



# State of the Solar Market: Innovations and Trends

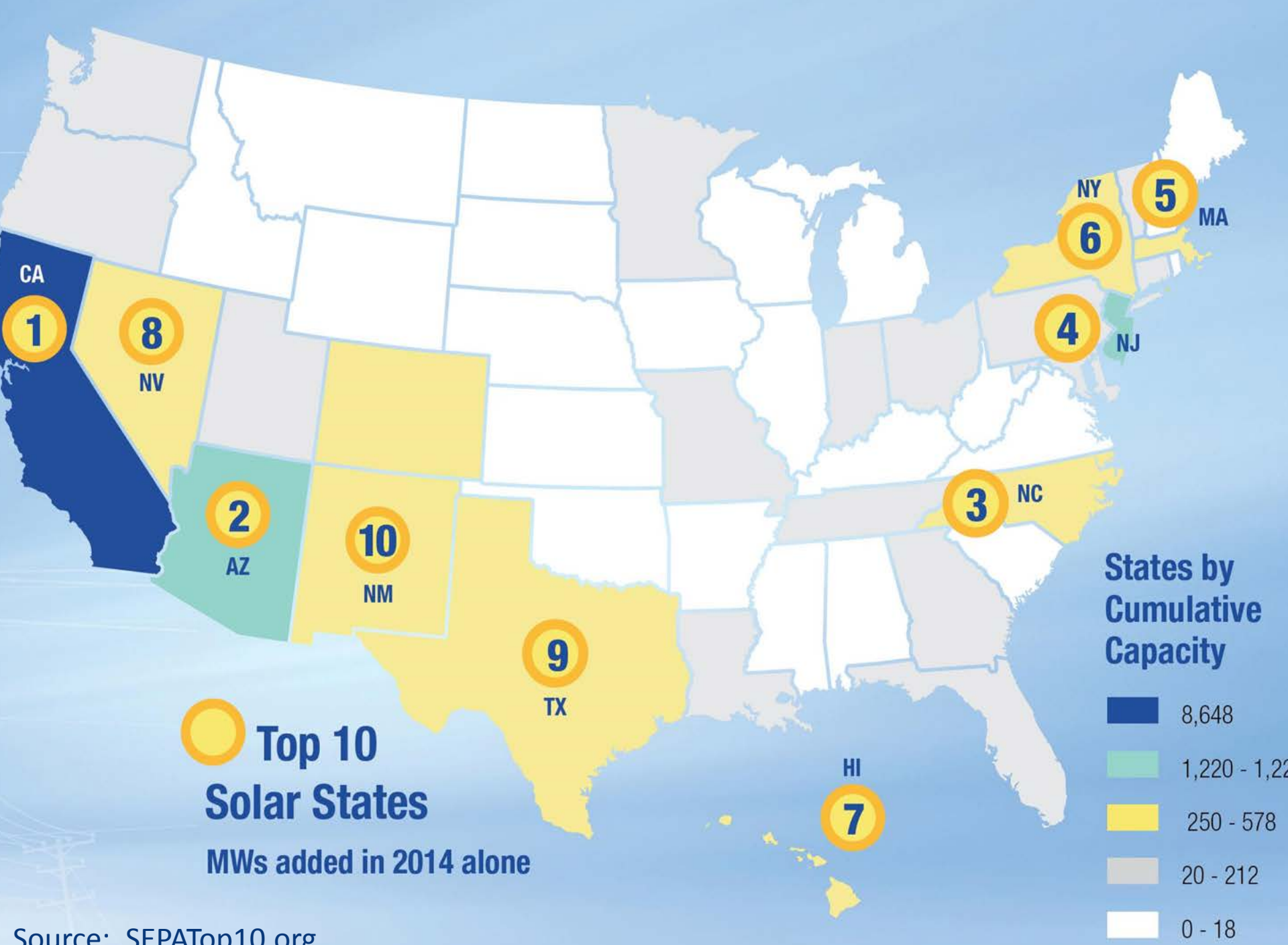
Miriam Makhyoun  
May 20, 2015





# Presentation Agenda

- How much solar was installed in 2014?
- What market segments saw the most growth?
- Solar Technologies (storage, inverters, forecasting)
- Rate restructuring
- Value of solar tariffs
- Fixed charges
- Current Price Points for Solar Energy Technologies
- Community Solar and Utility Rooftop Ownership





