



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

NREL
Transforming ENERGY

 **BERKELEY LAB**



2023 National Community Solar Partnership Annual Update

Solar Energy Technologies Office
U.S. Department of Energy
April 25, 2024

2023 National Community Solar Partnership Annual Update Overview

The NCSP Annual Update is an annual effort to publicly report the progress the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Community Solar Partnership has made on its 2025 targets since they were set in 2021.

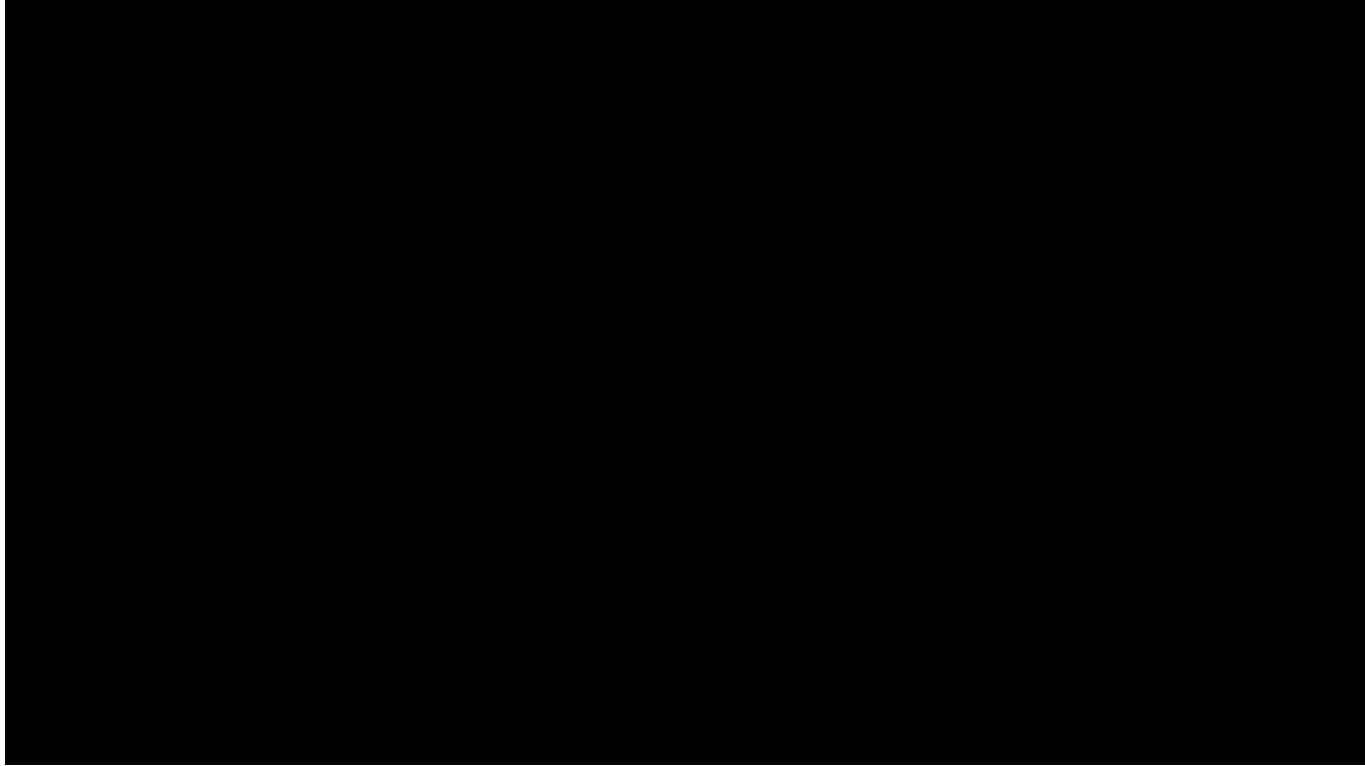
The 2022 NCSP Annual Update can be found at <https://www.energy.gov/communitysolar/webinar-national-community-solar-partnership-2022-annual-update>

The 2023 Annual Update includes activities and impacts for the National Community Solar Partnership Program in calendar year 2023. This update also includes information on:

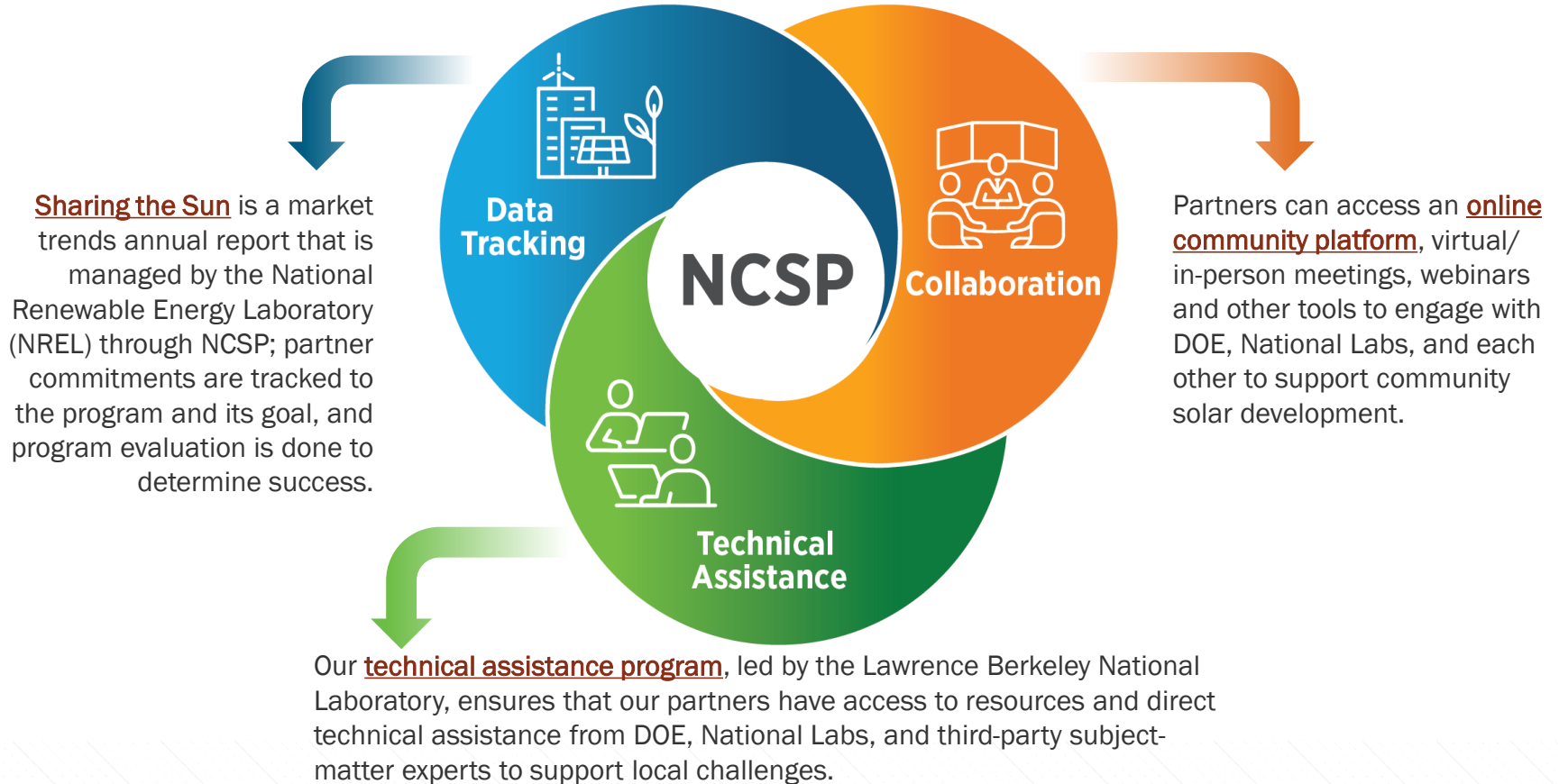
- NCSP targets and priorities
- NCSP's main initiatives and activities
- Successes and progress to date across each initiative



Welcome Message from Nicole Steele, Head of the National Community Solar Partnership



The National Community Solar Partnership

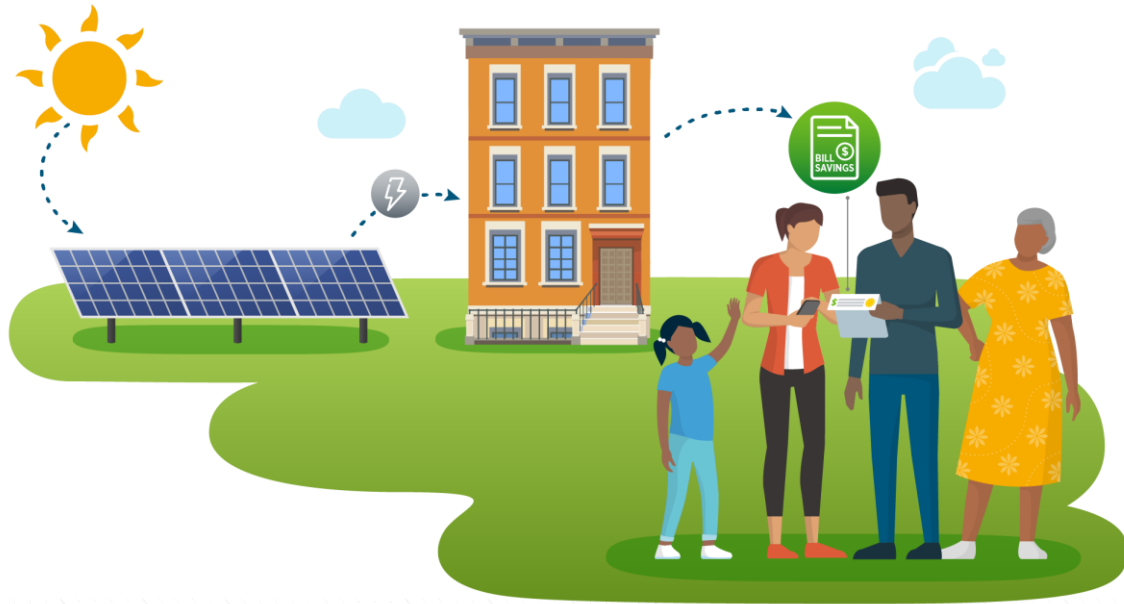


What is Community Solar?

DOE defines community solar as any solar project or purchasing program, within a geographic area, in which the benefits of a solar project flow to multiple customers such as individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and other groups.

Community solar...

- Allows households who cannot access rooftop solar to access the **benefits of solar energy** (which can be due to barriers such as rooftop suitability, cost, or tenancy).
- **Creates subscriptions, benefits, and/or ownership opportunities** that participants can access for a portion of electricity produced.
- Typically **provides participants with an electric bill credit** for electricity generated by their share of the system.
- **Can provide meaningful benefits** such as low-income access, electric bill savings, resilience, community wealth building, and workforce opportunities.



