

# Community Shared Solar: Markets and Future Trends



Renewable Energy Markets
Conference

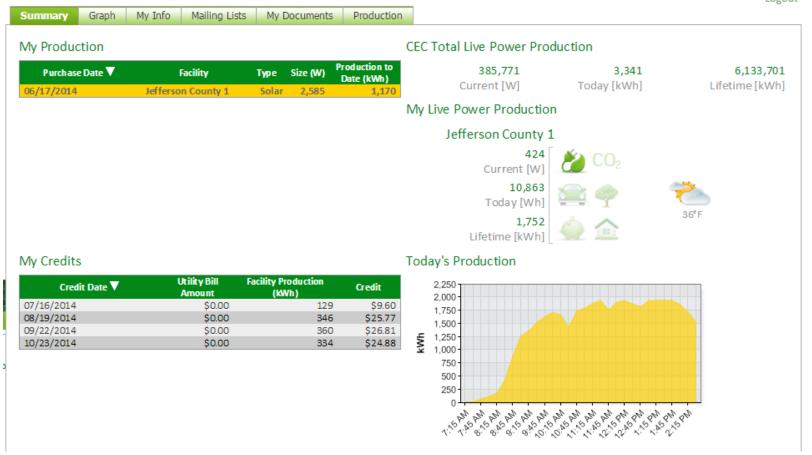
**Jenny Heeter** 

**December 4, 2014** 

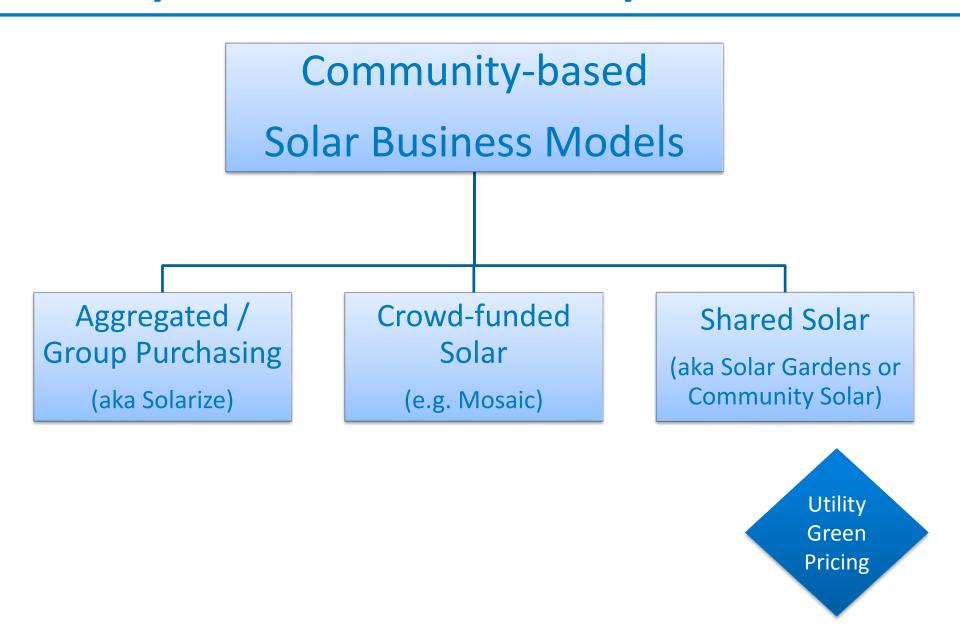
#### **Participant Motivations**



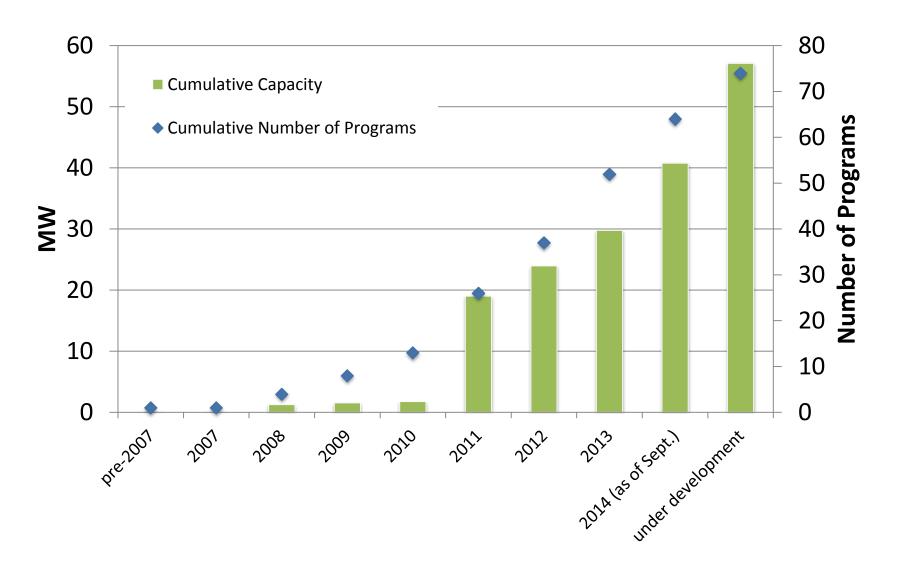
Welcome back Jenny Sumner Heeter Logout



# Many Models for Community-based Solar

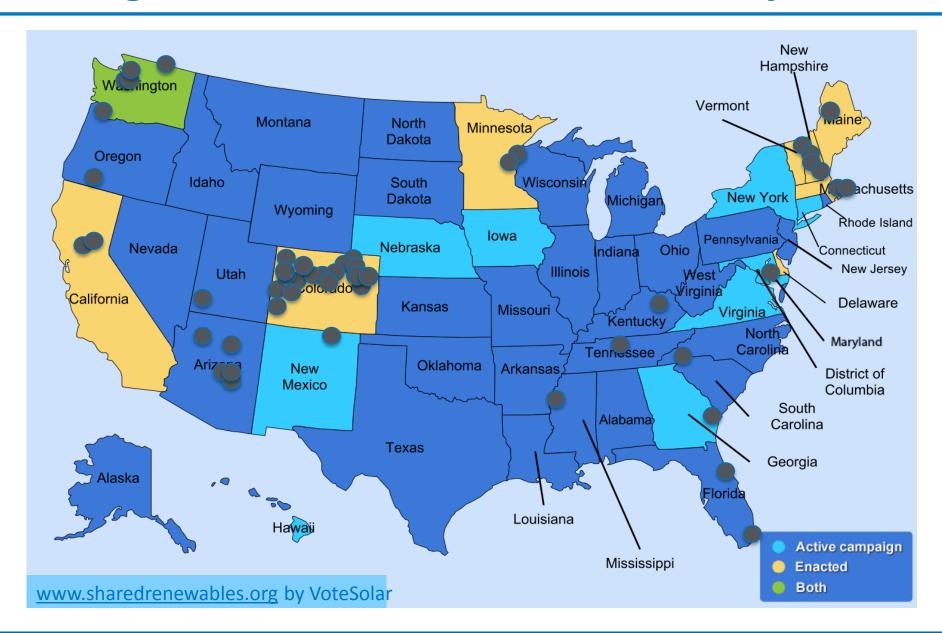


# **Growth in Shared Solar Programs**

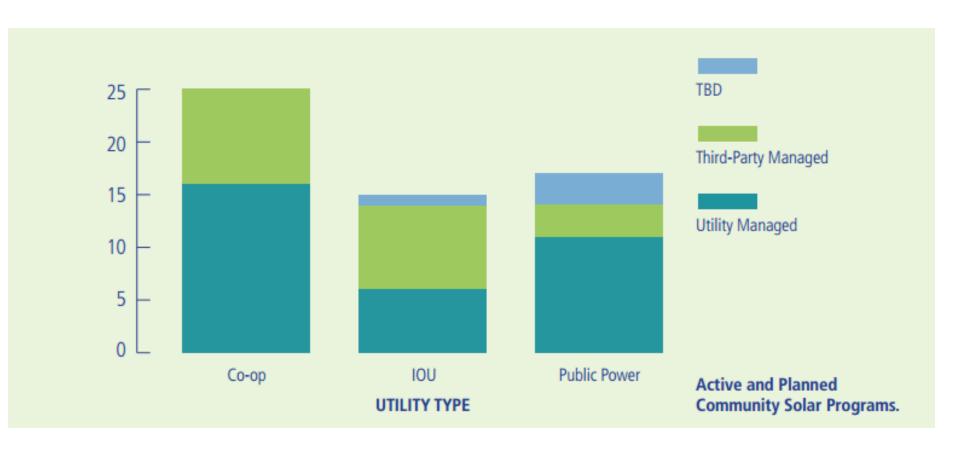


Reference: Heeter 2014

# **Programs Active Around the Country**



# **Utility Role in Shared Solar Varies**



Source: Campbell et al. (2014). Expanding Solar Access Through Utility-led Community Solar: Participation and Design Trends from Leading U.S. Programs

# **Capacity vs. Energy-based Programs**

- Most programs are capacity-based, not energy/rate-based
- Rate-based programs draw larger numbers of participants; smaller portions may be a driver
