



Implementation of the Community Solar Program

October 29, 2024



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.

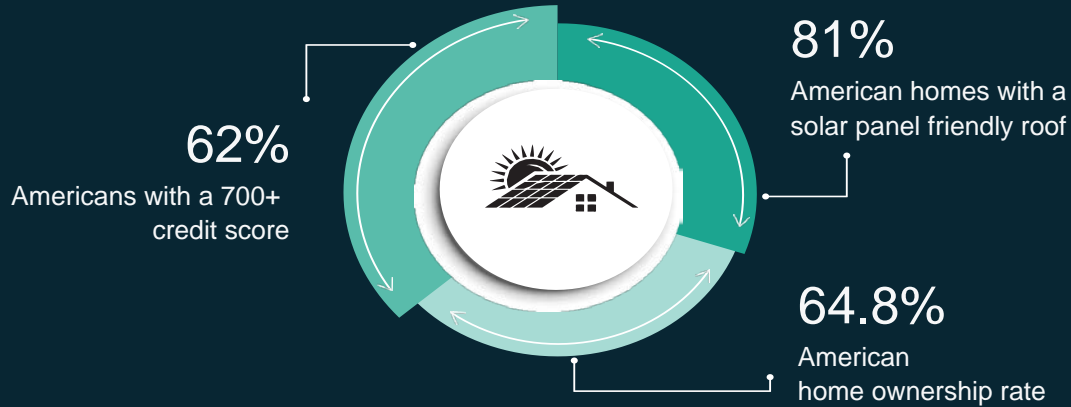


UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

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



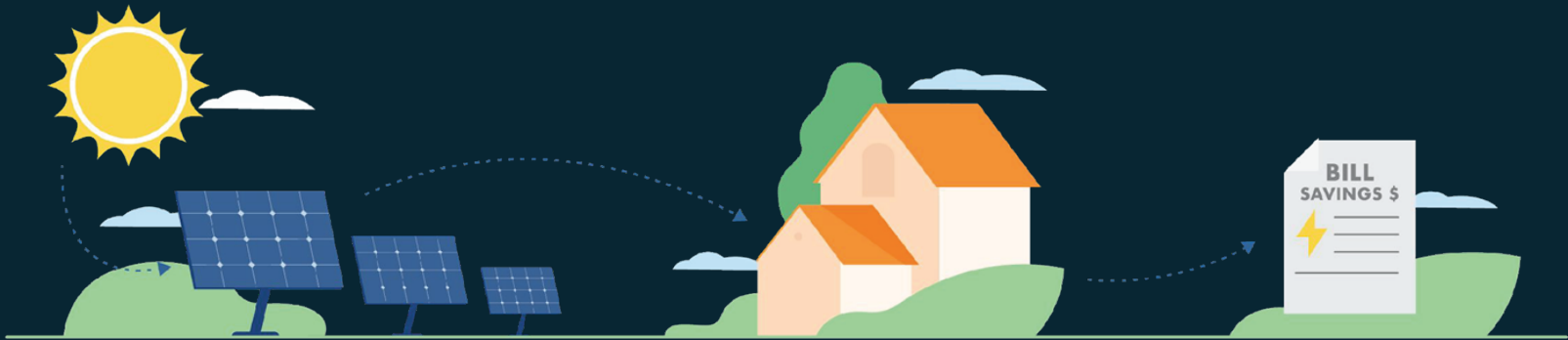
Rooftop solar doesn't work for most people