NCSP Meaningful Benefits

NCSP has identified the following five meaningful benefits that should be included in community solar projects and programs. These meaningful benefits are embedded in all NCSP activities and initiatives:



EQUITABLE ACCESS & CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

- Contract terms that support strong consumer protections
- Inclusive outreach and engagement
- Financial products that are accessible to all households

Justice40 Priority 3:
Increase Clean Energy Parity



MEANINGFUL HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS

- Guaranteed bill and/or household savings
- Wealth building opportunities
- Indirect multifamily affordable housing tenant benefits

Justice40 Priority 1:
Reduce Energy Burden



RESILIENCE, STORAGE, AND GRID BENEFITS

- Household and community level resilience strategies
- Grid strengthening strategies
- Improved health outcomes through reduced or shortened power outages

Justice40 Priority 7:
Increase Energy Resiliency



COMMUNITY-LED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Opportunities for community ownership
- Community benefits agreements
- Support for entrepreneurship and local and minority and women-owned businesses

Justice40 Priority 8:
Increase Energy Democracy



SOLAR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Strategies that ensure jobs are accessible to workers of all backgrounds, offer competitive wages and union membership
- Training and apprenticeship programs

Justice40 Priority 6:
Increase Clean Energy Jobs

National Community Solar Partnership Target



Represents an increase from **3 GW to 20 GW** of community solar capacity



\$1 billion in savings reflects an average **bill reduction of 20%**

National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP)

Pathway to Success

TECHNICAL
EXPERTISE
AND CAPACITY
BUILDING



STATE
ENGAGEMENT



ACCESS
TO CAPITAL



CUSTOMER
ENGAGEMENT



EDUCATION
AND OUTREACH



**NCSP
TARGET**

5 million households
and \$1 billion in
savings by 2025

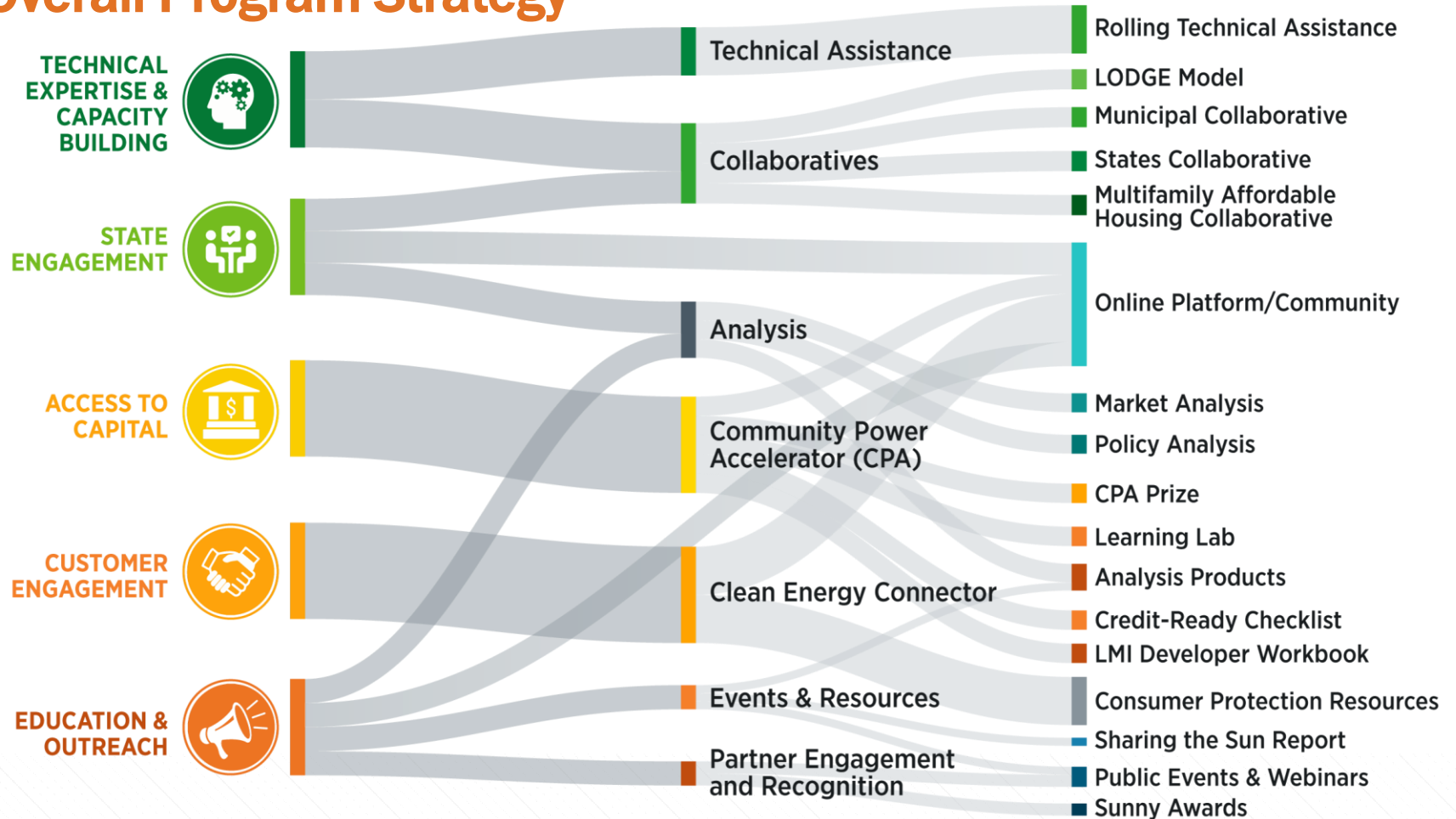
Resulting in...

- ★ An average 20% energy bill reduction
- ★ 700% increase in community solar capacity

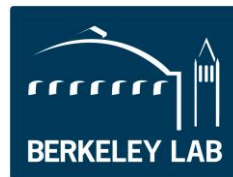
Meaningful benefits: Equitable access and consumer protections; Meaningful household savings; Resilience, storage, and grid benefits; Community-led economic development; Solar workforce development

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS | STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT | DEVELOPERS | INVESTORS | PHILANTHROPISTS | UTILITIES | CUSTOMERS

Overall Program Strategy



2023 NCSP Partner Team

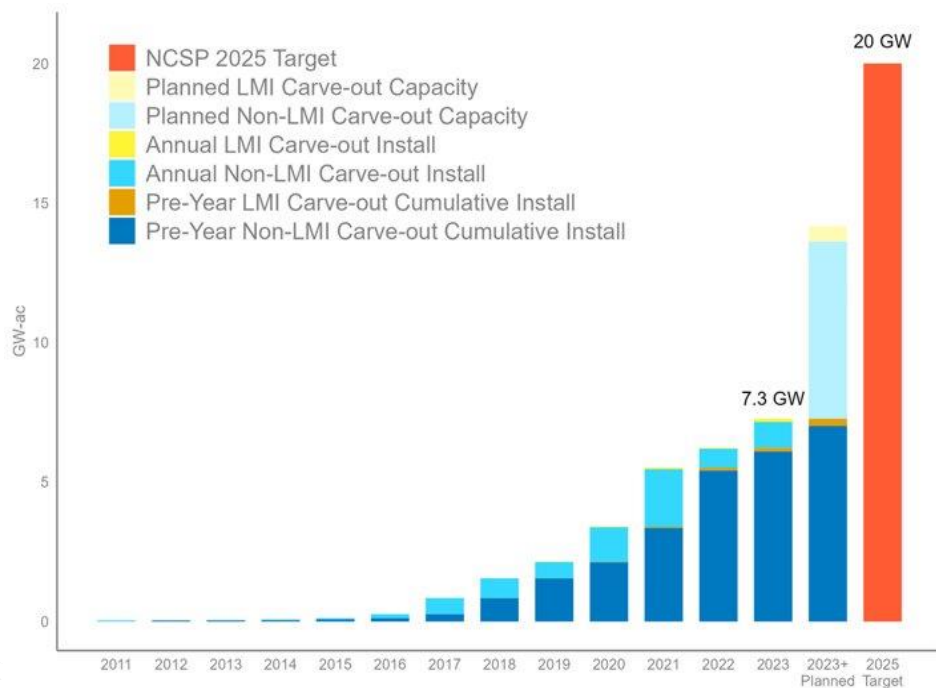


Cliburn and Associates



Community Solar Market: Baseline Capacity

Cumulative community solar capacity has grown by about 139% year over year most years since 2010, except 2022-23



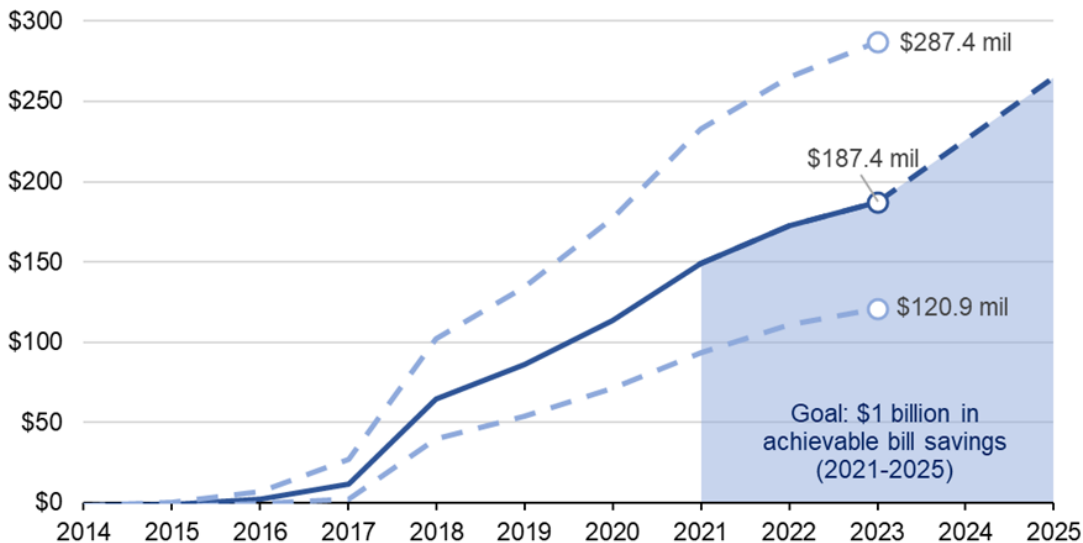
- As of **December 2023**, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory reports the installation of **7.3 GWac** of community solar projects.
- Additionally, **6.9 GWac** of projects have been awarded or are under construction, with completion expected in the coming years.
- To meet the National Community Solar Partnership's goal of **20 GWac** by 2025, an additional **5.8 GWac** of capacity needs to be awarded and constructed.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory 2023 Sharing the Sun Project Database. Note: All deployment reported in GW-ac. 'Planned Capacity' refers to projects that have been awarded or are under construction. Projects that are wait-listed, under review, or withdrawn are not considered to be planned capacity. Planned capacity data reported in this figure was collected from 11 states: NY, FL, MN, MA, IL, CO, MD, HI, NM, NJ, and OR. (<https://data.nrel.gov/submissions/233>)

Community Solar Market: Bill Savings Baseline

- The National Renewable Energy Laboratory estimates **\$187.4 million** in bill savings from community solar in 2023.
- To achieve the National Community Solar Partnership target of \$1 billion in savings by 2025, community solar market needs to increase **almost threefold** compared to the 2023 baseline (from 7.3 GWac to 20 GWac).

