

Solar for Multifamily Housing Properties in Connecticut

February 21, 2020

Agenda

- 1. Market Trends
 - Installed solar capacity in CT
 - Solar Forecasts
 - Solar + Storage
- 2. Current Solar Policy in CT
 - Net Metering, State and Federal Incentives
- 3. Solar PV for Multifamily buildings
 - Financing Options
 - Challenges & Opportunities
- 4. CT Solar Policy Changes
 - End of net metering, new tariff structure
 - End of ZREC program





Connecticut Green Bank Mission Statement and Goals





<u>Confront climate change</u> and provide <u>all of society</u> a <u>healthier and more prosperous</u> future by <u>increasing</u> <u>and accelerating</u> the flow of <u>private capital</u> into markets that <u>energize the green economy</u>.

- Leverage limited public resources to scale-up and <u>mobilize private</u> <u>capital investment</u> in the green economy of Connecticut.
- Strengthen Connecticut's communities by <u>making the benefits of the</u> <u>green economy inclusive and accessible to all</u> individuals, families, and businesses.
- Pursue investment strategies that <u>advance market transformation in</u> <u>green investing</u> while supporting the organization's pursuit of financial sustainability.



Solar PV Market Trends





https://www.seia.org/solar-industry-research-data





Megawatts of Solar PV Installed & Operational by Year Approved*



Market Trends – Solar PV in NE



0.1



43.5

72.5 W 72.0 W 71.5 W

0 2

71.0 10

color scale of nameplate megawatts per town

7 Source: ISONE



PV Growth: Reported Historical vs. Forecast



Source: ISONE





Source: Wood Mackenzie

Solar + storage is on the rise

Solar combined with storage can maximize the benefits of solar to the grid and increase resilience



Solar 101

Current Revenue Streams for Solar PV





What is Net Metering?



Solar PV systems that are located **behind the meter** are intended to generate electricity **for onsite use**

Net metering is a billing mechanism allowing electricity in excess of customer usage to be banked at the full retail rate and credited on an annual basis



- At year end, excess electricity generation for the year is reimbursed at wholesale rate
- Wholesale rate generally much lower than retail electricity tariff

CONNECTICUT GREEN BANK

96,082 kWh

Net metering example – **Ashford Senior Housing Center**





Estimated vs. Actual Solar Power Generation



13 Live dashboard view of metered electricity

AUST Actual Estimated Estimated generation: 80,462 kWh Actual generation: 80,724 kWh Difference: 262 kWh

Note: Solar PV system is sized based on annual electricity usage

Two main types of incentives available in Connecticut

Of no financial benefit unless ITC owner has a federal tax liability

- 1. Federal Income Tax Credit (ITC) for PV owners
 - a) 26% of qualified systems costs*
 - b) Non-transferable and subject to 5-year recapture if sold or decommissioned
 - c) Accelerated depreciation over 5-year period (MACRS)
- 2. State-level Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)

Solar PV generation qualifies for Class I RECs for under Connecticut's Renewable Portfolio Standard

a) ZREC / LREC contracts between utilities and renewable energy project owners provide 15-year fixed compensation for each MWh of electricity generated

Туре	System size	Allocation
Small ZREC	≤ 100 kW	Lottery
Medium ZREC	> 100 kW & < 250 kW	Reverse auction
Large ZREC	≥ 250 kW & ≤ 1000 kW	Reverse auction
LREC	Up to 2000 kW	Reverse auction

* For systems placed in service by 12/31/2020. Decreases to 22% of qualified costs thereafter until 12/31/2021, 10% of qualified costs thereafter



Solar for Affordable Multifamily Properties

Definitions



"Multifamily"

- 5+ units
- Income eligible and market rate
- Private and non-profit owners
- Public housing authorities
- Senior / assisted living communities
- Condominiums
- Co-operatives

"Affordable"

- >60% of property's units must offer rents affordable to tenants earning <80% of area media income (AMI)
- Affordable rents assume <30% of household income is spent on housing costs
- Affordable rent figures include all utility costs
- For condos and co-ops, total housing costs are considered, rather than rents
 - Mortgage
 - Insurance
 - Taxes
 - Utilities
 - Association Fees

Product Comparison for Affordable MFH Properties



Solar PPA

- Off-balance sheet
- Ancillary projectrelated work may be financed (if identified prior to PPA execution)
- Monetizes and passes along financial benefit of ITC to property owner

LIME Loan

- Unsecured (UCC-1 filing)
- Ancillary projectrelated work may be financed (as identified prior to loan document execution, subject to ESCR reqs)
- ITC monetized by owner, independent of loan

C-PACE

- Secured to property (1st position lien)
- Ancillary projectrelated work may be financed (as identified prior to loan document execution, subject to ESCR reqs)
- ITC monetized by owner, independent of loan

SCEF

- "Shared Clean Energy Facilities"
- Solar is not sited on property
- Does not utilize
 net metering
- Bill credits are assigned to "subscribers" based on system production and subscription size

What is a Power Purchase Agreement ("PPA")?