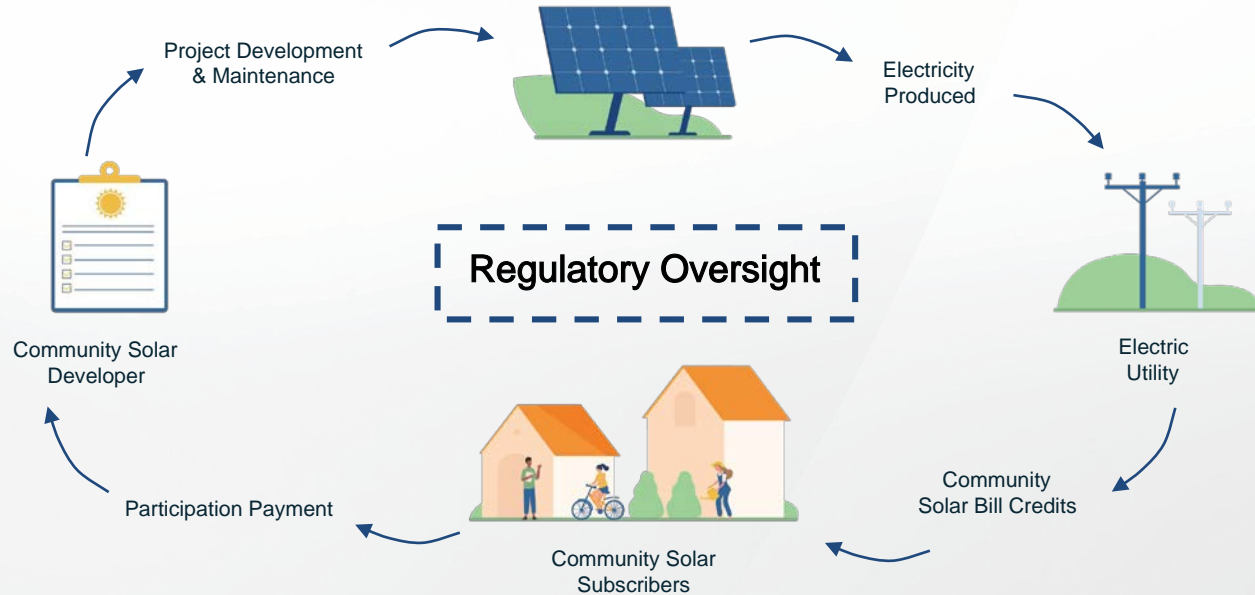
34% of households qualify
for rooftop solar

What is community solar?

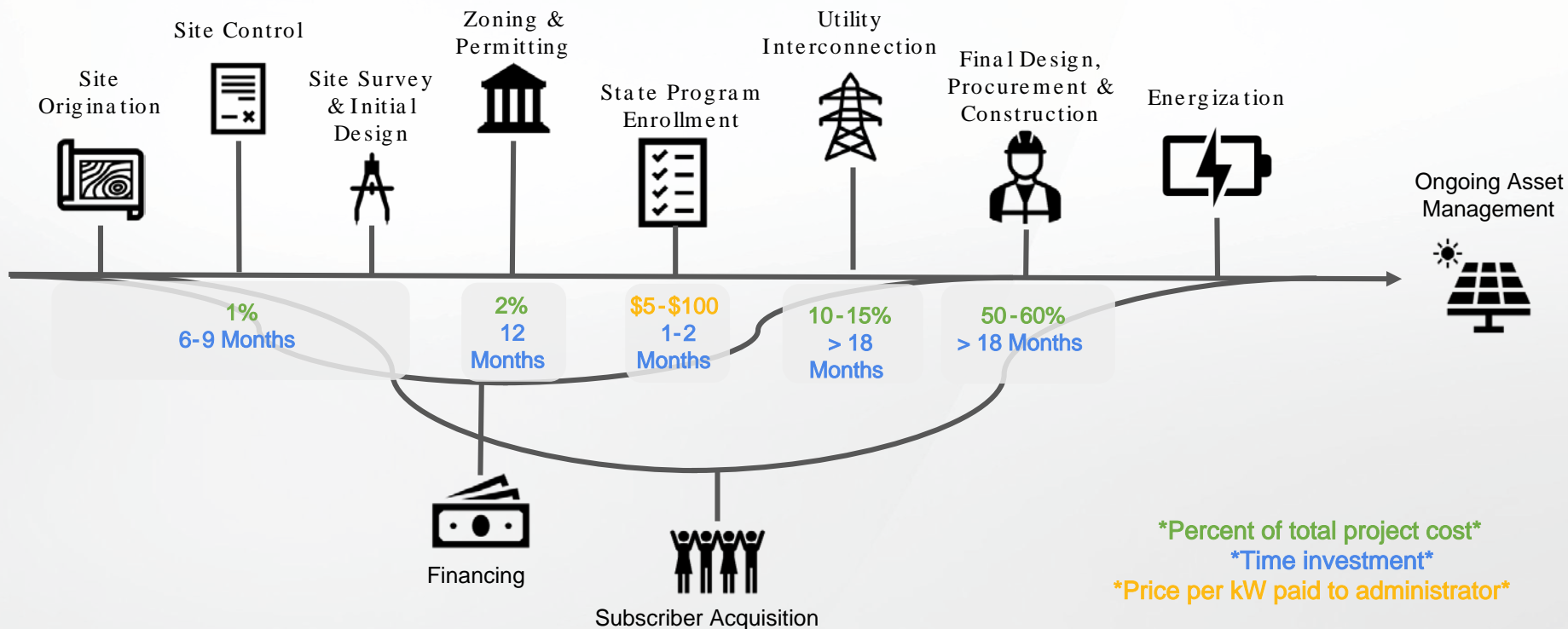
- Projects are developed at a site in your community
- Projects are 1 -5 MW (200 -1,000 homes) and take up 5 -25 acres of land
- Multiple subscribers sign up for a portion of the energy produced - small businesses, churches, schools, government buildings, renters, other households
- Subscribers receive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