Estimated Annual Achievable Savings of Deployed Community Solar Capacity (\$mil per year)



Notes: Achievable bill savings is calculated by finding the net present value (NPV) of residential community solar subscription contracts based on the assumptions and methodology developed in NREL's *Sharing the Sun* project. NPV of subscriptions are averaged for each utility, and where insufficient data is available, the state average NPV is used. Average NPV's are then converted to an annuity equivalent over 20 years (the constant revenue that would produce the same NPV). Annuity equivalents are then multiplied by project capacity (available to all rate classes). The three scenarios shown (base, low, high) assume an annual retail rate escalation factor of 2.5% (base), 1.5% (low), 3.5% (high); real discount rate of 8.4% (base), 6.4% (low), 4.4% (high); and an annual solar PV degradation rate of 0.5% (base), 0.75% (low), 0.30% (high).

Market Impact of NCSP Pathways of Success Initiatives

Potential gigawatt (GW) growth by activity

	Technical Expertise and Capacity Building	State Engagement	Access to Capital	Customer Engagement	Education and Outreach
Utility engagement	++				+
Accelerating timelines	++		++		+
Reduced costs	+		+	+	+
Opening new state markets		+++			+
Expanding existing state markets		+++			+++

NCSP Impact Growth Key

0.2 - 0.5 GW

+

0.6 - 1.1 GW

++

1.2 - 3 GW

+++

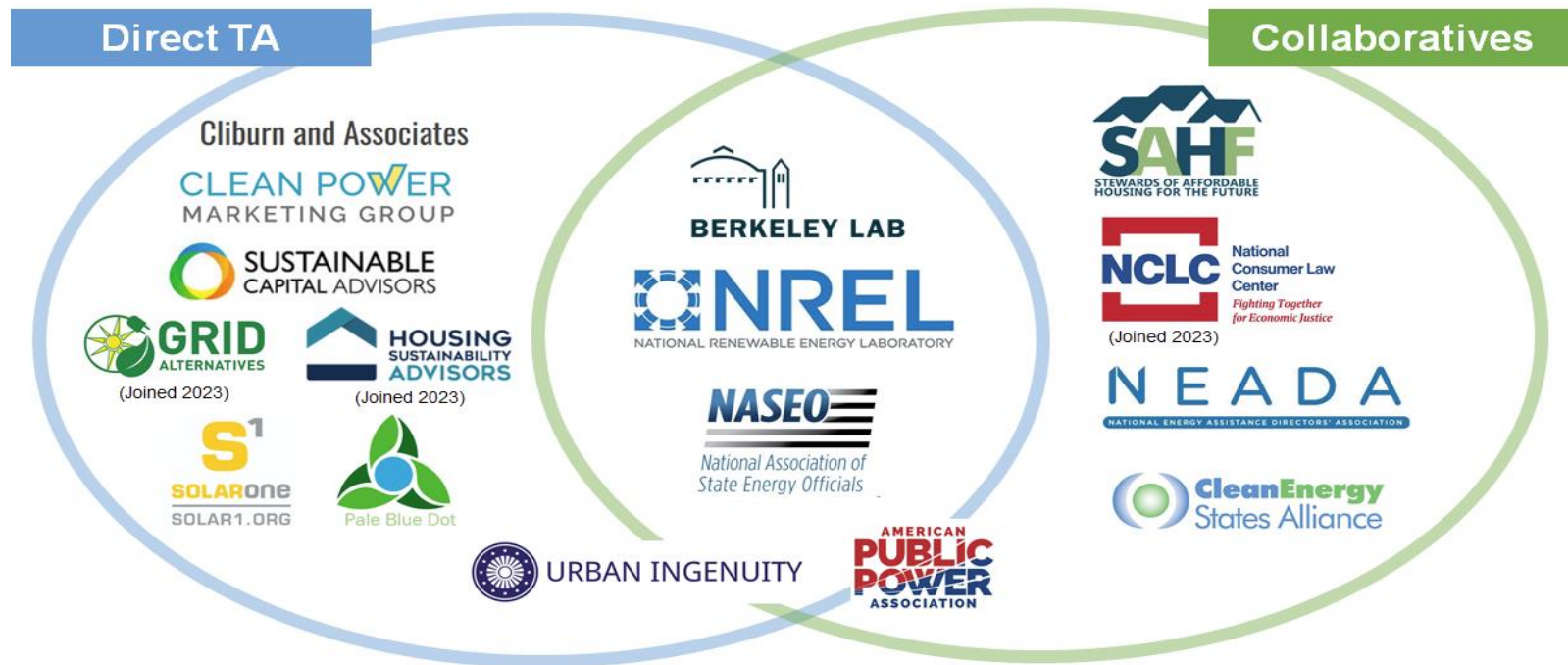


2024 Progress: Technical Expertise and Capacity Building



NCSP Progress: Technical Expertise and Capacity Building

NCSP leverages expertise from partner organizations to support technical assistance needs, with providers including:





NCSP Progress: Technical Expertise and Capacity Building

NCSP Partners can apply for technical assistance support in 5 areas:



**POLICY, LEGISLATION,
AND REGULATION
RESEARCH**



**PROJECT
FINANCING
ANALYSIS**



**OUTREACH AND
ENGAGEMENT
STRATEGIES**



**PROGRAM
DESIGN**



**TECHNICAL
ISSUES**

Organizations can receive support in a variety of formats including:

Consultation on
program processes and
policies and technical
review of proposed
plans and models.

Technical and financial
analysis and modeling
of potential program
costs, benefits
and impacts.

Custom research such
as market studies
or third-party
white papers.

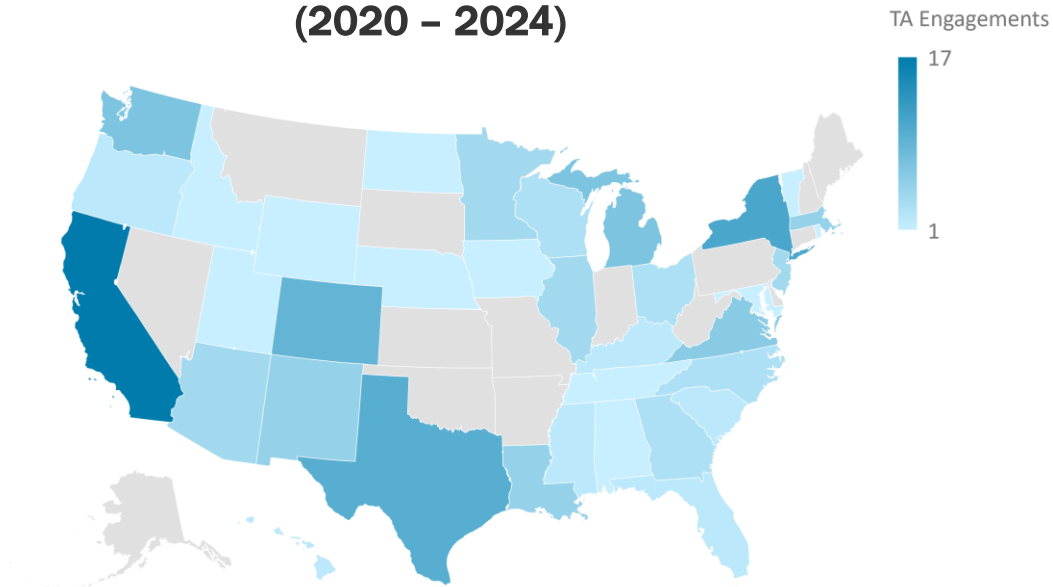
Custom publications
such as toolkits,
tip sheets, or
case studies.



NCSP Progress: Technical Expertise and Capacity Building

- NCSP has provided **144 direct technical assistance engagements** - totaling over 2,507 hours - since its launch to recipients in 35 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- In 2023 NCSP completed **57 direct technical engagements** – totaling 385.5 hours of assistance.

**Number of direct TA engagements by state
(2020 – 2024)**



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NCSP Progress: Technical Expertise and Capacity Building

TA Category	Engagements
Other	28
Outreach and engagement	23
Program design	19
Project finance	39
Project planning and development	13
Regulatory issues	22
Grand Total	144

Organization Type	Engagements
Financial Institution	4
K-12 or Higher Education	4
Non-governmental community organization	33
Other	16
Solar developer	43
State, local or tribal government	31
Trade Association	4
Utility Company	9
Grand Total	144

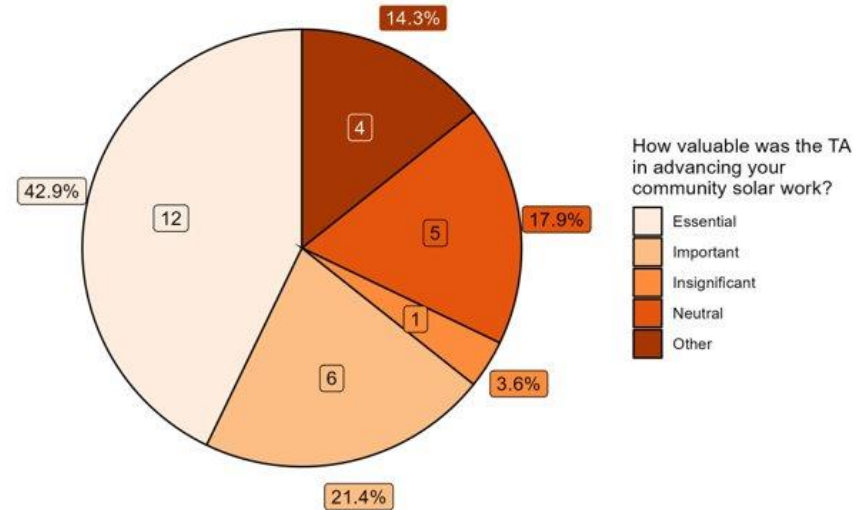




NCSP Progress: Technical Expertise and Capacity Building

Of the 28 NCSP technical assistance recipients that responded to a survey in 2023:

- **50% of respondents** that received assistance indicated that NCSP technical assistance helped them deploy a community solar project or program
- **Over 60% of respondents** indicated that technical assistance from the NCSP was essential or important in advancing their community solar work.



