National Community Solar Partnership

Sunny Awards for Equitable Community Solar
August 18, 2022 | 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Eastern)
Housekeeping

• This session is being recorded.

• Please put questions in the Q&A section (please do not put questions in the chat).

• Questions will be answered at the end of the webinar.

• Live transcript is enabled. It must be turned on manually by clicking on the “Live Transcript” button and selecting “Show Subtitles.”
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National Community Solar Partnership Overview
National Community Solar Partnership

Data Tracking
Sharing the Sun is an annual report, published by NREL, that tracks market trends in community solar.

Collaboration
Partners can access an online community platform, virtual/in-person meetings, webinars and other tools to engage with DOE, National Labs, and each other.

Technical Assistance
Partners have access to resources and direct technical assistance from DOE, National Labs, and third-party subject-matter experts to support local challenges.
National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP)

Pathway to Success

- Technical Expertise and Capacity Building
- State Engagement
- Access to Capital
- Customer Engagement
- Hearts and Minds

NCSP Target
- 5 million households
- $1 billion in savings

Resulting in...
- An average 20% energy bill reduction
- 700% increase in community solar capacity
- Meaningful benefits such as resilience, career opportunities, and community wealth building
Meaningful Benefits of Community Solar

Greater Household Savings
- Provide at least 20% reduction in electricity bills for residential subscribers to a project

Low Income Access
- Include at least 40% subscribers from low- to moderate-income (LMI) households

Resilience & Grid Benefits
- Include capability to deliver power to households and/or critical facilities during a grid outage or strengthen grid operations through demand response and other actions

Community Ownership
- Include community ownership of, or equity in, project assets (e.g., community benefits agreements or partnership flip models)

Equitable Workforce Development
- Advance high wages, reduce demographic income disparities, ensure a trained and available workforce reflective of the community, and creating a safe work environment
Sunny Awards for Equitable Community Solar Overview
Sunny Awards Overview

Prize Purpose
- Recognize community solar projects and programs that employ or develop best practices to increase equitable access to the meaningful benefits of community solar

Meaningful Benefits Categories
- Greater Household Savings
- Low- to Moderate-income Household Access
- Resilience and Grid Benefits
- Community Ownership
- Equitable Workforce Development
- Innovation Category: Community Engagement
- Innovation Category: Impact

Eligibility
- Community solar project or program based in the United States or its territories
- Provides at least one of the 5 primary meaningful benefits
- Project must have been energized for at least 6 months or program must support at least one project that has been energized for 6 months
- Serves at least some residential customers
- No size requirements

DEADLINE:
Applications are due on October 7, 2022, 5pm ET
Sunny Awards Prizes

Finalist Prize
$1,000

- Up to 50 awards
- Meet eligibility requirements in at least one category
- Announced in November 2022

Grand Prize
$10,000

- Up to 5 awards
- Meet eligibility requirements in at least two categories
- Announced at the NCSP Annual Summit in January 2023
Non-Monetary Special Recognition

Semifinalist Recognition

- Public announcement and recognized on NCSP website
- No limit to number of projects or programs recognized
- Meet eligibility requirements in at least one category
- Announced in October 2022

Meaningful Benefits Category Special Recognition

- Publicly recognized at NCSP Annual Summit, featured in webinars and other NCSP media, recognized on NCSP website
- Up to 21 projects and programs recognized
- Meet eligibility requirements in at least one category
- Announced at the NCSP Annual Summit in January 2023
Review and Scoring

Reviewers

- Semifinalist Recognition -> *Internal DOE Reviewers*
- Finalist Recognition + Prizes -> *Internal DOE Reviewers*
- Meaningful Benefits Category Special Recognition -> *Panel of Expert External Reviewers*
- Sunny Grand Prize Awards -> *Panel of Expert External Reviewers*

Evidence

- Evidence will be reviewed first – must be appropriate, complete, and verifiable
- Suggested evidence preferred, but encourage highest quality evidence available

Scoring

- Each narrative and evidence section given a score between 1 – 6
- High quality evidence will be given a higher score (4-6) than low quality (1-3)
- Reviewer comments taken into consideration
- May follow up with applicants as needed
Application Timeline

- Sunny Applications Open
  - July 27, 2022

- Applications Due
  - October 7, 2022, 5pm ET

- Applications Due

- Semifinalists Announced
  - October 2022

- Finalists Announced
  - November 2022

- Grand Prize Winners Announced at NCSP Summit
  - January 2023
Sunny Awards Application Process
HeroX Platform Overview

HeroX Live Demo
Introduction

- Public information
- Create a name highlighting the project/program
- Short description may be used in NCSP communications
- Photograph of the project/program
Eligibility

- You must answer every question to be eligible
- Team Lead should complete this section
Cover Page

- Submitting as a Team vs Individual
- Submitting as a Project vs Program
Each Meaningful Benefit selected will require more information later in the application.

- Expect to submit evidence/narrative for each benefit selected.
- The legal name of the organization receiving the award must match W-9.

Which "Meaningful Benefits" Apply to your Submission? *
Select all categories that apply.

- Greater Household Savings
- LMI Household Access
- Resilience and Grid Benefits
- Community Ownership
- Equitable Workforce Development
- Innovation Category: Community Engagement
- Innovation Category: Innovation in Impact

If you receive a cash award for the Sunny Awards, who will receive the award? *
Please enter the legal name of the individual or entity you wish to receive the full award payment. This should match the name in line 1 of a W-9 form exactly. This is not binding, and you can change the recipient at the time of winning of the prize. Please note, any changes may delay payment and require additional documentation for auditing purposes internal to NREL.

If you receive a cash award for the Sunny Awards, who will receive the awards?
Narrative

- Please use the Narrative Template (follow [link](https://www.herox.com/sunnyawards/resource/1035))
- Background narrative (300-word max)
- One narrative per Meaningful Benefit Selected (300-word max each)
- Submit as a single PDF

**Section 4: Submission Package: Narrative**

*Narrative*

Narrative describing the project or program and how it delivers the community solar benefits described in this document (300 words per category/not to exceed 2,400 words) -

https://www.herox.com/sunnyawards/resource/1035
Evidence

- ALL projects and programs must submit general supporting documentation as a single PDF.
Evidence (Cont.)

• Provide evidence for each of the meaningful benefits selected

• Guidance on suggested materials found on Official Sunny Rules, pages 19-23

• Send questions to solar.prize@nrel.gov
Q&A
Stay Connected!

Nominate a project or program for a Sunny Award! https://www.herox.com/sunnyawards

Sign up for our online community platform for updates and future events!

Questions about the Sunny Awards? Reach out to us at solar.prize@nrel.gov

Low Income Community Solar Subscription Platform RFI
- Online platform to identify and make community solar subscriptions with verified savings more accessible for households participating in government-run low-income support programs.
- Respond to Request for Information (RFI) by August 31, 2022

NCSP Annual Summit
- Tentatively scheduled for January 2023 – join the Partnership to get updates!

Join NCSP! ncp.solarinyourcommunity.org
Connect with Us: community.solar@ee.doe.gov
Resources + Follow Up

Links to resources shared during Sunny Awards for Equitable Community Solar Webinar:
NOTES – APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Cover Page (public)
- Narrative (not public) – note word counts
- Evidence (not public) – note no PII, upload as a single PDF, all projects must include general supporting evidence
- Additional Supporting Documentation (not public) – up to 5 pages of supporting documentation, single PDF
NOTES – GENERAL APPLICATION

Be sure we include in this section:
- Project vs. program
- Individual vs. team
- Team requirements
- How many submissions can you enter (up to 3 projects – only the first received for an individual project is counted; 1 program only)