



**SOLAR ENERGY  
TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE**  
U.S. Department Of Energy

# PORTFOLIO REVIEW

# 2018



**SOLAR ENERGY**  
**TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE**  
U.S. Department Of Energy

2018 SETO Portfolio Review

# Soft Costs Subprogram

SETO Portfolio Review

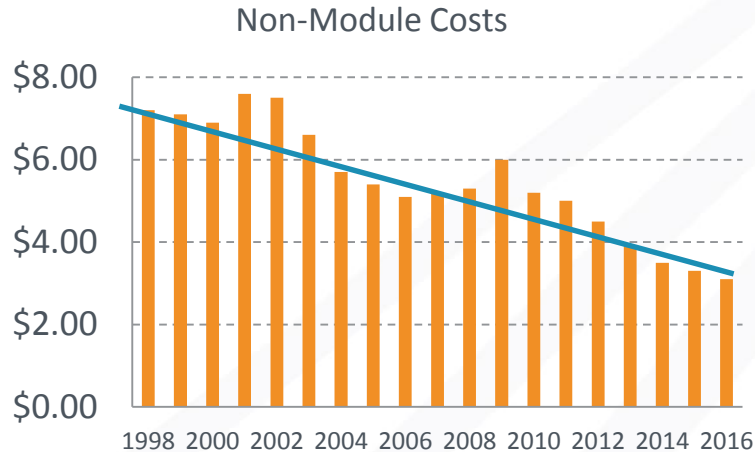
February, 2018

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Garrett Nilsen, Program Manager

# Soft Costs are Declining (Just not as rapidly as Module Costs)

Setting and meeting ambitious goals



Between 2008 & 2016

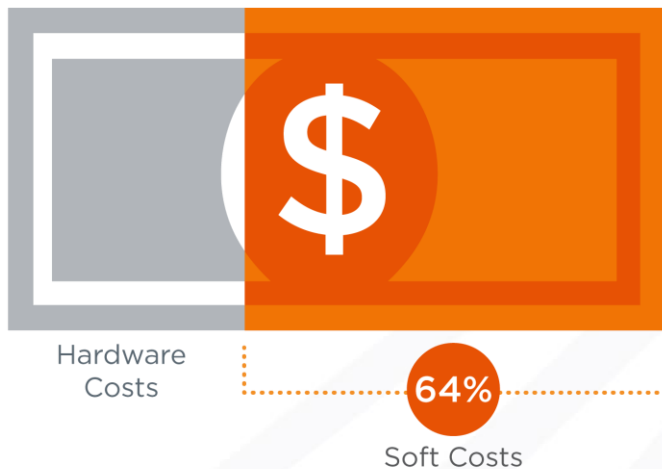
40%


Decrease in Non-Module Costs

Implied Non-Module Cost is used as a proxy for soft costs due to data limitations