Value of NCSP Technical Assistance from Survey Respondents



NCSP Progress: Technical Expertise and Capacity Building: Impact Stories



A solar installation next to a manufactured housing neighborhood
https://eta-publications.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/michigan_community_solar_for_mfd_homes_formatted_march_2024.pdf

Together New Orleans

- Techno-economic analysis of community solar program rules in New Orleans

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

- Program design combining community solar and weatherization

Valley Wide Construction Services

- Community solar software and services: a primer for developers and owners, subscriber organizations, and stakeholders

Read the Impact Stories and learn more:

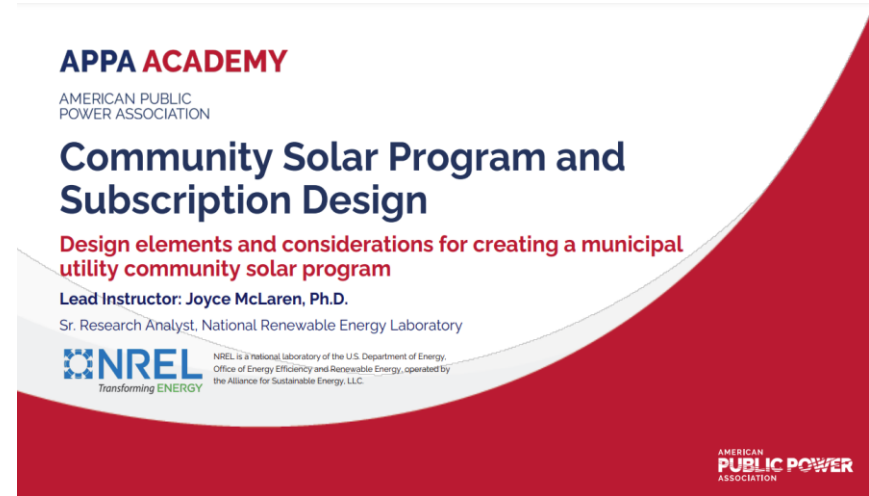
<https://www.energy.gov/communitysolar/national-community-solar-partnership-technical-assistance-engagement-summaries>



NCSP Progress: Technical Expertise and Capacity Building

Municipal Utility Continuing Education Series

- 273 registrants for a 2-day continuing education series on Community Solar Program & Subscription Design representing municipal utilities across the U.S.
- Presented portions of this course at two American Public Power Association conferences



Access all NCSP resources for Municipal Utilities
here: <https://www.energy.gov/communitysolar/municipal-utility-collaborative>



2023 Progress: Least-Cost Optimal Distribution Grid Expansion (LODGE) Model



NCSP Progress: LODGE MODEL

LODGE (Least-Cost Optimal Distribution Grid Expansion) Model

What it does

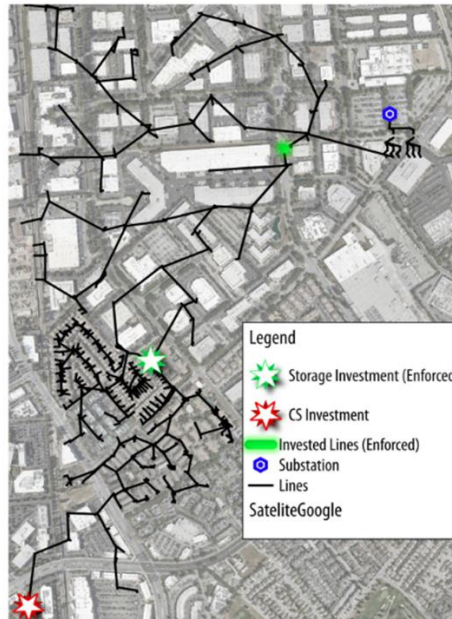
- The Least-cost Optimal Distribution Grid Expansion (LODGE) model provides the optimal portfolio of distribution system upgrades to interconnect DERs and enable electrification.
- LODGE can be used to assess grid infrastructure costs and explore policy and regulatory solutions for distribution system planning and DERs.

Objective

- Work with 2-3 utilities/regulators to pilot an application of the LODGE Model to inform a full technical assistance program



Feeder with CS



CS: 6.5 MW

\$648k in investments

When a CS project is installed at the end of the feeder, storage placed in the middle of the feeder is sufficient to avoid reconductoring investments



NCSP Progress: LODGE Model

Spring
2023

Launched the Least-Cost Optimal Distribution Grid Expansion (LODGE) project as part of NCSP, to help utilities and commissions cost-optimally site community solar

Summer
2023

Conducted an analysis of more than 2,500 modeled feeders and published report on the findings

Fall
2023

Released report and submitted an article about LODGE research to a peer reviewed journal

Conducted a LODGE model webinar geared towards utilities and regulators receiving assistance on interconnection issues, had 150+ attendees

February
2024

Recruited 25+ candidates for the LODGE model pilot

March
2024

Selecting candidates for 2-3 pilot partners (utilities and regulators) to conduct empirical analyses

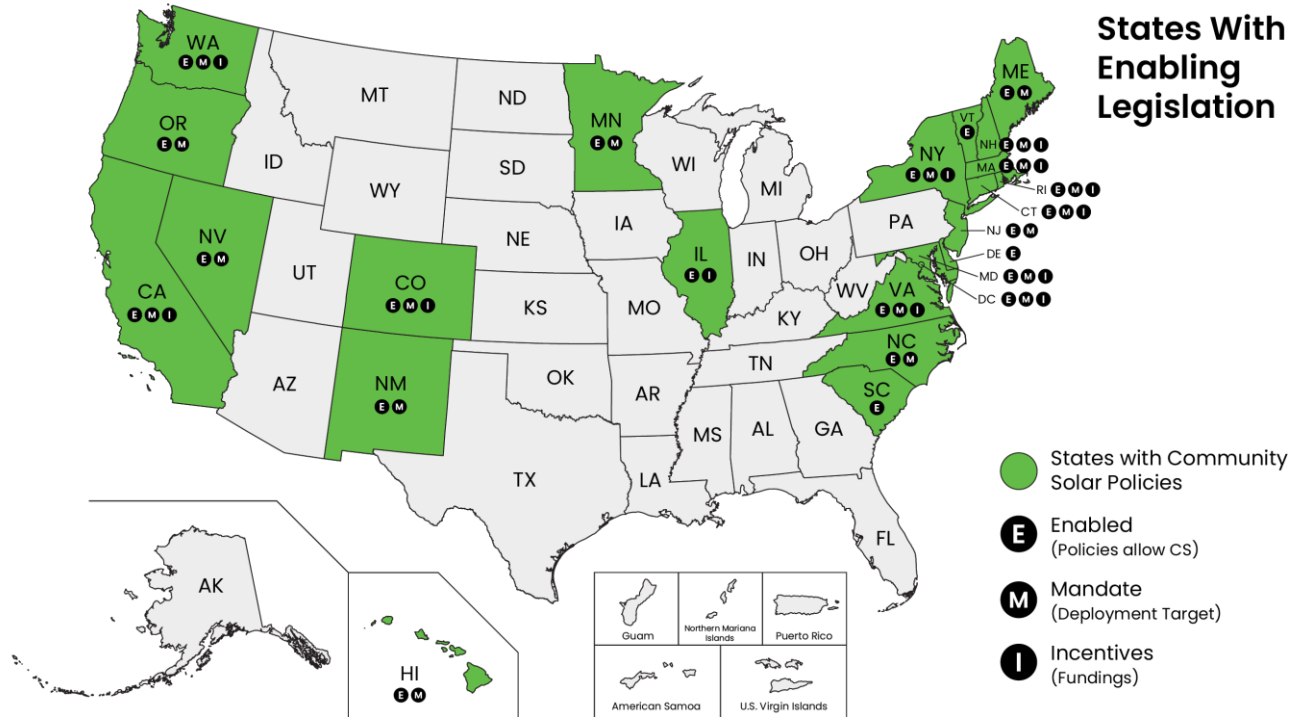
Ongoing



2023 Progress: State Engagement



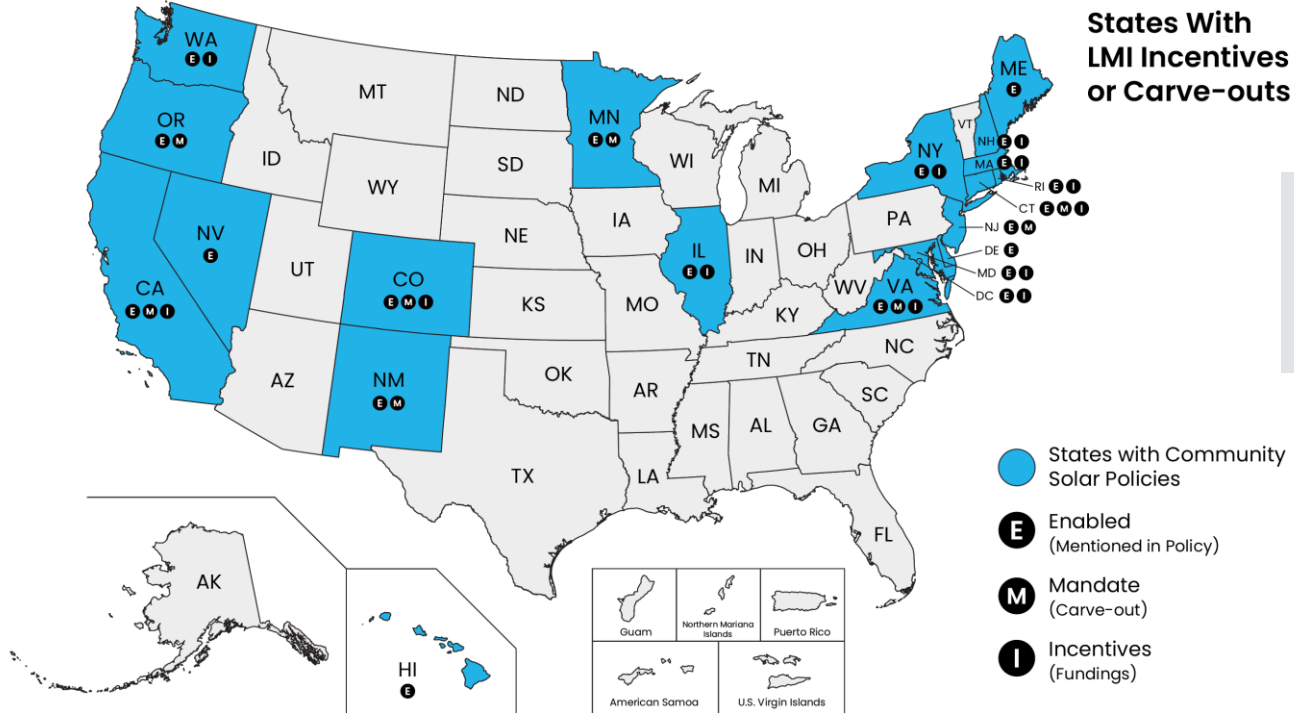
NCSP Progress: State Engagement - Policies



New policies and programs were deployed in at least 4 states



NCSP Progress: State Engagement – LMI Policies



Of the new policies and programs deployed in 2023, at least 1 included an LMI specific focus



NCSP Progress: State Engagement

Launched in February 2022, the States Collaborative is open to all states and territories who want to engage in peer learning and technical assistance on community solar.