# U.S. Solar Capacity in MW



Residential

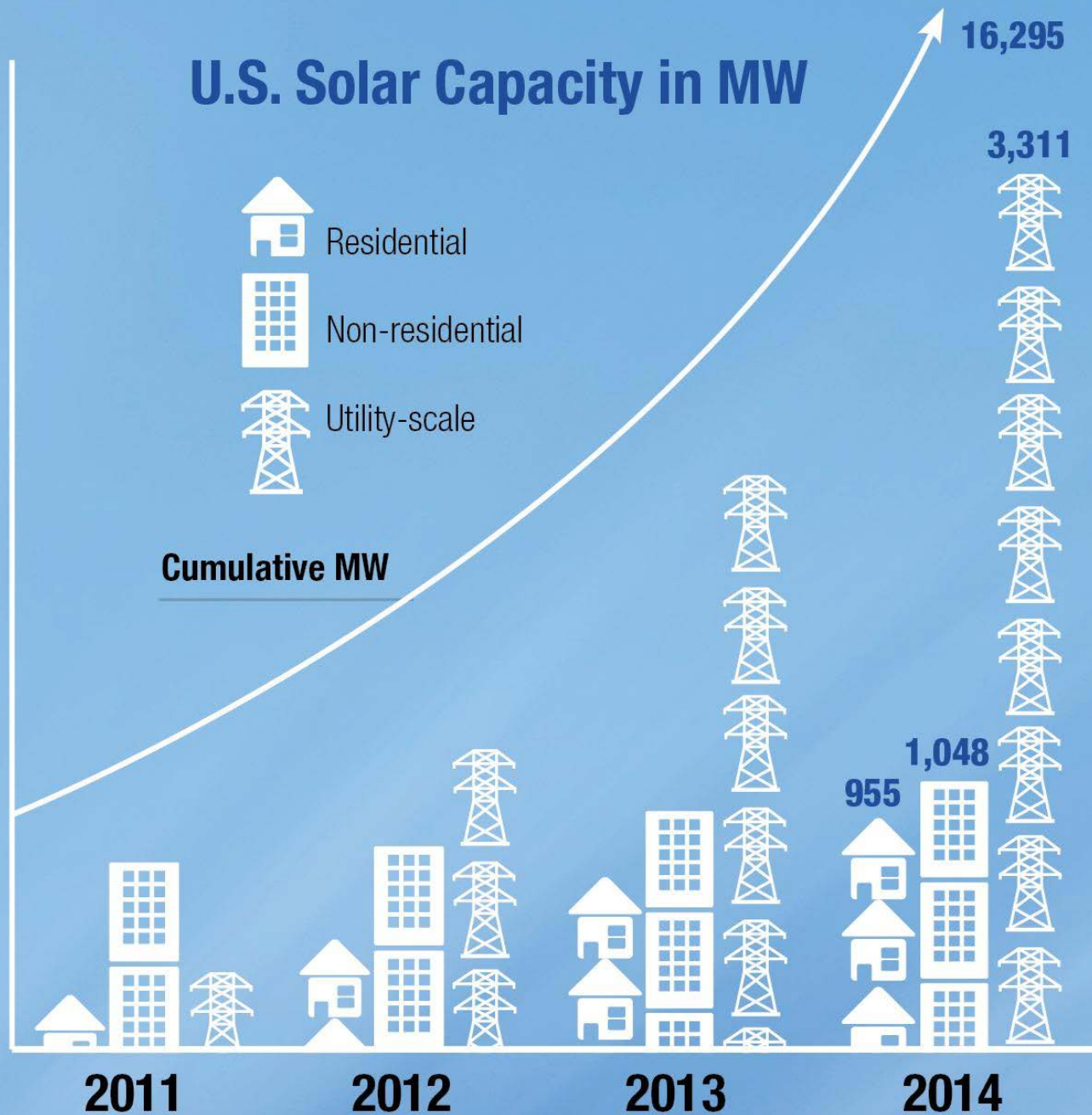


Non-residential



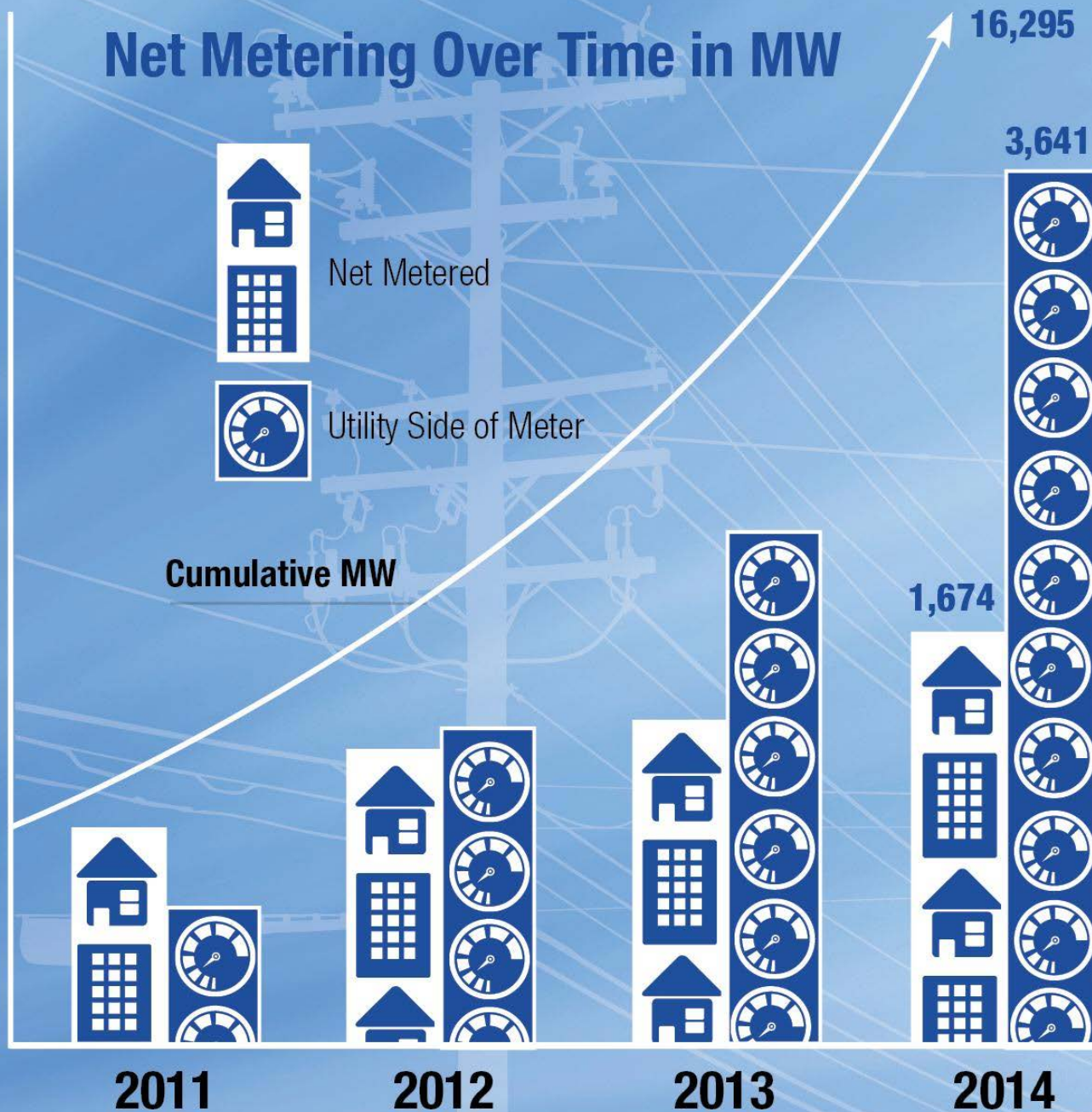
Utility-scale

Cumulative MW

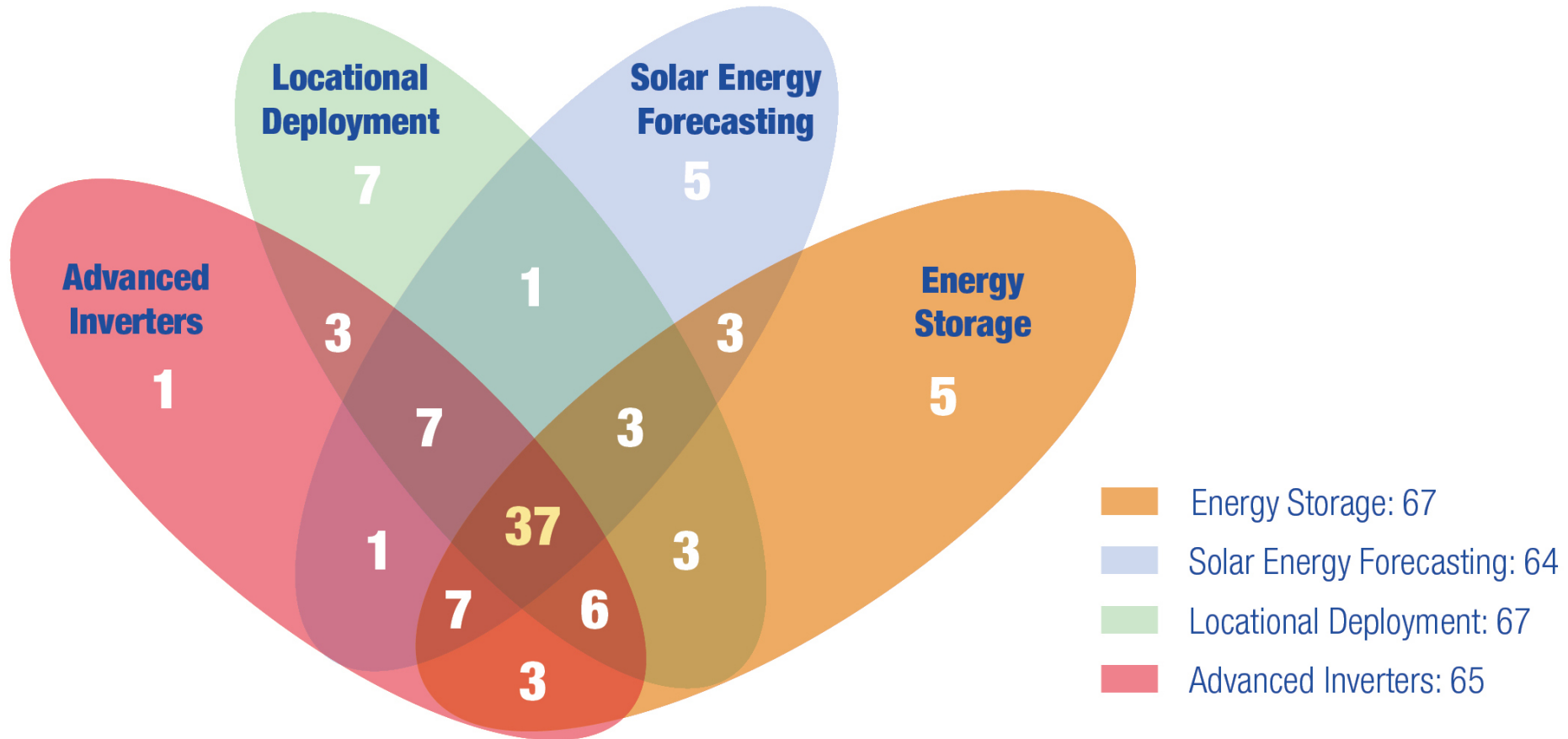




# Net Metering Over Time in MW



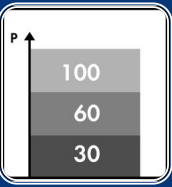
# Grid Integration Strategy



...Often overlapping technologies

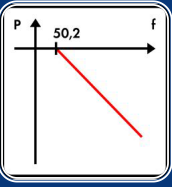


# Advanced Inverters



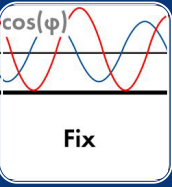
## Remote Dispatch

- Ability to control PV generation to a specified % of nominal power



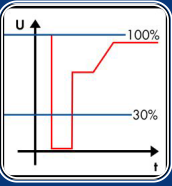
## Over Frequency Response

- Ability to automatically reduce active power with frequency deviations



## PF Control Mode

- Ability to supply/absorb reactive power during PV operation
- Ability to control Power Factor



