Increasing Community Access to Solar:

Designing and Developing a Shared Solar Photovoltaic System

Updated guide highlights project models, policies, and financing

Community shared solar programs enable members of a neighborhood or community to pool resources and share the benefits of a single solar installation. Everyone can participate—even renters, condo owners, and homeowners with shading and other issues that prohibit individual PV installations. The U.S. Department of Energy's new *Guide to Community Shared Solar: Utility, Private, and Nonprofit Project Development* is designed for those who want to develop community shared solar projects—from community organizers and advocates to utility managers and government officials.
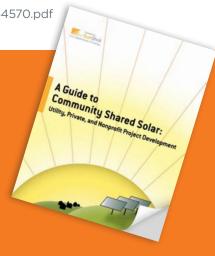
The guide includes case studies, as well as statistics, government policies, incentives, and strategic guidance on potential project structures and pitfalls. By exploring a range of options and examples of successful community shared solar projects, this guide aims to help communities navigate the process of developing shared systems, from early planning to implementation.

Available for download:

http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy12osti/54570.pdf

SunShot will work to bring down the full cost of solar—including the costs of solar cells and installation by focusing on four main pillars:

1. Technologies for solar cells and arrays that convert sunlight to energy;
2. Electronics that optimize the performance of the installation;
3. Improvements in the efficiency of solar manufacturing processes; and
4. Installation, design, and permitting for solar energy systems.

The DOE SunShot Initiative is a collaborative national initiative to make solar energy technologies cost-competitive with other forms of energy by reducing the cost of solar energy systems by about 75% by the end of the decade. Reducing the total installed cost for utility-scale solar electricity to roughly 6 cents per kilowatt hour without subsidies will result in rapid, large-scale adoption of solar electricity across the United States. Reaching this goal will re-establish American technological leadership, improve the nation's energy security, and strengthen U.S. economic competitiveness in the global clean energy race.

Learn About:

- **Project sponsorship model comparisons**
- **Relevant state policies**
- **Tax policies and other incentives**
- **Securities compliance**
- **Practical tools for getting started.**

A Guide to Community Shared Solar: Utility, Private, and Nonprofit Project Development

Also available:

The Solarize Guidebook: A Community Guide to Collective Purchasing of Residential PV Systems helps communities overcome implementation barriers and seize volume discounts through collective solar purchasing: http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy12osti/54738.pdf

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