

## EXPANDING SOLAR OPPORTUNITY IN NEW MEXICO

# COMMUNITY SOLAR

### WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE?

Affordable solar power is providing savings, jobs and healthier air to communities all across the country, but in sunny New Mexico, the **MAJORITY OF FAMILIES DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO SOLAR.**

**FACT: Only 2% of all electricity from PNM and 1% from EPE is powered by the sun. Almost all of New Mexico's electricity still comes from dirty coal, gas and expensive nuclear, which are out-of-state and don't create one job in New Mexico.**

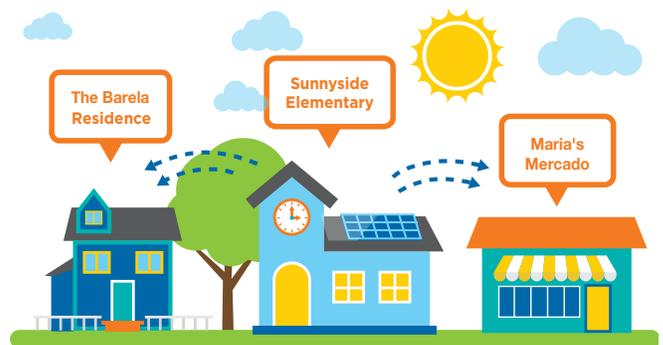
**FACT: Nationally, 75% of U.S. households face economic or physical barriers to going solar. Here in New Mexico, renters, low-income families, tribes and many others simply cannot go solar through the traditional rooftop model.**

**FACT: Thanks to pent up customer demand for affordable solar energy, community solar has become the fastest growing segment of the solar market with over 1GW of installed capacity and has expanded access to solar for homeowners, renters, and businesses and in the states where its enabled.**

### NEW MEXICO NEEDS COMMUNITY SOLAR

### WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

Local community solar allows multiple participants to **SHARE THE COST-SAVING BENEFITS OF A SINGLE SOLAR INSTALLATION.**



Community solar projects allow families of all income levels, Native American tribes, municipalities, counties, businesses and nonprofit entities including low-income housing and service organizations to go solar even if they don't own their home or business, have old or shaded roofs, or face financial barriers to rooftop solar. Community solar is a simple policy tool that provides everyone, regardless of housing type or income level, the opportunity to choose local, reliable, and cost-effective clean energy.

## SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDENS ACT



The Community Solar Garden Act will enable multiple customers to share the benefits of a single shared solar project - or "solar garden." Whether it's installed on a roof or just around the corner, participating in a community solar garden will allow customers to get credit on their electric utility bill for their portion of the power produced, up to 120% of their average electrical power consumption. The Utility Companies will continue to recover their costs associated with transmission and distribution needed to transfer the solar energy to subscribing homes and businesses. The Public Regulation Commission will adopt regulations implementing the Act by November 1, 2019, and the Utility Companies will submit plans to the PRC by February 1, 2020.

There are many reasons why community solar might be preferred for a family, business, or renter or affordable housing property owner. Here are a few examples:



A homeowner is planning to move in the near to mid-future



Renters may be prohibited from installing solar on the property



The roof may be too shaded or will need re-roofing in the next few years



The size, type, or orientation of the roof may be improper for on-site solar



Some commercial buildings have equipment on the roof, obstructing an installation



Multi-tenant dwellings or businesses may not own their rooftop



The customer is not eligible for standard financing solutions



A homeowner or business is concerned about maintaining their rooftop system



An affordable housing property owner cannot provide on-site solar energy to multiple individually-metered tenants

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY SOLAR?

- **SAVINGS:** Create opportunities for people at all income levels and all communities to go solar and lower their energy bills, which is especially important for low-income families who pay a disproportionate amount of their income on energy bills.
- **JOBS:** Create more good jobs in New Mexico. The U.S. solar industry employs more than 250,000 people and the Bureau of Labor Statistics expects 'solar installer' to be the fastest growing job in America over the next decade.
- **ECONOMY:** Keep energy dollars invested in New Mexico's communities and economy. Analysis shows that each megawatt of community solar capacity built generates approximately \$1.87 million of total economic impact during construction, operation and maintenance.
- **HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT:** Reduce harmful pollution and the amount of water used in energy production, which will give us cleaner air to breath, conserve our precious water resources, improve health for families and leave a better world for future generations.
- **EQUITY:** Achieve Governor Lujan Grisham's bold clean energy agenda in a way that is fair and equitable, because everyone deserves access to clean energy, clean air and economic opportunity.

## LET'S MAKE NEW MEXICO A LEADER IN THE NEW ENERGY ECONOMY!

Community solar is spreading across the country thanks in part to smart state policies. At least 19 states and D.C. have legislatively enabled statewide community solar programs. It's time to join them and allow New Mexico's communities to build solar gardens and generate affordable clean energy for all of us!

## SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS



### CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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