## Fault Ride-Through

- Ability to supply reactive current during fault ride-through period

- Significant promise in this technology
- Grid-reactive settings currently leveraged in Germany
- Potential for remote settings and controls on the horizon
  - Challenges on two-way communications still being researched



# Advanced Inverter Ownership Rationale

Delivers voltage  
and reactive  
power support  
at the edge of  
the grid

Shifts long-term  
operation and  
maintenance  
risk to the utility

Creates  
opportunity for  
enhanced  
customer  
services and  
programs

Provides utility  
with increased  
visibility into  
grid operations

Lowers total  
system cost for  
customer

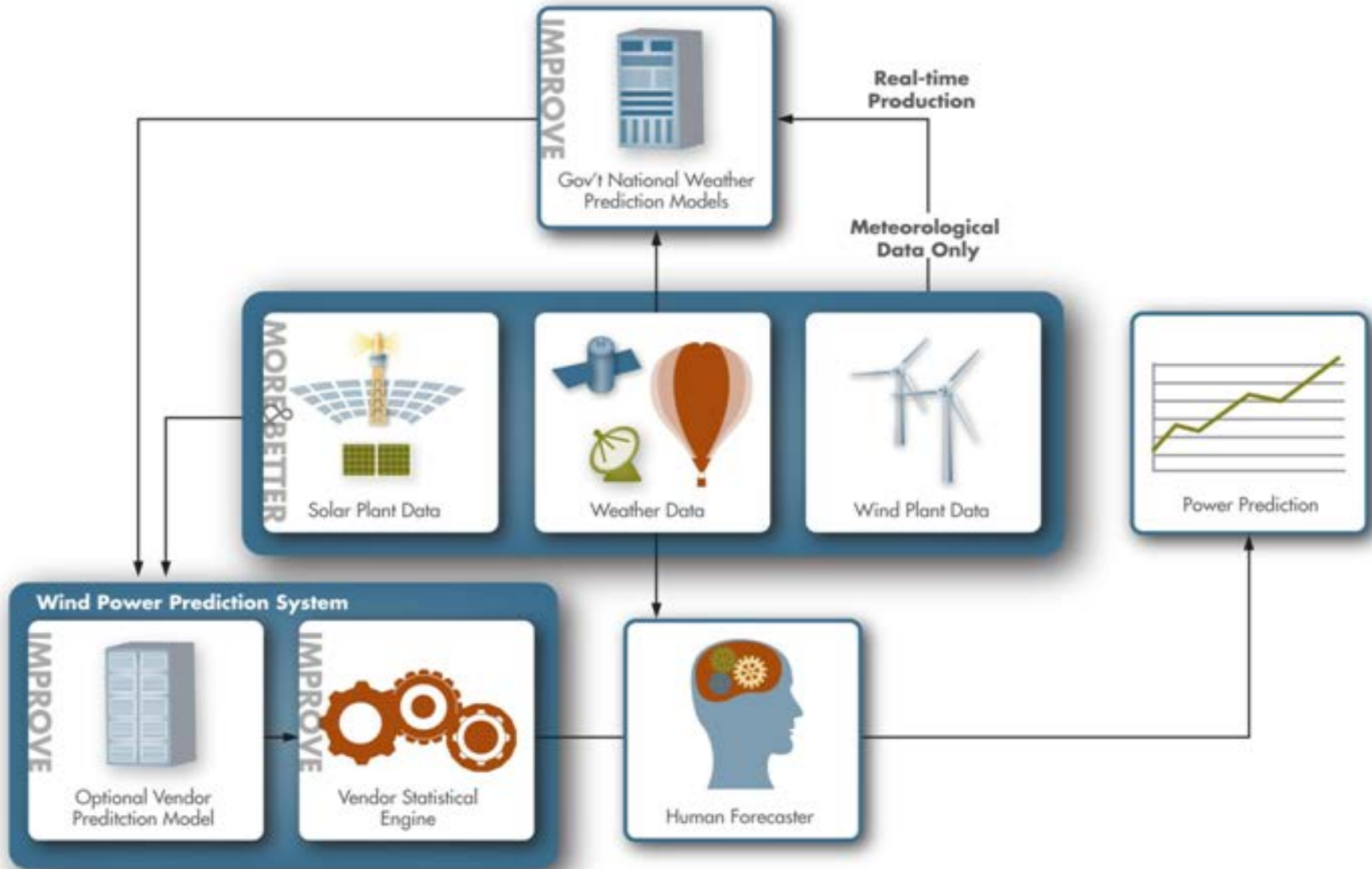


# Energy Storage Applications by Technology

	ELECTRIC ENERGY TIME SHIFT	ELECTRIC SUPPLY CAPACITY	ELECTRIC SUPPLY RESERVE CAPACITY- SPINNING	FREQUENCY REGULATION	RELIABILITY & QUALITY	RENEWABLES CAPACITY FIRMING	VOLTAGE SUPPORT
Advanced Lead Acid Battery	●		●	●		●	●
Lithium Ion Battery	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Lithium Iron Phosphate Battery	●			●		●	●
Sealed Lead Acid Battery	●				●	●	
Sodium Sulfur Battery	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Vanadium Redox Flow Battery	●	●	●		●	●	●

Source: Makhyoun, SEPA, 2014

# Solar Energy Forecasting





# Forecasting Inputs

1. Actual input history from EMS  
(solar/wind generation)

2. Calendar variables

1. Time of day

2. Day of the week

3. Season

4. Previous day/hour/interval  
weather

5. Holidays

6. Sunrise/Sunset

Actual and Forecast Weather:

