



Progress on Implementing Community Solar in New Mexico

August 2023

Who is Coalition for Community Solar Access?

- **Who:** National trade association representing more than 120 community solar companies, businesses, and nonprofits.
- **Mission:** We are building the electric grid of the future where every consumer has the freedom to choose clean, locally generated solar energy to power their lives.
- **What:** Through legislative and regulatory advocacy, and the support of a diverse coalition —including advocates for competition, ratepayers, landowners, and farmers —we enable policies that unlock the potential of distributed energy resources, starting with community solar.



**>\$10BN
deployed**

Types of solar

ROOFTOP SOLAR

Installed on the roofs of homes and businesses, rooftop solar offers people control over where their electricity is produced and lowers their monthly utility bill



COMMUNITY SOLAR

The fastest -growing segment within the solar industry, community solar refers to local solar facilities shared by multiple subscribers who receive credits on their electricity bills for their share of the power produced.

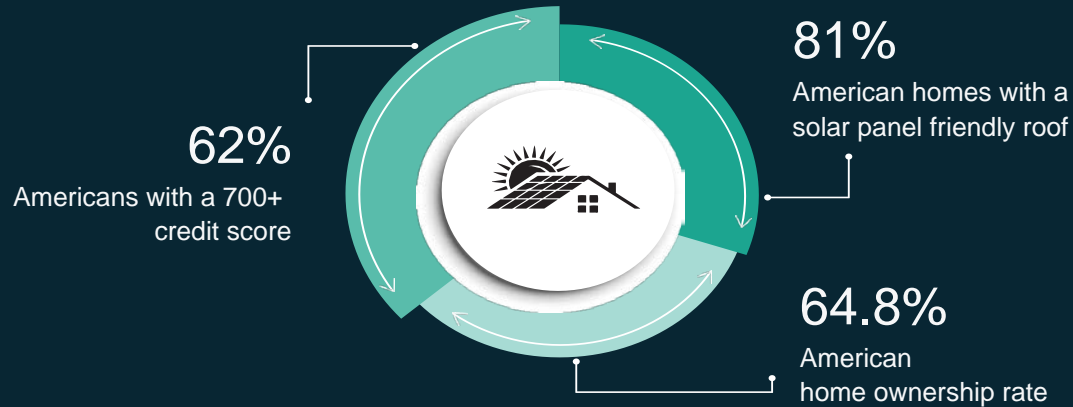


UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

The largest scale of solar installation typically sized over 25 megawatts (MW) often situated on large swaths of land (50+ acres)



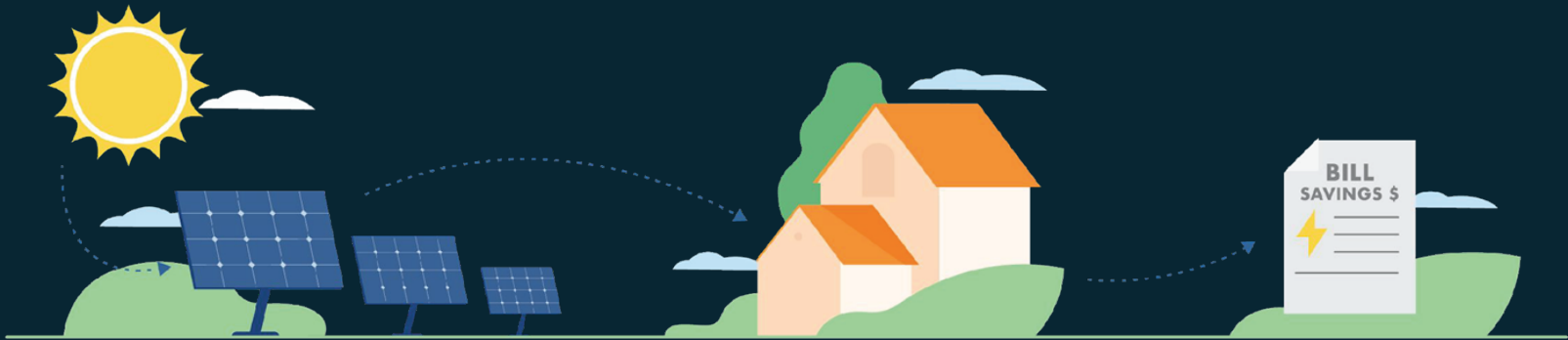
Rooftop solar doesn't work for most people



