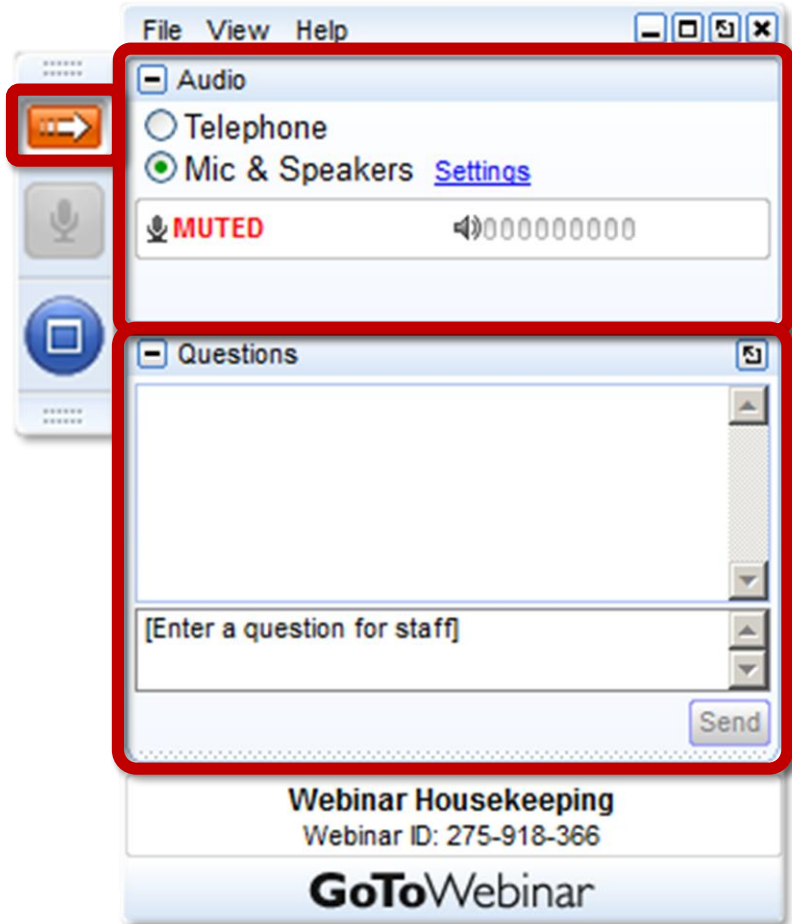


CESA Webinar

Solar with Justice: A New Report on Solar for Under-Resourced Communities

December 12, 2019

Housekeeping



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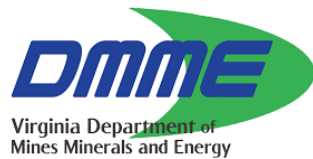
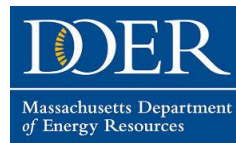
Submit questions and comments via the Questions panel

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CleanEnergy States Alliance



Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation



Webinar Speakers



Danielle Deane-Ryan
Director of the Inclusive
Clean Economy Program,
The Nathan Cummings
Foundation



Chandra Farley
Director of the Just
Energy Program,
Partnership for
Southern Equity



Nate Hausman
Project Director,
Clean Energy States
Alliance (moderator)



Warren Leon,
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Thank you for attending our webinar