1. Temperature

2. Dew point

3. Wind speed and direction

4. Cloud coverage

5. Irradiance

6. Barometric pressure





# Solar Market Overview



# Drivers for DG Market Growth

## Core DG growth drivers:

### Fundamental Economics

- Upward pressure on utility costs/rates

- Declining PV costs (60%/3 yrs)

- State Renewable Energy Standards

### Policy

- Net Metering

- Federal Incentives (ITC/MACRS)

### Consumer Preference

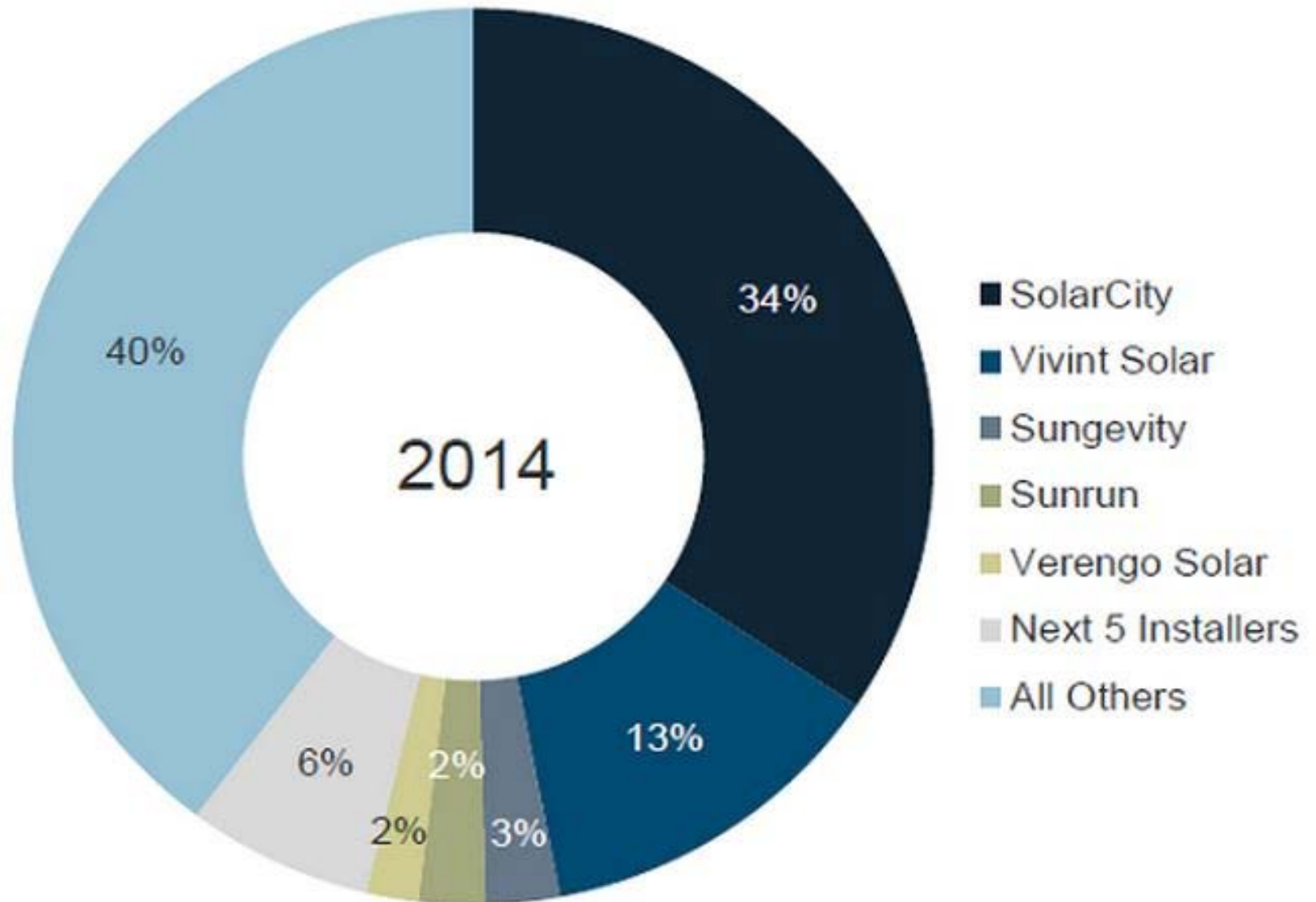
- Innovation in customer financing (leases & PPAs)

- Leveraging cost of capital to turn ROI to cash flow

- Securitization & public funding

- Increasing demand by customers for choice

# Third-Party Sales





## DG Growing Among C&I Customers

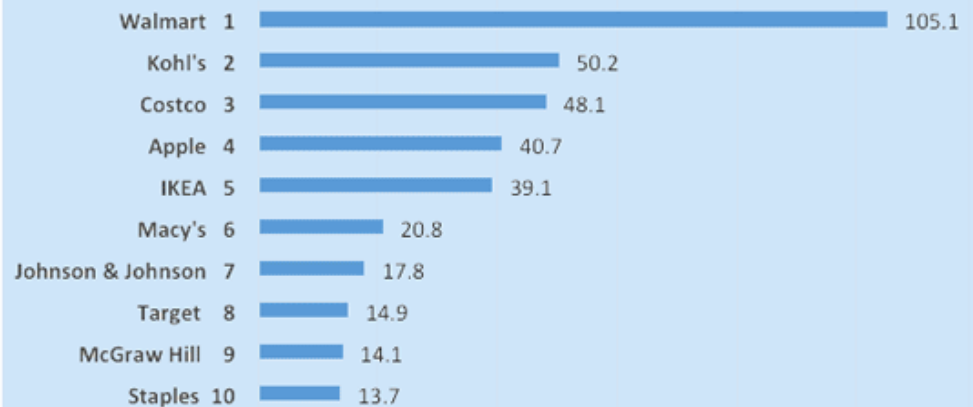
Despite rates that contain less subsidy

- 569 MW currently installed at over 1,000 locations by top 25 corporate solar users
- Apple recently reached agreement to buy 130 MW from First Solar
  - \$848M transaction
  - Largest solar procurement deal for a non-utility; nearly triples Apple's stake in solar