Source: NREL


# Balance of Systems (Soft Costs)



**4%**   
Permitting, Inspection,  
Interconnection (and associated fees)

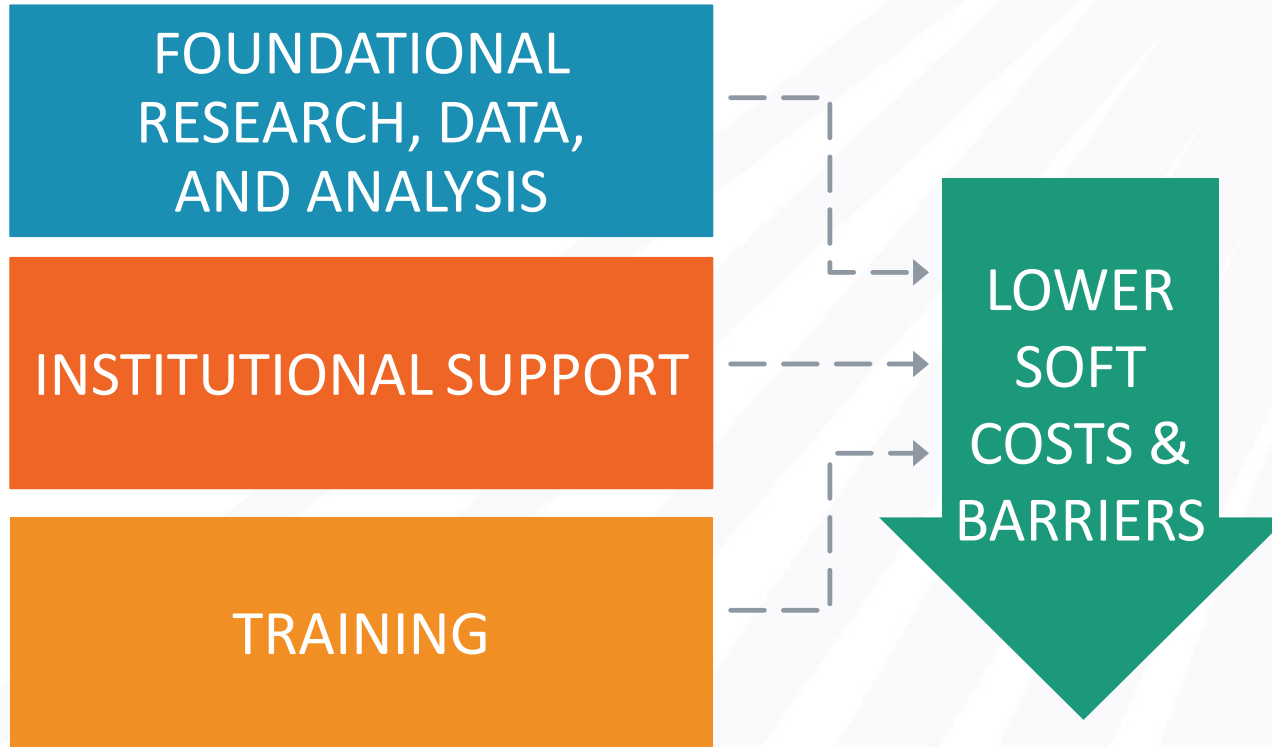
**9%**   
Marketing/Customer Acquisition

**11%**   
Labor

**11%**   
Financing

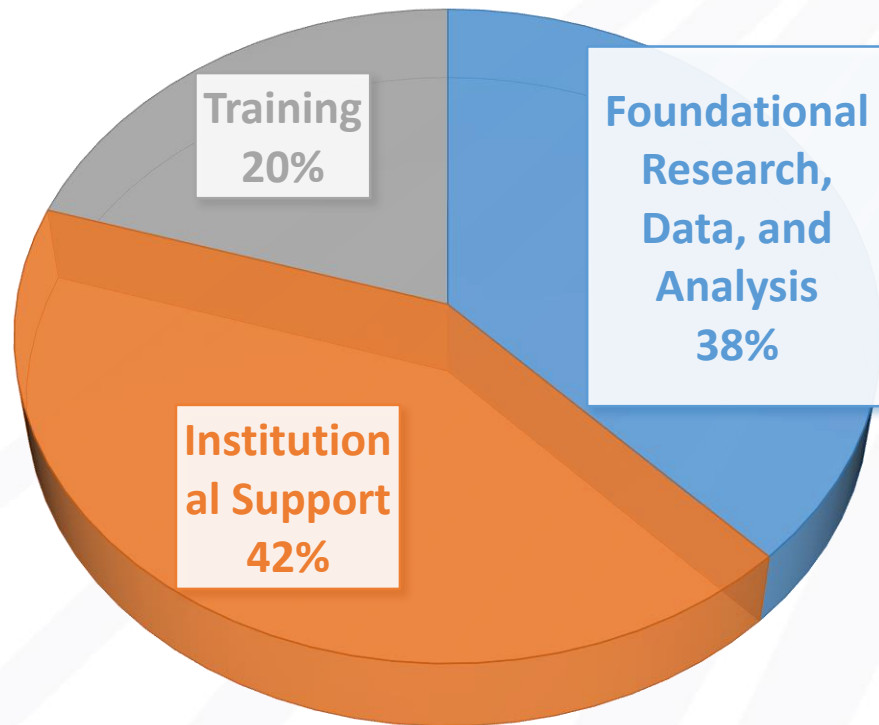
**30%**   
Supply chain, overhead, margin  
("Corporate Costs & Profit")