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Upcoming Webinars

Solar with Justice: Recommendations for Community Organizations

Thursday, January 16, 1-2pm ET

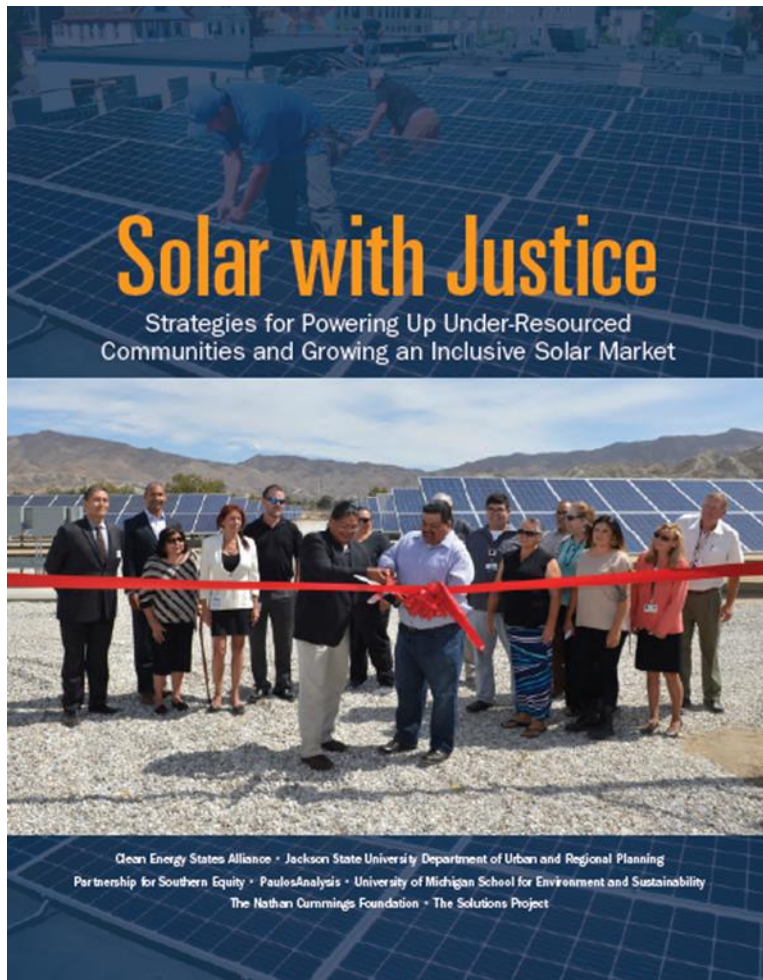
Solar with Justice: Recommendations for State Governments

Wednesday, January 29, 1-2pm ET

Read more and register at: www.cesa.org/webinars

CESA Webinar

December 12, 2019



Overview of the Report and Its Recommendations

The Project Team

- Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA)
 - Nicole Hernandez Hammer
 - Nate Hausman
 - Warren Leon
 - Rob Sanders
 - Laura Schieb
- Jackson State University Department of Urban and Regional Planning
 - Berneece Herbert
- Partnership for Southern Equity
 - Chandra Farley
- Paulos Analysis
 - Ben Paulos
- University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability
 - Tony Reames
- The Nathan Cummings Foundation
 - Danielle Deane-Ryan
- The Solutions Project
 - Rudi Navarra



PaulosAnalysis



THE SOLUTIONS PROJECT

What Makes the Report Different

1. A diverse team worked together to explore solar in under-resourced communities in a comprehensive manner
2. The report gathered the viewpoints of a large number of experts: 76 interviews with 82 people (plus interviews for case studies)
3. The views of leaders of community organizations were given special attention
4. The report makes clear recommendations



Kick-off workshop in Atlanta, January 2019

First Part of Report: Background

1. Challenges Under-Resourced Communities Face and How Solar Can Help
2. Obstacles to Solar for Under-Resourced Communities
3. The Importance of Community Empowerment



Clearing Up Confusion about Community Solar

Community Solar vs. Shared Solar vs. Locally Controlled Solar



Second Part: Findings and Recommendations

- General findings and recommendations
- Chapters for specific groups:
 - State governments
 - Philanthropic foundations
 - Community organizations
 - Other stakeholders (solar industry, municipalities, etc.)
- Changing project financing