*Fact: Since 2012, top U.S. companies have ramped up their solar capacity by more than 100 percent.*

Top 10 Companies Installing Solar (MW)







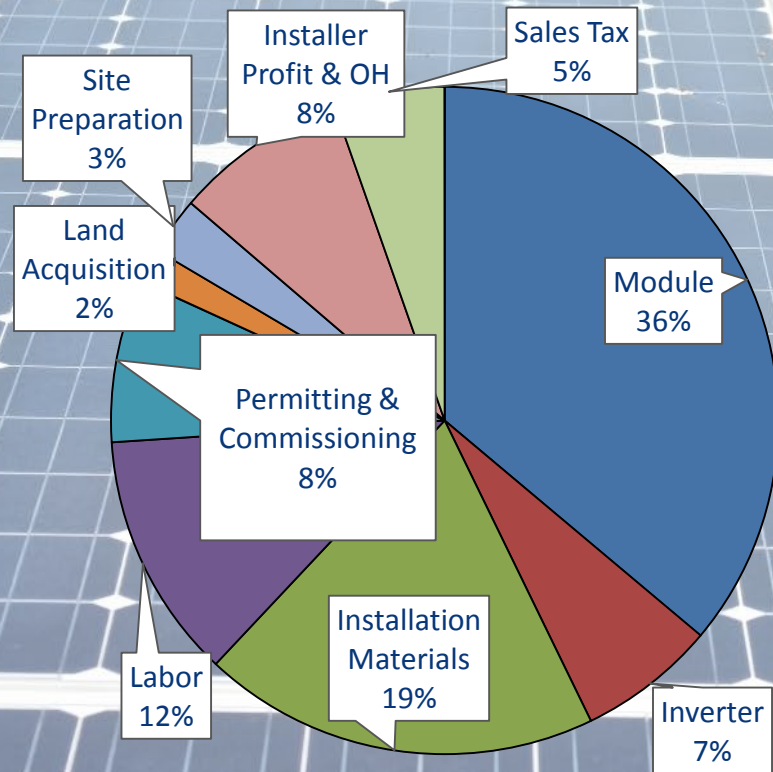
Pricing Update



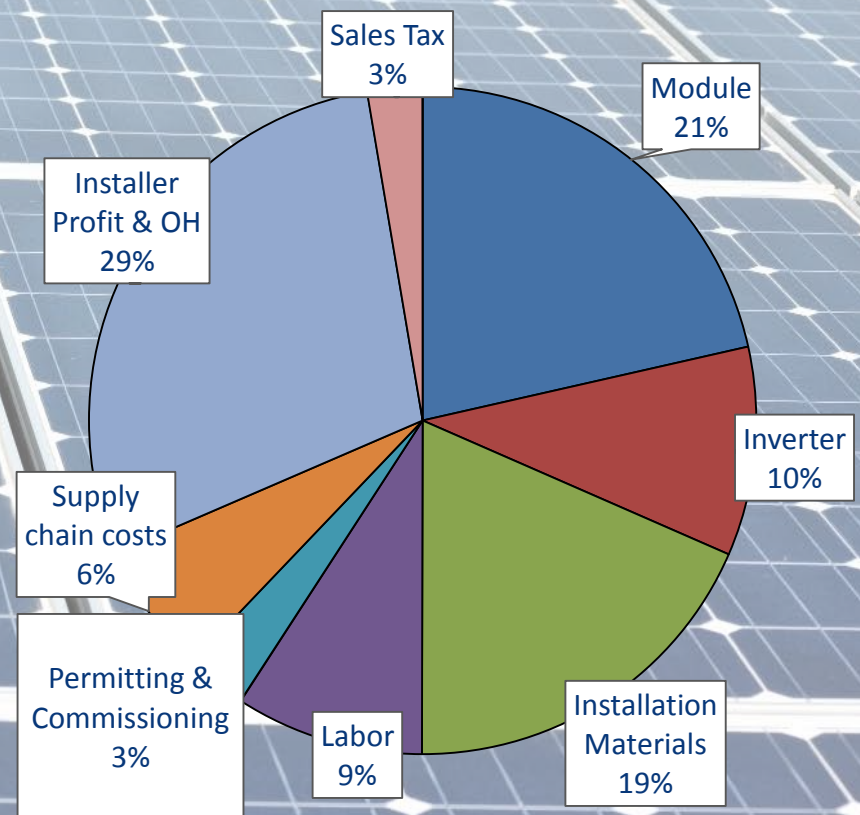
# Sources of Cost

Economies of scale play a significant role in solar cost efficacy

Utility-Scale Fixed – \$1.80/W



Residential Rooftop - \$3.29/W





# Cost Declines Key Focus of DOE

Residential solar costs are projected to continue cost declines to \$1.50/watt in 2020