# Core Components of Soft Costs Program

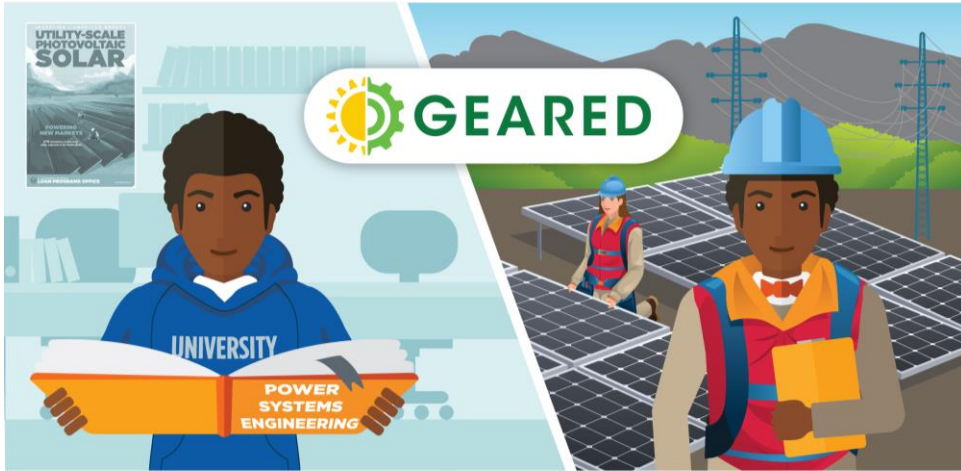


# Breakdown of Funding by Core Component

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# Training



## GEARED: Power Systems Engineering

## Solar Training and Education for Professionals (STEP)



# Foundational Research, Data, and Analysis



The Orange Button simplifies and standardizes solar data so you can use it.



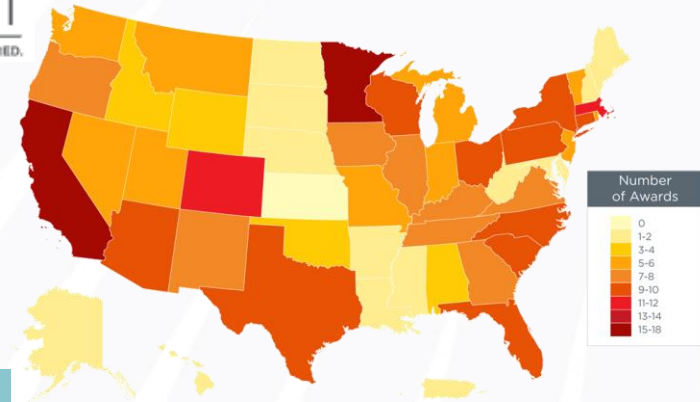


# Institutional Support

- Addressed through:
  - Designation Programs
  - Challenges
  - State Energy Strategies
  - Solar Market Pathways