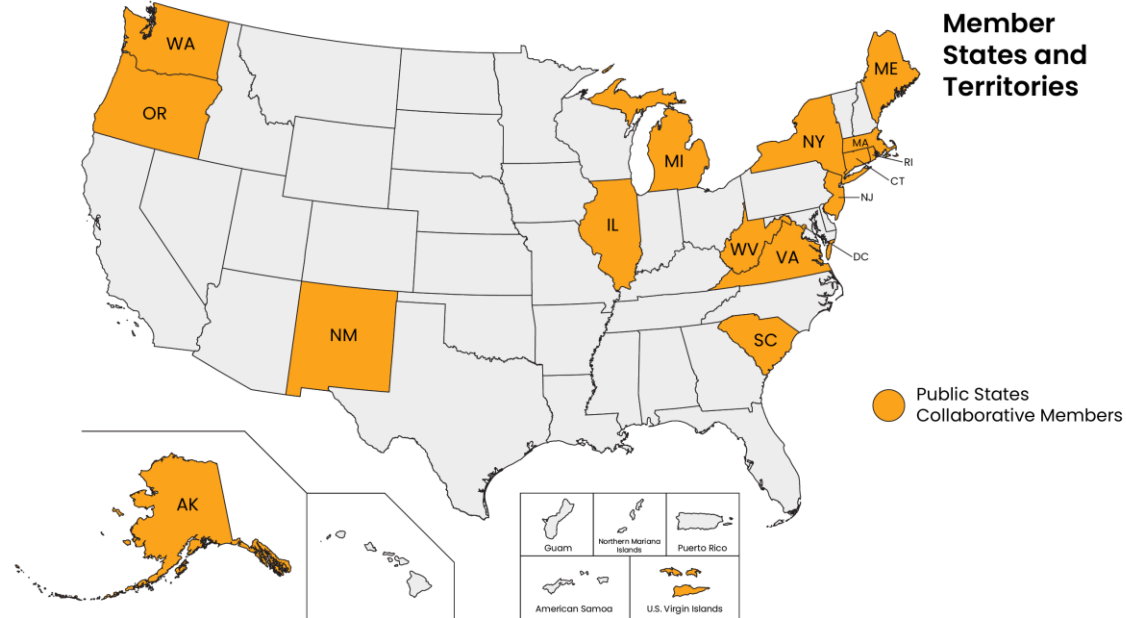
As of March 2024:

17 states and territories are official States Collaborative participants

- **34 states and territories** participate in the States Collaborative

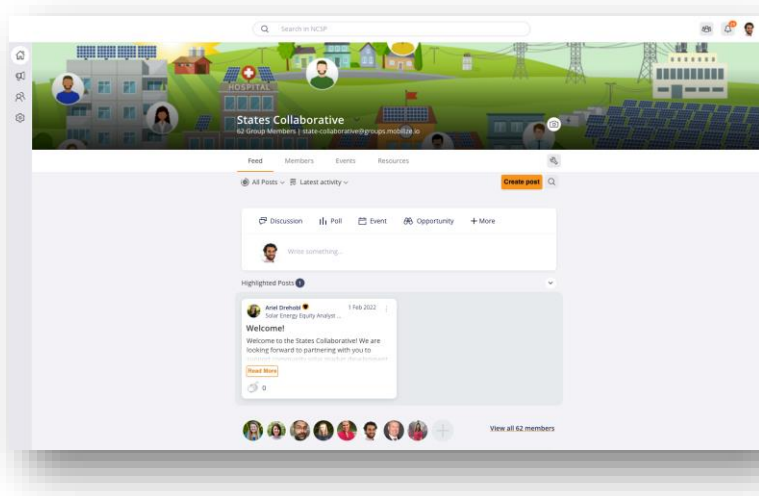
State participants span types of markets:

- 11 participating states do not yet have community solar enabling legislation
- Participants include some of the most developed markets





NCSP Progress: State Engagement



Project Partners



In 2023, NCSP hosted 11 peer-learning meetings for its **112 collaborative participants**:

- Meeting topics included Consumer Protections, Inflation Reduction Act Resources, Low- to Moderate-Income Customers, Interconnection, Education & Outreach, Resilience, Meaningful Benefits Best Practices, and the Clean Energy Connector.
- Each peer learning meeting had, on average, 14 states and territories represented.

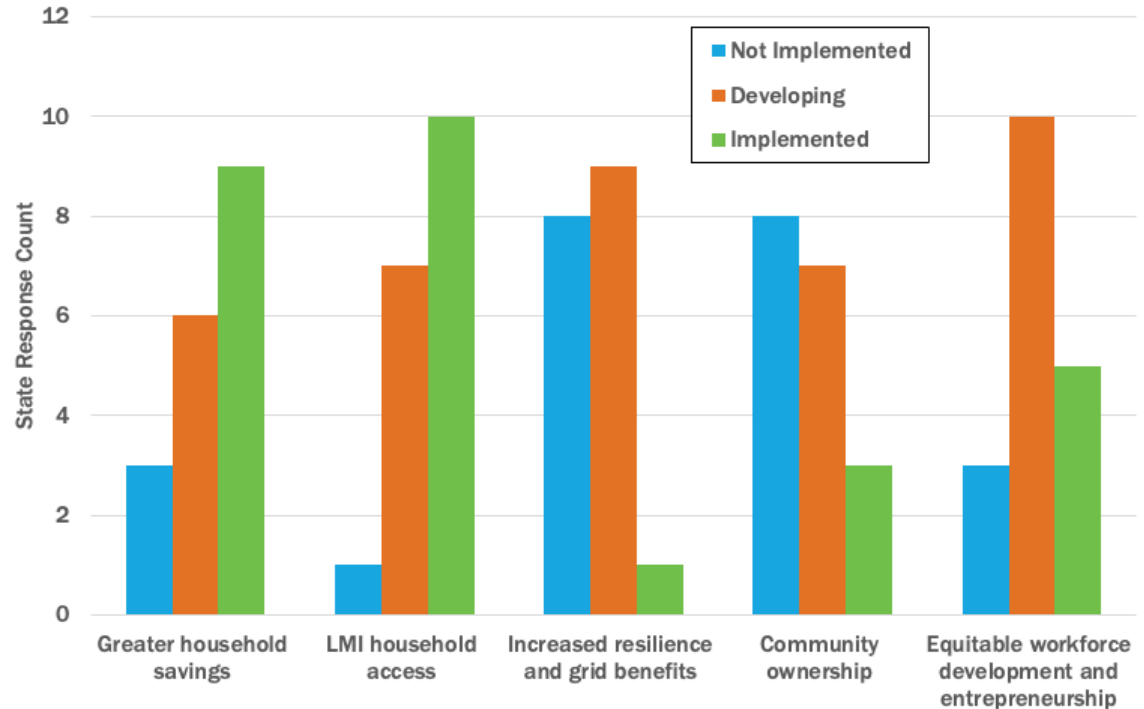
Two sub-groups were formed or continued, one addressing low-income and community ownership and the other the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).



NCSP Progress: State Engagement

Member states surveyed at the end of 2023 shared their status deploying meaningful benefits in their state policies or programs.

- States have deployed household savings and LMI access most successfully
- NCSP staff continue to work towards supporting state's with less developed benefits such as community ownership and resilience





NCSP Progress: State Engagement – Technical Assistance




**Presentation to Washington State House of Representatives
Environment & Energy Committee**

Nicole Steele, U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office (nicole.steele@ee.doe.gov)
Joyce McLaren, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (joyce.mclaren@nrel.gov)
September 21, 2023

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL COMMUNITY SOLAR PARTNERSHIP 1

States Collaborative and the Technical Assistance staff coordinated to provide the Washington State House of Representatives Committee on Environment & Energy with a presentation.

The committee was keen to learn more about different community solar policies and programs that have been successful across the country as they considered legislation in their state.



2023 Progress: Access to Capital



NCSP Progress: Access to Capital Community Power Accelerator Partners





NCSP Progress: Community Power Accelerator Launch



NCSP Progress: Community Power Accelerator Launch

Access to capital is among the most-cited barriers to equitable community solar project development

The **Community Power Accelerator** connects **community solar developers** building projects in low-income and disadvantaged communities to **training, technical assistance and capital providers**



Learning Lab

A self-paced community solar 101 training and a longer 10-week intensive course



Marketplace

Developers and Investors have access to an online match-making platform



Credit-ready Checklist

Helps developers complete all the requirements to pitch robust, credit-ready projects



Technical Assistance

Resources and direct technical assistance from DOE, National Labs, and other experts



Community Power Accelerator Prize

Two rounds of \$10M prizes provides pre-development funding to 50 new developers



NCSP Progress: Community Power Accelerator Launch

Project Goals:

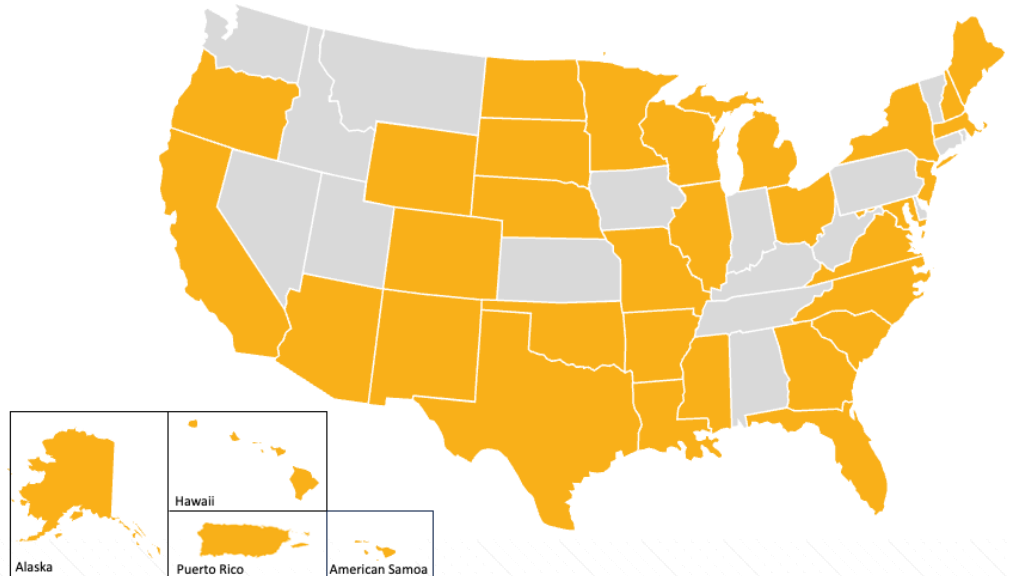
- 01 **Standardize** equitable access to community solar financing
- 02 **Expand** capacity and expertise for community-led, community-focused deployment
- 03 **Build** a robust project pipeline with meaningful benefits
- 04 **Bridge the gap** between community solar projects that need funding, and the capital providers that want to finance them

NCSP Progress: Community Power Accelerator Engagement

By the numbers:

- **110** verified projects in **35** states and territories, developed by **40+** organizations
- **68%** in Justice40 communities
- **126** developers participated in the Learning Lab
- **960** hours of TA support