How does it work?



How does the development process work?



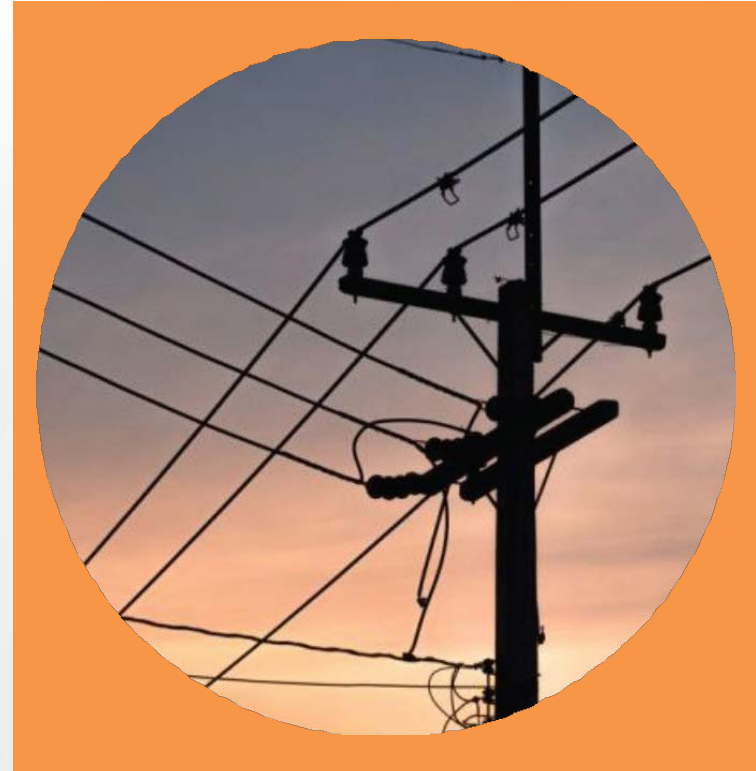
Interconnection of phase 1 community solar projects

- Progress processing interconnection studies has been slow
- Estimated timeline to preform system upgrades is much longer than expected and national averages
- Lack of a publicly available interconnection queue is severely limiting opportunities to enable cost sharing among projects
- Regional Transmission Operator (RTO) transmission studies could derail projects



Interconnection updates to support phase 2

- Publicly available hosting capacity resources
- Publicly available interconnection queues
- Reporting of interconnection study timelines and enforcement of deadlines in the interconnection rules
- Proactive procurement of standard long -lead time equipment
- Prioritization of projects with a viable path to interconnect to the grid
- Clear process to facilitate interconnection cost sharing



Recent and anticipated actions by the PRC

- Extension of low -income subscriber acquisition deadline
- Collection of lessons learned from phase 1 of the program
- Expansion of the community solar program cap
- Removal of barriers for low-income customers to access the program
- Status report to the legislature on the program
- Broader community solar rulemaking to support the second phase of the program



So what's next and how can the legislature help?

- Awarded projects are completing the utility interconnection process and working towards breaking ground. They will begin coming online throughout 2025 and 2026
- Kickoff of subscription drives
- Submission of the PRC's report to the legislature
- Pre-rulemaking workshop and subsequent rulemaking process
- Potential amendments to the Community Solar Act
- Opportunity to make key updates to the interconnection process





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Kevin Cray - kevin@communitysolaraccess.org