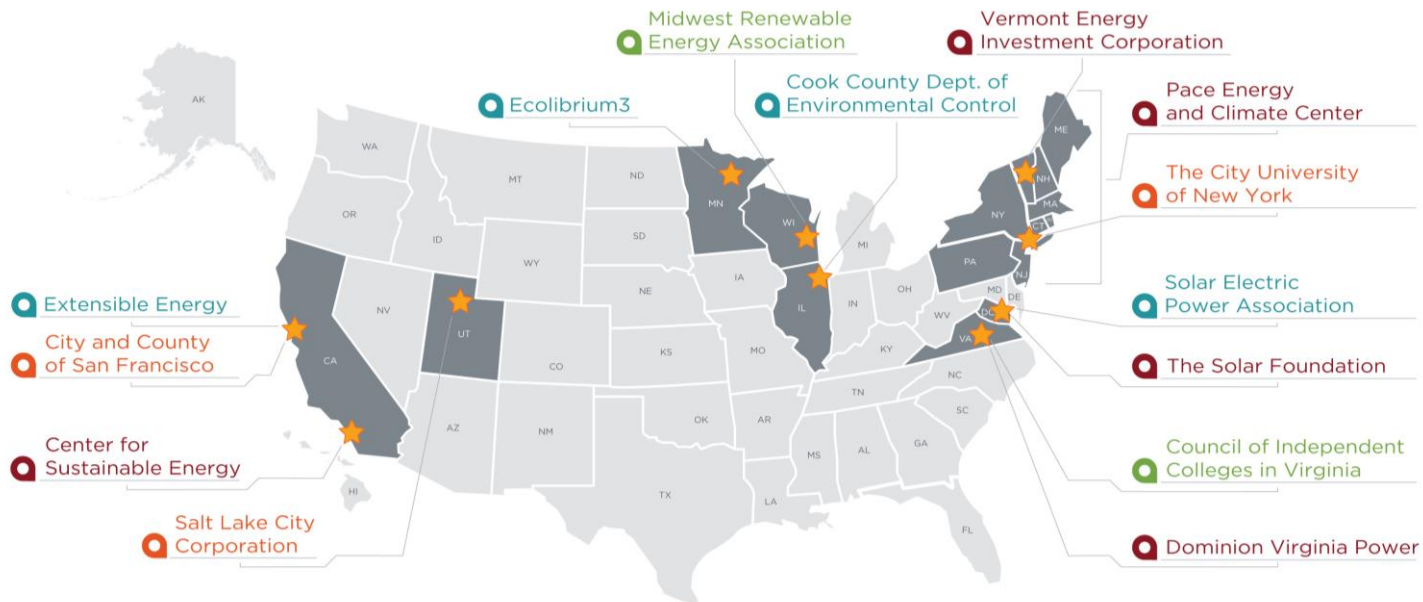
Awardees Nationwide!!



# Solar Market Pathways

The Solar Market Pathways Program brings together 14 diverse teams under a single goal:

*SHARE BEST PRACTICES TO REDUCE SOLAR'S SOFT COSTS.*



## Program Strategies:



Expanding Community Solar



Enhancing Resiliency



Deploying Solar on Campuses



Supporting Strategic Planning

# Solar in Your Community Challenge Team Map

**172 Teams** from **122 Cities** and **4 American Indian Reservations**  
in **40 States** plus Puerto Rico, Guam and Washington D.C.



# State Energy Strategies



# SolSmart – Nationally Distinguished. Locally Powered.



# New Analytical Support

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## Analytical Support for Public Utility Commissions

- LBNL, PNNL, and NREL initiative provides **high impact analytical support for state public utility commissions (PUCs)** to address barriers to the integration of solar photovoltaics (PV) within the U.S. electricity system.

## Solar Energy Innovators Program

- The opportunity funds researchers, “Innovators,” to **explore solutions to the challenges faced by electric utilities, electric public utility commissions (PUCs), and energy service providers** as the deployment of solar energy, as well as other distributed energy resources (DERs), increase on the electrical grid.
- Innovators selected for the program conduct **hands-on, practical research and development on-site** at a utility, energy service provider, or PUC Host Institution for an appointment of up to 2 years.