Contract between Seller (generates electricity) and Buyer (purchases electricity) Seller: Oversees development, financing, construction, & asset management <u>Customer</u> is <u>Buyer</u>: Purchases electricity from solar installed on property, receives net metering credits

Who gets what with a PPA?



The value of solar PV to the customer comes from electricity cost savings!



No upfront costs Lock in low electricity rate Positive cash flow No operations & maintenance costs

Managed by a

third-party

solar system

owner

Preserve capital & credit lines

What are the Benefits of a PPA?





Multifamily Challenges

Metering: Multi-metered buildings may not benefit as much from solar

- Only common areas and other electric loads paid for by the property owner can be offset by solar
- Master Metered for Electricity or large common areas are best opportunities

Health and Safety:

- Over 70% of residential units built before 1979 in need of capital improvements that include health and safety
- H&S issues must often be addressed before energy improvements can be implemented
- Green Bank has a revolving Health and Safety Loan Fund to address these types of challenges





Other Opportunities: Shared Clean Energy Facilities



AKA "Community Solar"

- Utility procures up to 25MW a year of solar (or other clean energy systems)
- \$0.025/kWh credit available to subscribers (Process to identify & enroll subscribers <u>TBD</u>)
- Eligible Subscribers/Subscriber requirements:
 - 20% Low Income households
 - 40% Low Income or Moderate-Income households, or Landlords of affordable housing facilities
 - 20% Small Businesses
 - 20% Any of the above or Gov't, Commercial or non-LMI households unable to install solar





The Future of Solar in CT

Significant Changes to CT Solar Policy



Many policies are phasing out

- Net Metering will end December 31, 2021. Existing systems will be grandfathered until 2041
- The final ZREC Auction will take place in 2021
- The Federal Investment Tax Credit will step down to 10% for nonresidential systems by 2022

What will replace these programs?

- The state will transition to a tariff structure in 2022
- A tariff is a combined purchase price for the energy and the RECs generated by the solar PV system
- State regulators are currently working to determine what the tariff price will be



SCEF program just ramping up – first procurement in 2020, program will run for six years



Additional Information



- Solar PPA 30 kW minimum system size
- Master Metered for Electricity or large common areas are best opportunities
- All MFH solar PPA projects will be required to have snow guards installed above property entryways as part of standard terms
- CT Green Bank developing snow guard solution for existing
- solar PPA lessees
- PPA projects have long development timelines frequently 8 months or more. Fastest moving projects have an *internal champion*
- 23 currently eligible installers contact CT Green Bank for a list
- To get started, recommend seeking 2-3 project vendor quotes (like any home improvement)

Green Bank MFH Solar Financing CONNECTICUT to-date*

- 30 solar projects
 - 19 PPAs
 - 11 LIME
- Average system size 97 kW
- Average No. units 70





8388

Green Bank CPACE-Secured Power CONNECTICUT GREEN BANK Purchase Agreement

Contract between Seller (generates electricity) and Buyer (purchases electricity)

Green Bank is Seller: Oversees development, financing, construction, & asset management Property Owner is Buyer: Purchases electricity from solar installed on property

Owner repays over time through a senior assessment placed on the property

Assessment stays with the property regardless of ownership

Relationships between Green Bank, Contractor, and Customer





Development & Engineering

Construction

Operation & Payment

Green Bank develops financing agreement with **Municipality**

Green Bank & **Contractor** develop & engineer project

Green Bank & **Contractor** coordinate on documentation

PPA signed between Green Bank & **Municipality**; EPC signed between **Contractor** & Green Bank

Contractor constructs project & receives construction payments from Green Bank After Construction Completion, Green Bank operates & maintains solar system over the term of the agreement.

Municipality pays the PPA on a monthly "actuals" basis directly to the Green Bank

> "Actuals" = paying for exactly what is generated based off of the solar monitoring system

Relationships between Green Bank, Contractor, and Customer





Development & Engineering

Green Bank develops financing agreement with Customer

Green Bank & Contractor develop & engineer project

Green Bank & Contractor coordinate on documentation PPA signed between Green Bank & Customer; EPC signed between Contractor & Green Bank

Construction

Contractor constructs project & receives construction payments from Green Bank **Operation & Payment**

After Construction Completion, Green Bank operates & maintains solar system over the term of the agreement.

Customer pays the PPA through a CPACE Benefit Assessment Lien* on the property

- Payment schedule is based on estimated annual production
- Semi-annual payments paid to Town & Town remits payment to Green Bank
- Annual "true-up" directly with Customer to allow payment only for electricity generated