## Residential Rooftop Soft Cost Reduction Roadmap

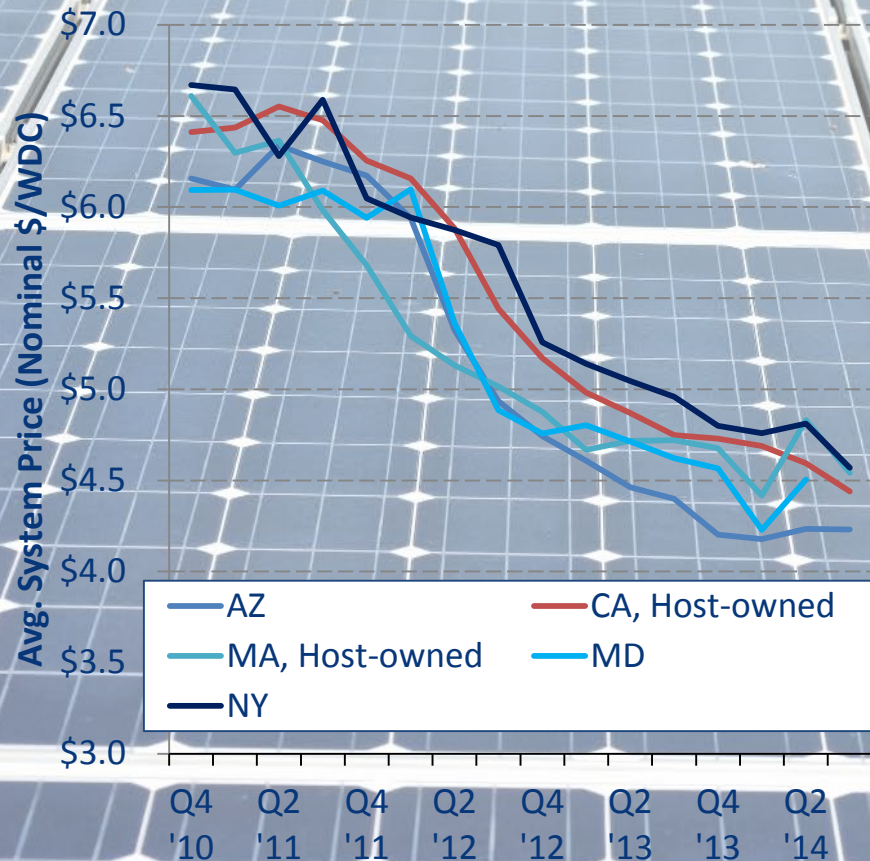


Non-Hardware ("Soft") Cost-Reduction Roadmap for Residential and Small Commercial Solar Photovoltaics, 2013-2020 (NREL, Aug 2013)