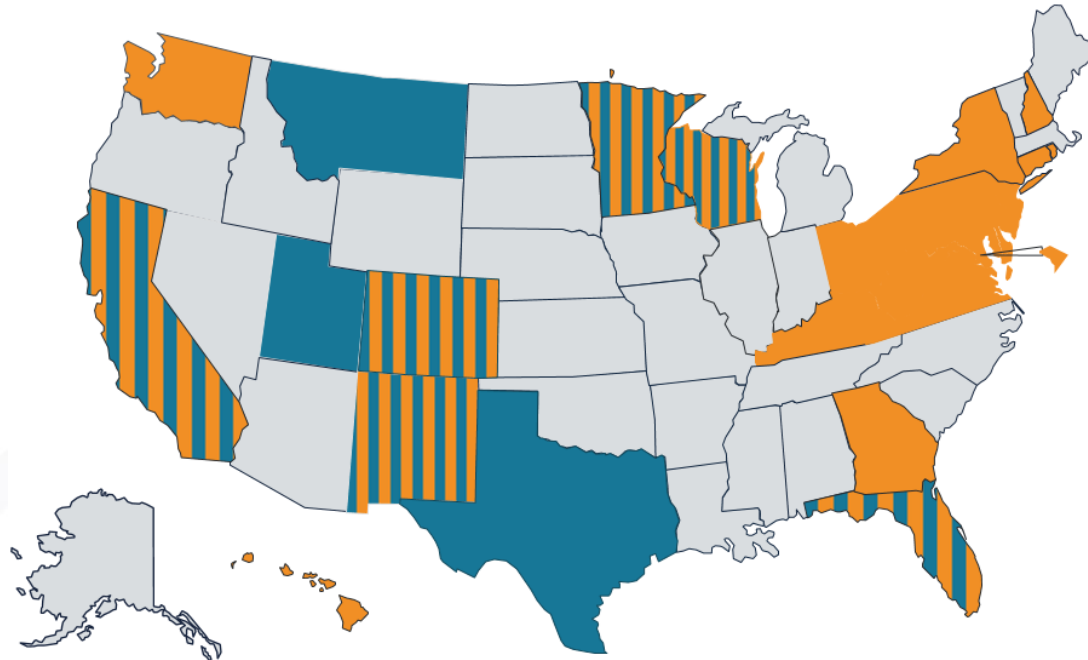
# Solar Energy Innovation Network



**Cohort A:** Improving Reliability and Affordability of Solar Energy through Options Analysis and Systems Design



**Cohort B:** Improving Grid Flexibility and Resiliency through Advanced Siting and Operations of Solar + DER



Note: PJM territory is highlighted as one location.

# Soft Costs Team



Fania  
Barwick



Casey  
Canfield, PhD



Jack Hoskins



Shubha  
Jaishankar



Sara  
Machin



Odette Mucha



Christian  
Philipsen

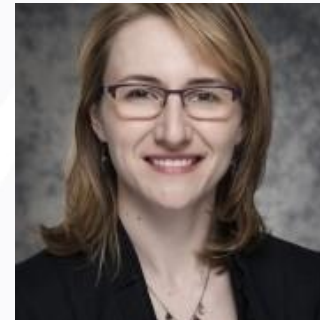
[energy.gov/solar-office](http://energy.gov/solar-office)



Ammar  
Qusaibaty, PhD



David  
Rensch-McCauley, PhD



Elaine  
Ulrich, PhD

Michele Boyd  
(not pictured)

## NREL Support

Robert Margolis

David Feldman

Monisha Shah



# Soft Costs Team Review Agenda

SUBPROGRAM PARALLEL SESSIONS		
11:00AM– 12:00PM	<b>Soft Costs Landscape and Approaches</b> Elaine Ulrich, Solar Energy Technologies Office	Virginia Suite
1:00PM– 3:00PM	<b>Data into Action</b>  Dave Rench-McCauley, Solar Energy Technologies Office (Moderator) Tom Tansy, SunSpec Alliance Ken Gillingham, Yale University Ryan Wisner, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory	Virginia Suite
	<b>Technology to Market: Innovations in Soft Cost Reductions</b>  Kyle Fricker, Solar Energy Technologies Office (Moderator) Brad Bowery, Pace Avenue Ed Albanese, KryptonCloud Emily Fritze, Powerhouse Chris Barrett, ProjectEconomics Benjamin Gaddy, Clean Energy Trust	Virginia Suite

SUBPROGRAM PARALLEL SESSIONS		
11:00AM– 12:00PM	<b>SOFT COSTS: STATE AND LOCAL INNOVATION</b>  Shubha Jaishankar, Solar Energy Technologies Office (Moderator) David Althoff, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Kristen Ardani, National Renewable Energy Laboratory Tria Case, City University of New York Zach Greene, The Solar Foundation	Virginia Suite
1:00PM– 3:00PM	<b>Accelerating Learning Curves</b>  Odette Mucha, Solar Energy Technologies Office (Moderator) Lora Toothman, Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia Doug Danley, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Andy Walker, National Renewable Energy Laboratory Cosimina Panetti, Building Codes Assistance Project	Virginia Suite
	<b>Small Group Discussions</b>  <b>The Future of Soft Costs</b>	