Case Studies

- **Connecticut Green Bank/PosiGen:** 2,500+ solar installations on single-family homes in Connecticut
- **Denver Housing Authority:** 2-megawatt shared solar array
- **Energy Trust of Oregon:** 9 communities received grants to develop projects
- **Fellowship Energy:** Installed at numerous churches and other buildings of faith-based communities
- **Kresge Foundation:** Loan guarantee program will support many solar+storage projects at multifamily affordable housing
- **LaGrange Housing Authority:** 2.5-kilowatt ground-mounted installation with tracking system
- **Native Renewables:** Several homes have received solar installations with many more in the planning stage
- **PUSH Buffalo:** 64-kilowatt solar in major building renovation project
- **RE-volv:** Installations for numerous nonprofit organizations
- **Sunwealth:** Solar projects at a variety of buildings and institutions in under-resourced communities
- **UPROSE:** 685-kilowatt shared solar project on roof of decommissioned Army building

Top Ten General Findings and Recommendations

1. Partnerships involving trusted community organizations are essential
2. It's still the experimental phase for LMI solar
3. Installations for community institutions deserve special consideration
4. Resilience should be a component of LMI solar
5. Financial risk needs to be minimized for LMI households and community organizations
6. Strong consumer protection is crucial
7. Shared solar projects can play a useful role but they are not a panacea
8. Training and workforce development should remain a priority
9. Solar education is important
10. Increasing the availability of financing for solar projects in under-resourced communities is essential

State Governments

1. Measure progress towards energy equity
2. Make sure pro-solar state policies are in place
3. Adopt special incentives and policies
4. Leverage private capital
5. Work with and help community organizations
6. Bring LMI issues into public utility commission proceedings
7. Design solar programs for specific market segments
8. Ensure financial benefits reach LMI households



9. Impose high consumer protection standards

Recommendations for Philanthropic Foundations

1. Incorporate input from community groups
2. Support frontline organizations with unrestricted multi-year grants
3. Invest in projects with a strategic focus
4. Leverage financing and program-related investments to de-risk projects
5. Provide funding to determine the most viable community empowerment models for solar
6. Lean in to challenging locations to accelerate equity in solar access
7. Leverage strategic new channels to teach LMI households



Community Organizations

1. Insist on the involvement of community organizations
2. Develop an internal education plan
3. Engage the community in dialogue on solar
4. Control the decisionmaking process and make careful decisions about project ownership
5. Push for community benefit agreements
6. Identify key institutions and help them adopt solar
7. Take part in shaping policy



Other Stakeholders



1. Solar businesses should seek local partners
2. Solar businesses should have a plan for workforce development
3. The solar industry should self-police
4. Local governments can support solar that benefits LMI communities and residents
5. Communities with municipal utilities and electric coops have special opportunities
6. Large electricity users can help shared-solar projects work for LMI households



Expanding and Improving Project Financing



1. Build capacity so that community-led development teams and financing institutions can successfully implement projects
2. Present credible solar information in familiar formats
3. De-risk project finance for financial institutions and borrowers
4. Use alternatives to FICO credit scores
5. Negotiate project ownership and distribution of benefits

Project Ownership and Empowerment



- The community should shape decisions and be able to ensure there are adequate community benefits
- Sometimes community wealth building best achieved by owning the project (e.g., PUSH Buffalo case study)
- Community organizations should do an honest self-assessment. Do they have:
 - The appetite and expertise to be a solar project developer?
 - The resources to withstand unexpected financial losses?



More on Project Ownership and Empowerment

- A community organization need not give up control if it doesn't own the project. Well-structured contracts can realize economic benefits without ownership risks
 - Community organization can initiate, control, and make the decisions about a solar installation.
 - Third-party entity owns the system and takes responsibility for maintaining it. Also can qualify for federal tax credit.
- A hybrid approach
 - Community organization brings in a partner with solar development experience
 - Partner withdraws after 5-10 years when they receive their tax benefits, leaving the community group with ownership (e.g., UPROSE case study)
 - Need to make sure that this doesn't delay the community group receiving meaningful financial benefits

We welcome your comments

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