States and Territories with Community Power Accelerator projects

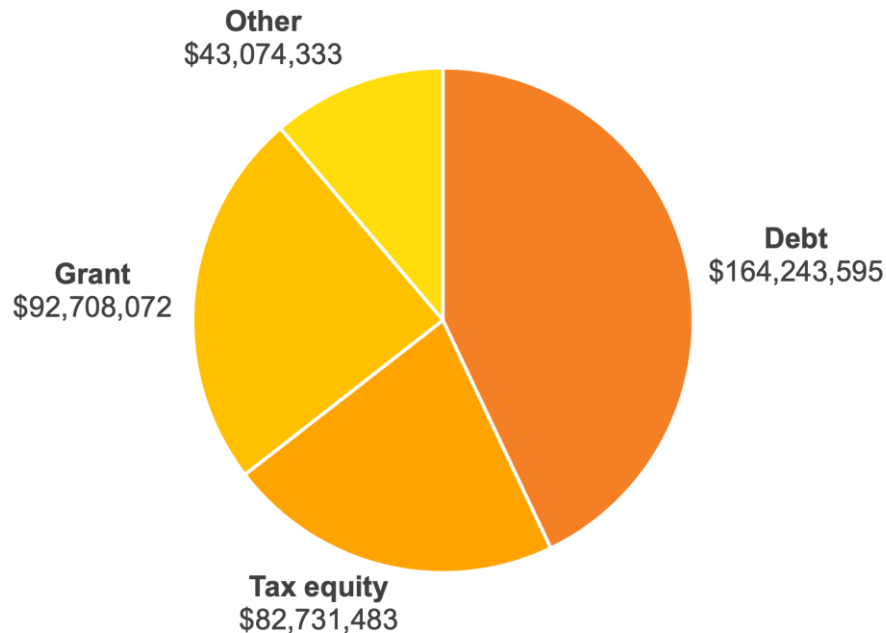




NCSP Progress: Community Power Accelerator Financing

- Projects on the Accelerator marketplace are seeking **\$382M+** in financing
- **38** capital partners and philanthropic organizations participating in the marketplace
- **\$947M+** funds committed
- **240+** connection requests

Accelerator Project Finance Sought



Data valid as of April 19, 2024



NCSP Progress: Community Power Accelerator Capital Providers



Coastal Enterprises



EnhancedCapital



NCSP Progress: Community Power Accelerator Prize



The Community Power Accelerator Prize is a \$10 million, three-phase prize.

The prize is designed to **fast-track the efforts of new, emerging, and expanding solar developers** to grow community solar projects that deliver meaningful benefits and are prepared to engage with **capital providers**.

Round 1 (Announced January 2023)

- 124 eligible Phase 1 submissions received
- 25 Phase 1 winners received \$50,000 each across 15 states, totaling ~183 MW in potential capacity, 25% SEDI-led
- 13 Phase 2 winners received \$200,000 each
- Project Pitch Event in May 2024

Round 2 (Announced July 2023)

- 65 eligible Phase 1 submissions received
- 25 Phase 1 winners received \$50,000 each across 20 states, totaling ~107 MW in potential capacity, 60% SEDI-led
- Announcing Phase 2 winners in July 2024
- Announcing Phase 3 winners in August 2025



(Photo Credit: Minneapolis Climate Action)



2024 Progress: Customer Engagement



NCSP Progress: Clean Energy Connector Development

- Online platform that makes **community solar subscriptions with meaningful savings** and consumer protections available to recipients of U.S. government-run low-income energy support programs (i.e., the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)
- Developed in partnership between DOE, **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and additional partners
- Began development of program in 2021, based on stakeholder feedback
- Starting in 2022, worked in partnership with CO, DC, IL, NJ, NM, NY and **implementing in DC, IL, and NM in 2024**



Project Partners





NCSF Progress: Clean Energy Connector Development

01

Responds to stakeholder feedback regarding the main challenges in customer acquisition and how the federal government can support.

02

Creates a way to streamline income verification and ensure **strong consumer protections and savings** can support trust building for potential LMI community solar enrollees.

03

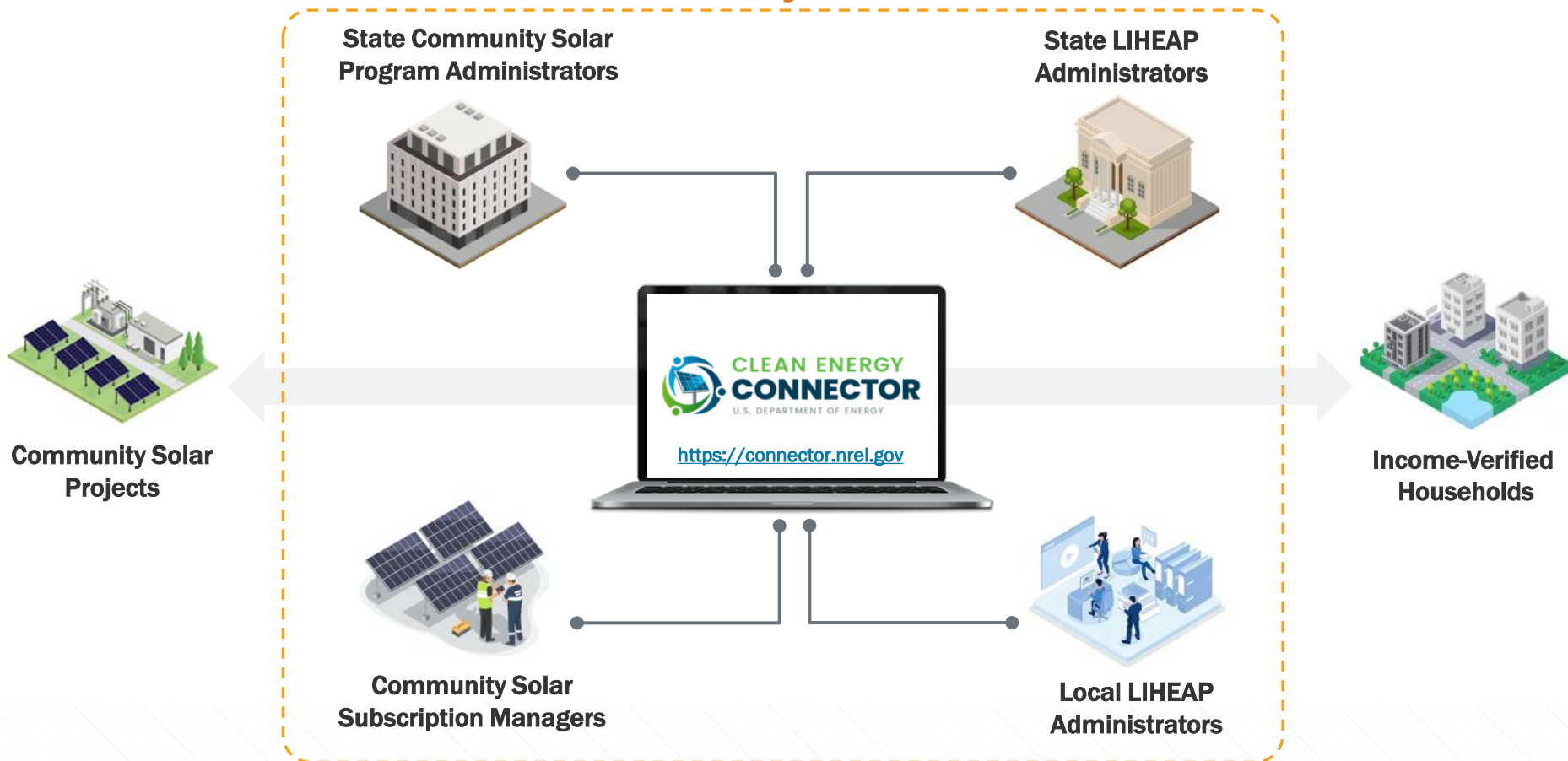
Reduces the income-verification burden for both households and subscription managers, supporting LMI households participation in the clean energy transition.

04

Helps to **close the gap between effective outreach and secure enrollment** in community solar with meaningful household savings.



Primary Users



State Community Solar Program Administrator

- Verifies consumer protections and then approves subscription managers and projects on the Connector
- Evaluates the community solar program
- Sets prioritization and compensation amounts (Optional)

State LIHEAP Program Administrator

- Approves local LIHEAP administrating agencies to join the Connector
- Sets prioritization and compensation amounts (Optional)



- Agrees to Connector consumer protections when verifying account
- Submits projects that have available capacity, interconnection agreement in place, and minimum savings
- Connects to income-verified households and completes enrollment

Community Solar Subscription Managers

- Income-verifies household when they are signing up for LIHEAP
- Also provides community solar education materials and asks households if they want to opt in to community solar, and obtains household consent for data sharing
- Shares household information on Connector to be contacted by a verified subscription manager with a project with strong consumer protections

Local LIHEAP Administrating Agencies

- Learn about community solar during LIHEAP sign up and can decide to opt in
- Contacted by a vetted subscription manager and completes enrollment
- **Receives meaningful household savings from community solar subscription!**

Income Verified Households



Connector Frequently Asked Questions



How does the Connector work?

The Connector **identified** some income-verified **households** who want to enroll in a LMI community solar subscription and **connects them with a subscription manager** who completes sign up process.



Do households interact with the Connector?

Income-verified households **do not directly interact with the Connector**, yet reduces the burden of having to income qualify for solar benefits.

More Frequently Asked Questions:

[https://www.energy.gov/communitysolar/
clean-energy-connector](https://www.energy.gov/communitysolar/clean-energy-connector)



How does the Connector provide benefits to income-verified households?

All state-approved subscriptions on the Connector must offer a **bill credit discount rate of at least 20% and strong consumer protections**, such as no additional fees, clear contract terms, and program evaluation.



What oversight does the State have over the Connector?

The **state community solar and LIHEAP offices approve** state-level subscription manager and local LIHEAP administrative organizations.



How do I join the Connector?

During the initial pilot, subscription managers and local LIHEAP administrators **will be invited by the state** to create accounts to begin using the Connector.



NCSP Progress: Clean Energy Connector Stakeholder Engagement

Pilot States



Washington, DC



Illinois



New Mexico

Partner States



New York



New Jersey



Colorado





NCSP Progress: Clean Energy Connector Stakeholder Engagement

2022:

- **Summer:** DOE released a request for open from July through August 2022 and received 45 responses, which DOE created and published a summary of responses.
- **Fall/Winter:** DOE and NASEO held six pilot state region workshops for DC, IL, and NM stakeholders, with over 200 local stakeholder attendees.

2023:

- **Winter:** Six stakeholder engagement meetings with over 250 participants, including community solar developers, community action agencies, utilities, subscription managers, and consumer advocates.
- **Spring:** LIHEAP roundtable with energy offices and state LIHEAP offices discussing community solar and LIHEAP integration.
- **Summer:** Established the Low-Income Community Solar and Energy Assistance Fellowship, placing 3 fellows in pilot states.
- **Fall:** Project team conducted live testing of the software and received feedback from a variety of testers during alpha testing period.