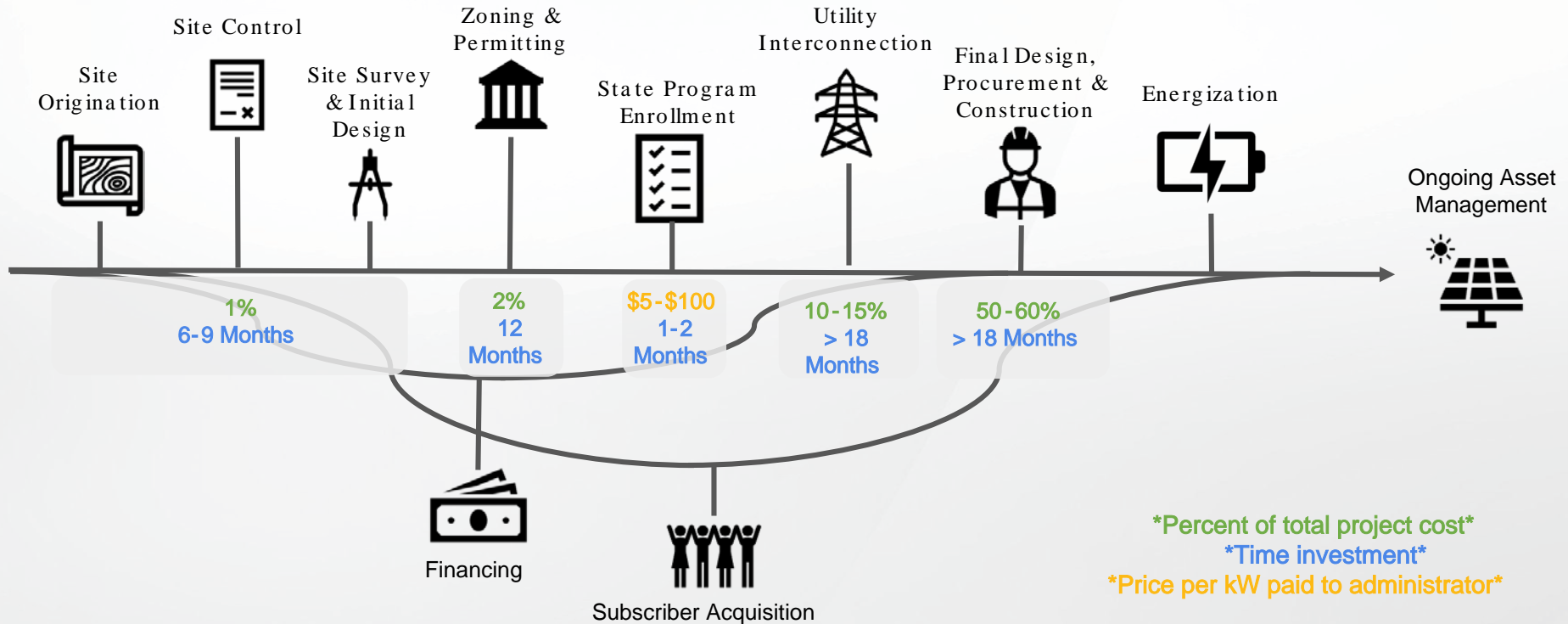
34% of households qualify
for rooftop solar

What is community solar?