- Participants buy larger shares in capacitybased programs; financing may be a driver

# **Utility Community Solar Trends**

- 96% of community solar capacity is part of a utilityled program
- Co-ops tend to have smaller programs and fewer numbers of participants
- IOUs and Munis have higher program sizes and participation rates
- Around 60 programs in 22 states
- More than half in states that have community solar legislation
- 74% offer capacity, not energy 50% of capacity programs offer financing, this raises participation rates Almost all participants are in residential sector

Source: Campbell et al. (2014). Expanding Solar Access Through Utility-led Community Solar: Participation and Design Trends from Leading U.S. Programs

#### **Future Shared Solar Issues**

- California's AB 43: Awaiting a decision
- Impact of ITC reversion in 2017
- Move towards utility-sponsored projects?
  - New green pricing programs offering shared solar-like options
- Additional financing options
- Widen the audience to include commercial and industrial participants
- Transition away from using RECs to meet RPS compliance?

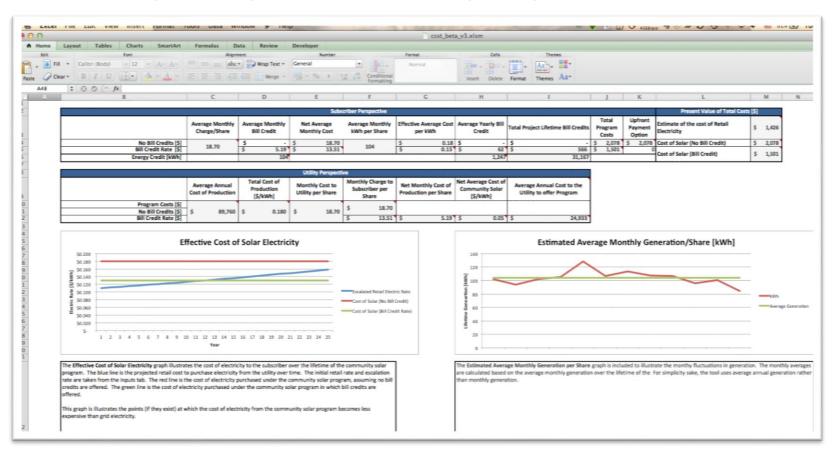
# **NREL Community Solar Assistance**

- NREL's Solar Technical Assistance Team (STAT)
  has provided assistance to states and utilities
  considering community solar options.
  - Assistance is available in three forms:
    - Quick response (any time)
    - In-depth assistance (1-2 application periods per year)
    - Online education (any time)

http://www.nrel.gov/tech\_deployment/state\_local\_governments/stat.html

# **NREL Community Solar Scenario Tool**

Spreadsheet tool to determine project economics from the participant and host perspectives.



http://www.nrel.gov/tech\_deployment/tools\_community\_solar.html





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