2024:

- **Winter:** NREL led beta testing of the software with subscription managers, local LIHEAP agencies, and state agencies
- **Spring:** Soft launched the Connector in pilot states on **March 19, 2024**. Also published Consumer Protections report through National Consumer Law Center.





NCSP Progress: Low-Income Community Solar and Energy Assistance Fellowship

About the Fellowship

- DOE established the Fellowship through the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) to place three fellows in the initial pilot states for two years
- Fellows brought their expert experience in community solar development, software systems, and community stakeholder engagement to the District Department of Energy and the Environment, Illinois Power Agency, and the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Fellow Accomplishments

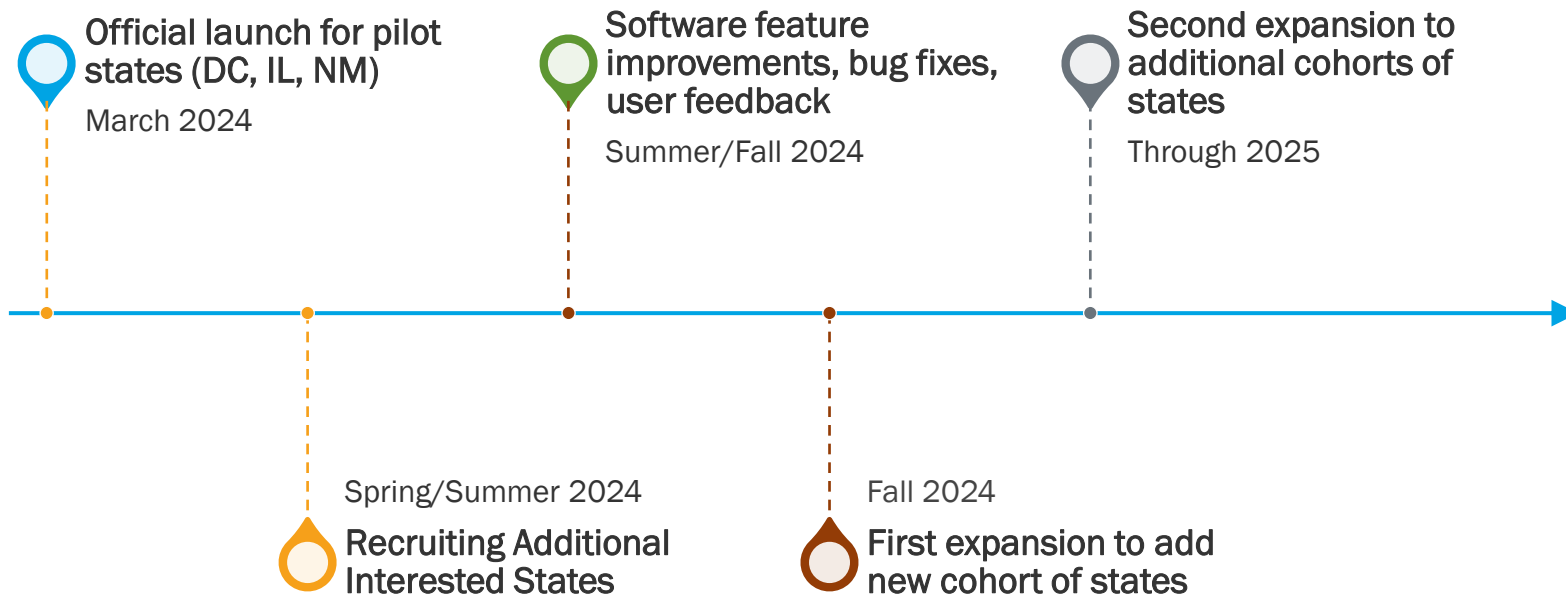
(Summer 2023 – Spring 2024)

- Worked to analyze data and tariff structures to support the development of a 200 MW community solar program, drafting a future report to the Legislature
- Conducted training for 11 LIHEAP organizations on community solar and Connector, coordinating engagement with LIHEAP and community solar offices, and presenting publicly to 100+ LIHEAP administrators
- Supported data collection and analysis projects by revamping an innovative solar permitting dashboard, creating a brand new environmental justice index with 40+ indicators, and converting months of data to map historical outages





NCSP Progress: Connector Next Steps and Timeline



Learn more about the Connector, find webinar recordings, and frequently asked questions here:

<https://www.energy.gov/communitysolar/clean-energy-connector>



2023 Progress: Education and Outreach



NCSP Progress: Education and Outreach

Partnerships





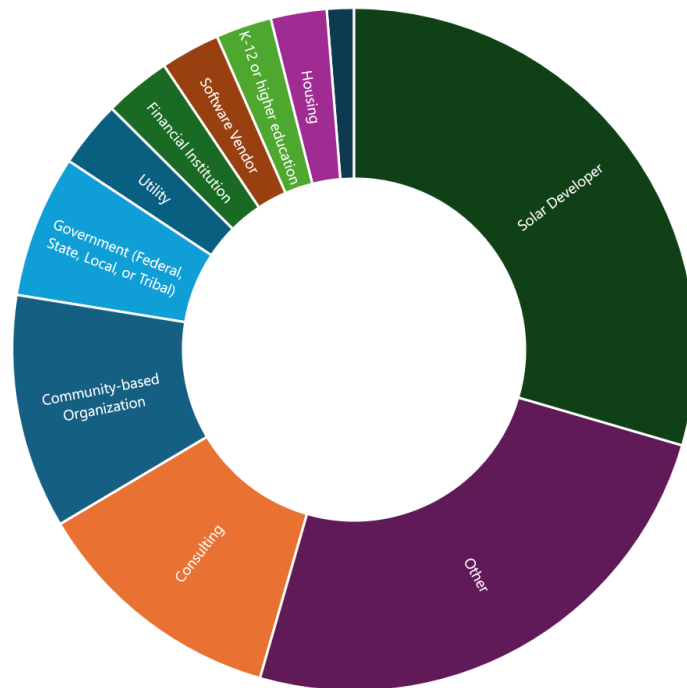
NCSP Progress: Education and Outreach

Members and organizations on Mobilize (soon Forj), as of March 31, 2024:

- 1,990 total individual members
- 1,547 total organizations represented
- 1,041 organizations support NCSP target
- All 50 states, District of Columbia, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico are represented

NCSP membership **grew overall by about 40%** between January and December 2023

Organizations Represented, by Type

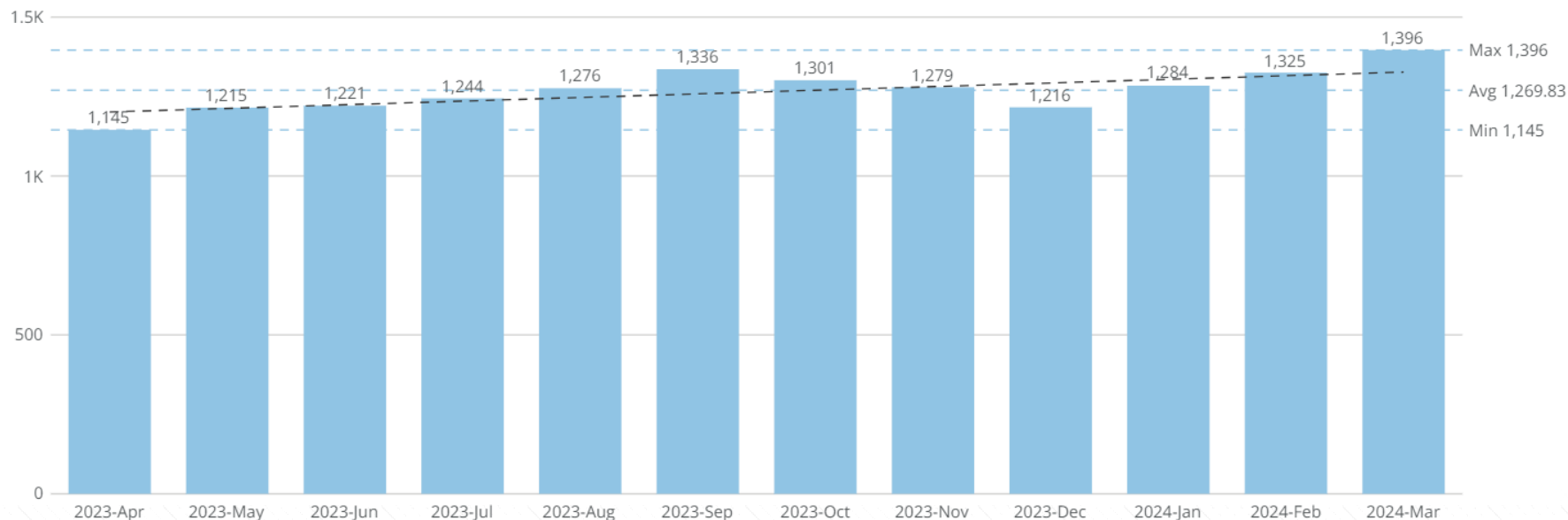


■ Member Association or Trade Group



NCSP Progress: Education and Outreach Engagement Growth

Online community engagement (measured by unique user views)
increased 22% between April 2023 and March 2024



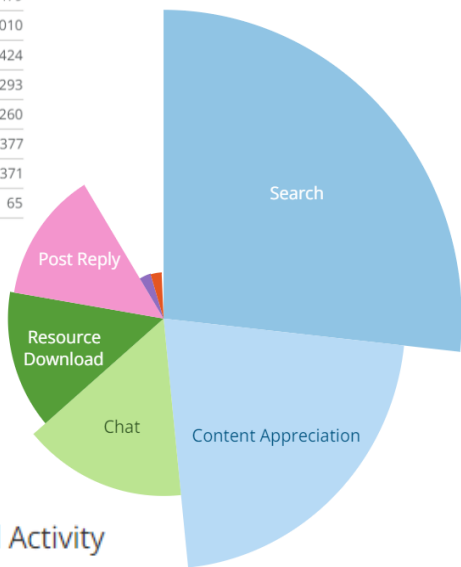


NCSP Progress: Education and Outreach Engagement Activities

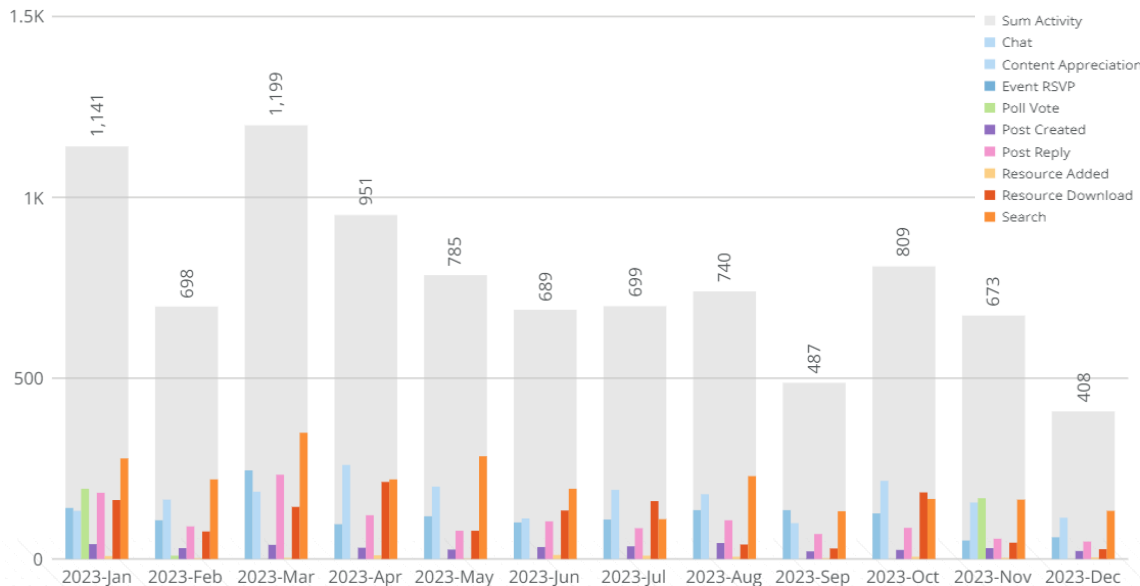
Engagement activities in NCSP's online community, January to December 2023