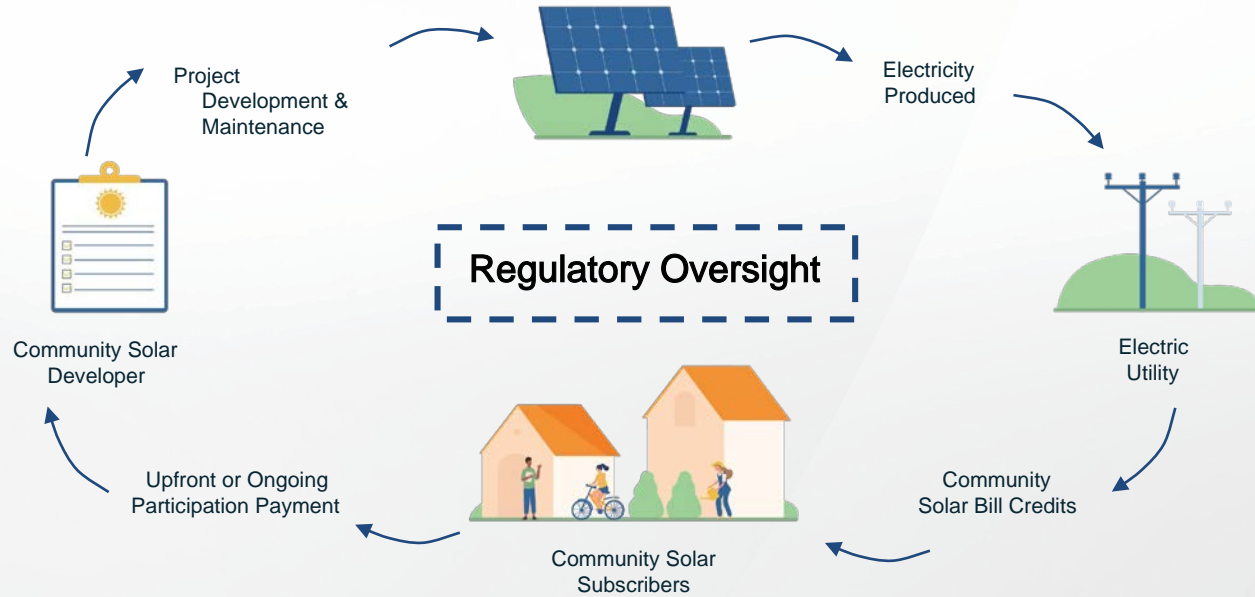
- Projects are developed at a site in your community
- Projects are 1 -5 MW (200 -1,000 homes) and take up 5 -25 acres of land
- Multiple subscribers sign up for a portion of the energy produced - small businesses, churches, schools, government buildings, renters, other households
- Subscribers receive a credit on their utility bill for portion of power produced



How does the development process work?



How does it work?



Program Implementation

- Senate Bill 84 enacted - 4/5/21
- Public Regulation Commission (PRC) opens rulemaking docket - 5/6/21
- PRC kicks off broad stakeholder process - 6/24/21
- PRC issues proposed rules - 10/27/21
- Community solar rules become effective in NM registry - 7/12/22
- RFP opens 12/1/22
- InClimate announces the results of the RFP - 5/22/23
- Awarded projects begin moving through the utility interconnection process - 5/23/23



Stats and benefits to New Mexico

- 408 bids received totaling over 1,700 megawatts of those 45 projects were awarded
- All bids voluntarily exceeded the 30% statutory carve-out for low-income subscribers with over 95% exceeding 50%
- Over 90% of bids offered 20-30% savings to low-income subscribers and workforce development or educational opportunities
- Over 80% of the bids are fully permitted
- Almost all of the bids committed to no upfront costs, no early termination fees, or credit checks on low-income subscribers



Economic Benefits

- Helps diversify and grow rural as well as urban local economies
- Enabled an entirely new industry in New Mexico that's creating in demand jobs
- Leads to increased property tax and permitting revenue for local jurisdictions
- Adjusted jobs and economic development projections
 - 1,504 jobs
 - \$58,770,200 in labor income
 - \$206,887,200 total industry economic output
- Customer bill savings through participation in the community solar program will lead to additional economic development as that money is recycled into the states economy



UNM Study: Community solar could support 3.7k jobs, generate \$517M economic impact for New Mexico

Example economic impact of a project

- This project is 2.3 MW —enough to power over 400 homes
- Created 75 family sustaining local jobs
- Paid \$30,000/yr. in lease payments to farmer
- Will pay \$700K in local taxes over the 25-year lifespan representing over 1% of tax base



So what's next?

- Awarded projects will work through the utility interconnection process and come online throughout 2024 and 2025
- The PRC has indicated that they will open a docket to review lessons learned
- Updates to the program will take place through a PRC rulemaking process
- Enabling a permanent program will sustain New Mexico's newest renewable industry and allow the state to realize further economic growth in addition to providing energy bill savings to consumers





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