Total Member Activity by Type

Search	2,479
Content Appreciation	2,010
Chat	1,424
Resource Download	1,293
Post Reply	1,260
Post Created	377
Event RSVP	371
Resource Added	65



Member Activity by Month, by Activity and Total



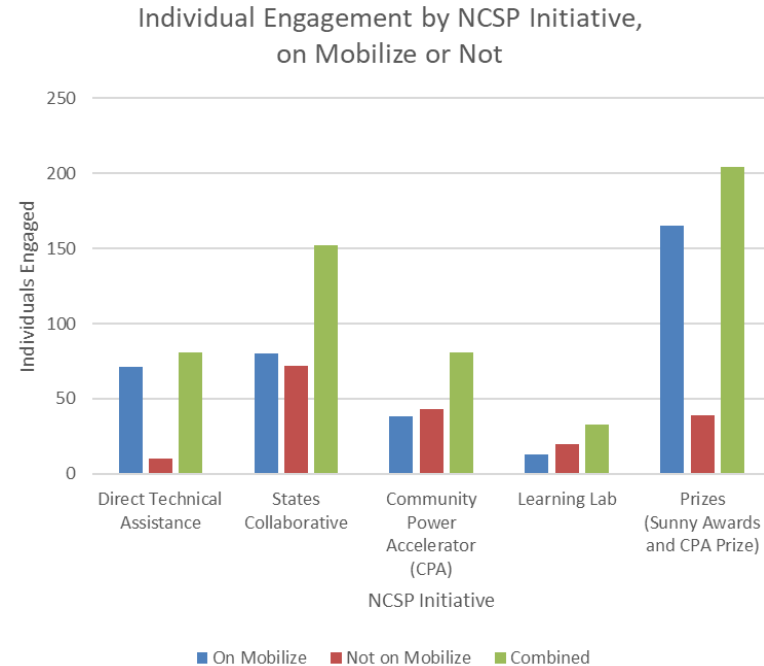
NCSP Progress: Engagement Across Initiatives

1,750 NCSP members are in the online community only (Mobilize), and some individuals are in only one of the other initiatives (and not also on Mobilize).

Individuals engaged in one or more NCSP initiatives

Number of Initiatives	Individuals Engaged
1 Initiative	1,933
2 Initiatives	359
3 Initiatives	10
4 Initiatives	2
Total	2,304

For this analysis we include current and inactive Mobilize members, since inactive members may still be engaged in another initiative (not include pending, declined, or removed members); individuals with approved Direct Technical Assistance applications; verified users on the CPA platform; all individuals enrolled in the Learning Lab; and all applicants in both rounds of the CPA Prize and Sunny Awards.



NCSP Progress: Education and Outreach

Engagement Activities

In 2023 NCSP engaged with thousands of stakeholders at dozens of events, webinars, conferences, workshops, and meetings hosted by NCSP and others. See the [Events](#) page for more information about NCSP public events.

NCSP Public Event	Date	Link(s)	Attendees	Views*
2023 NCSP Annual Summit: Community Solar's Time to Shine in San Diego, CA and Virtual	January 19	Web page Slides Recording	574 total (237 in person, 337 virtual)	105
Building with Benefits: Meaningful Benefits as a Foundation for Equitable Community Solar Webinar Series	May - July	Web page (links to slides and recordings of the six webinars)	485 (combined)	756 (combined)
National Community Solar Partnership 2022 Annual Update (Webinar)	March 7	Web page Slides Recording	59	120
Community Power Accelerator Informational Webinars	February 1 & March 3	Web page (links to slides and recordings for both webinars)	-	676 total (516 + 160)
2023 Sunny Awards Informational Webinar	May 9	Slides Recording	-	96
Sharing the Sun: Community Solar Deployment and Subscriptions in the United States (Webinar)	November 7	Slides Recording	66	199 (+597 downloads)

*As of 4/22/2024

NCSP Progress: Education and Outreach

Published Resources and Database

NCSP maintains a [Resource List](#) on Mobilize (Forj) including these 2023 NCSP publications.

NCSP Published Resource	Format and Link	Publication Month	Publisher	Additional Contributor	Downloads or Views*
Community Power Accelerator (platform)	Website	January	NREL		50,599 (+366 downloads)
Community Power Accelerator Prize Round 1	Website	January	NREL		23,374
Are You Philanthropy-Ready? How to Work with Foundations on Mission-Aligned Community Solar	Technical report	January	LBNL	NREL	409
Clean Energy Connector (platform)	Website	March	NREL		unknown
Expanding Solar Access: State Community Solar Landscape (2022)	Technical report	March	NREL		4,247 (+62 from dataset page)
State Policies and Programs for Community Solar	Dataset	April	NREL		194
Sunny Awards 2023	Website	April	NREL		9,372
Community Power Accelerator Prize Round 2	Website	July	NREL		11,095
Community Solar Program and Subscription Design	Presentation (for online course)	July	NREL	American Public Power Association	643
Sharing the Sun Community Solar Project Data (December 2022) and Data Collection Methodology	Dataset and methodology	July	NREL	University of Minnesota	466 (+141 methods)
Join the Community Power Accelerator	Video	September	NREL		347
Cost-Effectiveness of Local Distribution Tied Solar within KyMEA	Technical report	December	NREL	Lydian Technologies	238



NCSP Progress: Education and Outreach

Sunny Awards for Equitable Community Solar

- Winners demonstrate best practices in delivering meaningful benefits through project design and implementation, policy, creative financing, and more.
- In the [2023 Sunny Awards](#) NCSP awarded five Grand Prizes (\$10,000), one Meaningful Benefits Award (\$5,000), and 7 Finalist Awards (\$2,500)
- Also in 2023, NCSP published a [Meaningful Benefits Best Practices Guide](#) and held the [Building with Benefits Webinar Series](#) highlighting best practices from 2022 Sunny Awards winners.



NCSPP Progress: Education and Outreach

Sunny Awards for Equitable Community Solar



Overcoming Barriers for Multifamily Housing by Olympia Community Solar



Solar at Congregation Beth Elohim by Sunwealth Power, Inc.

Co-op Solar: Owned by the People by Oregon Clean Power Cooperative



Prologis Community Solar by Solar Landscape



NCSP Progress: Education and Outreach

Sunny Awards Grand Prize Winners

Sunny Awards **Grand Prizes** are projects and programs that demonstrated best practices and innovation in delivering benefits across multiple Meaningful Benefit categories.



5 Grand Prize
submissions awarded



Provide \$30 Million
in Savings



Serve 2,520 low- to
moderate-income
households

Learn more: energy.gov/communitysolar/sunny-awards-equitable-community-solar

National Community Solar Partnership

2024: Community Solar at Scale

- Create and distribute 3-6 new **Technical Assistance** resources for developing community solar projects and programs
- Leverage the **States Collaborative** to develop and implement Solar For All Programs with an emphasis on deploying meaningful benefits
- Build a pipeline of hundreds credit-ready community solar projects through the **Community Power Accelerator** and facilitate over \$1 billion in financing.
- Pilot the **Clean Energy Connector** tool in **three areas** (DC, IL, and NM)
 - Scale to additional states later in the year: goal to onboard 3-5 new states by Summer 2024 with actual use of the software commencing in Fall 2024
 - Continue to iterate and improve on the software, adding a second cohort of states in 2025
- Launch **LODGE Model technical assistance** program
 - Conclude pilot engagements with 2-3 partners with key outcomes published
 - Publish peer reviewed journal article and free access to model, with resources available for both
- Engage with broad groups of stakeholders on how to scale the delivery of meaningful benefits through the **Equitable Solar Communities of Practice**

National Community Solar Partnership Staying Engaged

- Participate in a [Community Convening for the Equitable Solar Communities of Practice](#)
- Explore the latest [Sharing the Sun Community Solar Project Data \(December 2023\)](#) (updated biannually) or **State Policies & Programs for Community Solar** (on Mobilize, updated quarterly) from NREL
- **Resources coming soon:**
 - **2023 Sharing the Sun Community Solar Market Analysis** from NREL – coming summer 2024
 - Updated **Meaningful Benefits Best Practices Guide** - coming spring 2024
- Join us at the [CCSA Community Solar Innovation Summit](#) in June 2024 or **RE+** in September 2024
- Join us for the 2025 NCSP Annual Summit (stay tuned for date and location!)

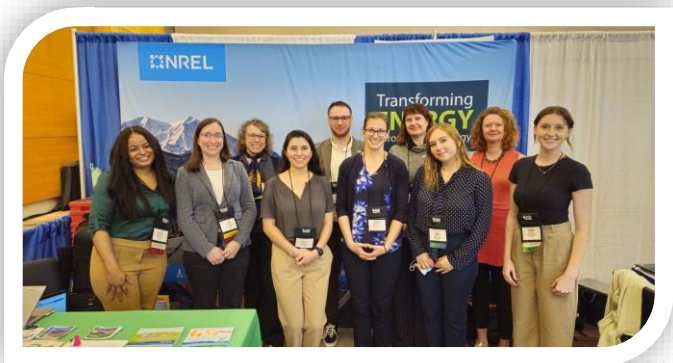
Photo sourced from SunShare's Paula Carr Memorial Community Solar Garden

Join the National Community Solar Partnership!



Our membership is growing! Join the National Community Solar Partnership to access our technical assistance, networking, events, resources, and to also share your expertise with our community!

Please send questions and/or feedback on this impact report to community.solar@ee.doe.gov.



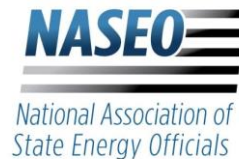
Scan the QR Code to
join the NCSP!



Thank you to all our partners!



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URBAN INGENUITY