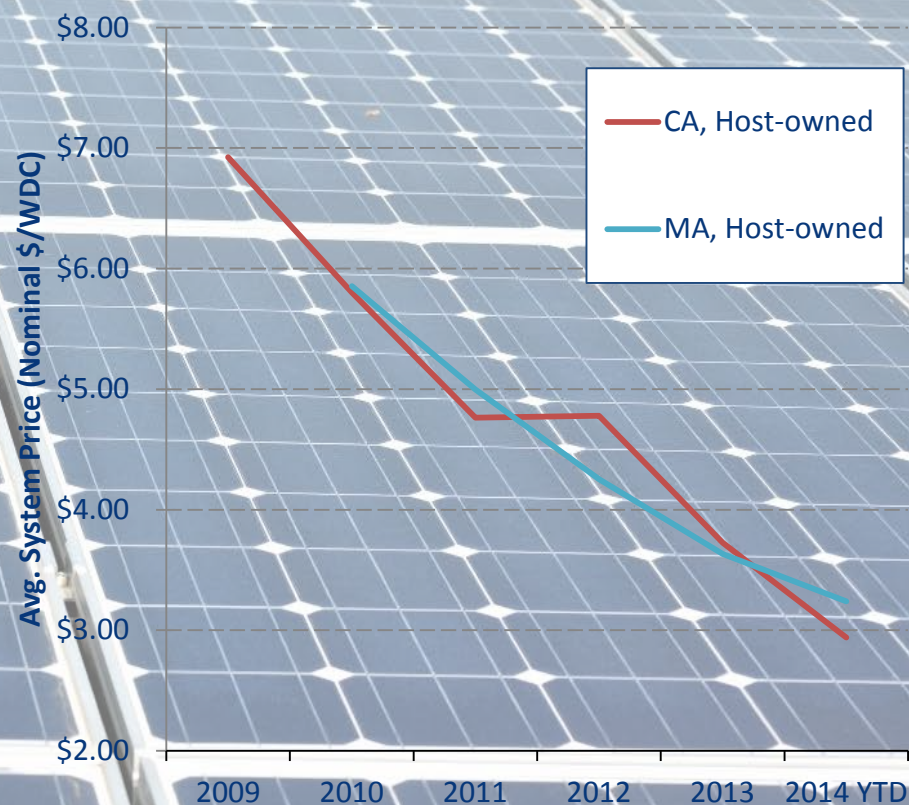


# PV System Pricing Update – Distributed

2.5kW - 10kW



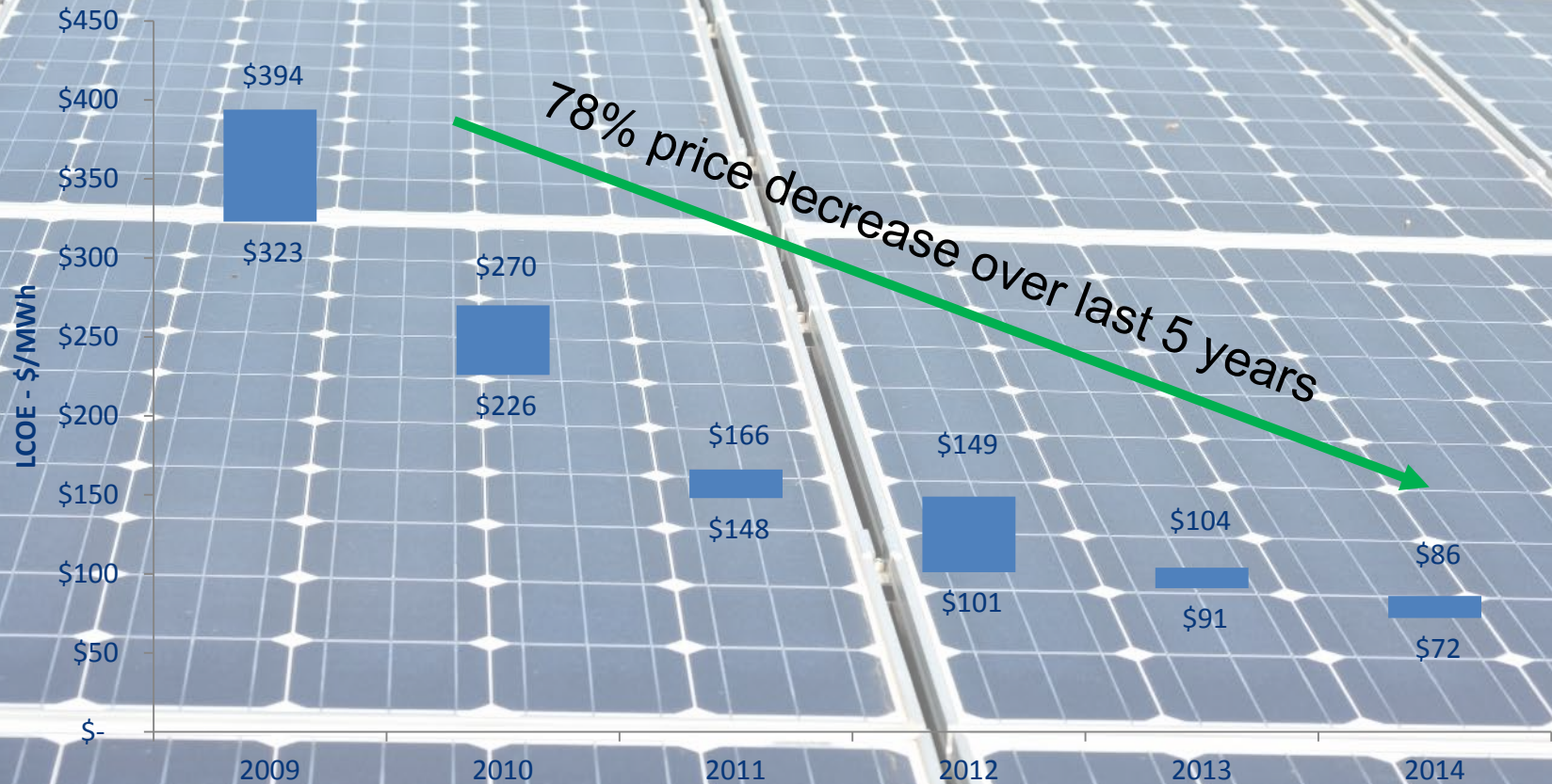
500 kW - 2 MW





# Utility-Scale Solar PV LCOE History

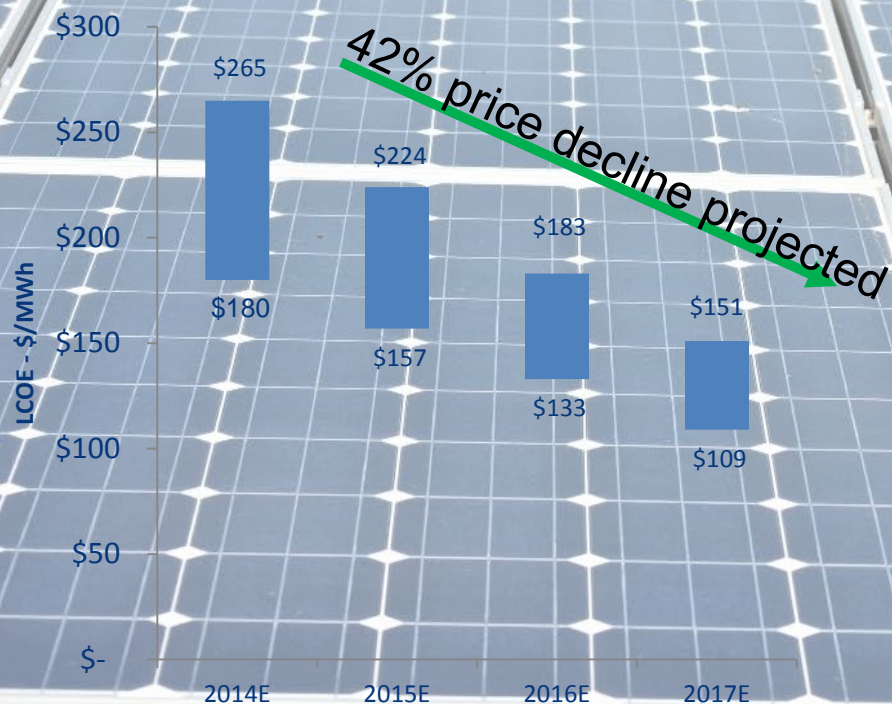
## PV LCOE Price Decline



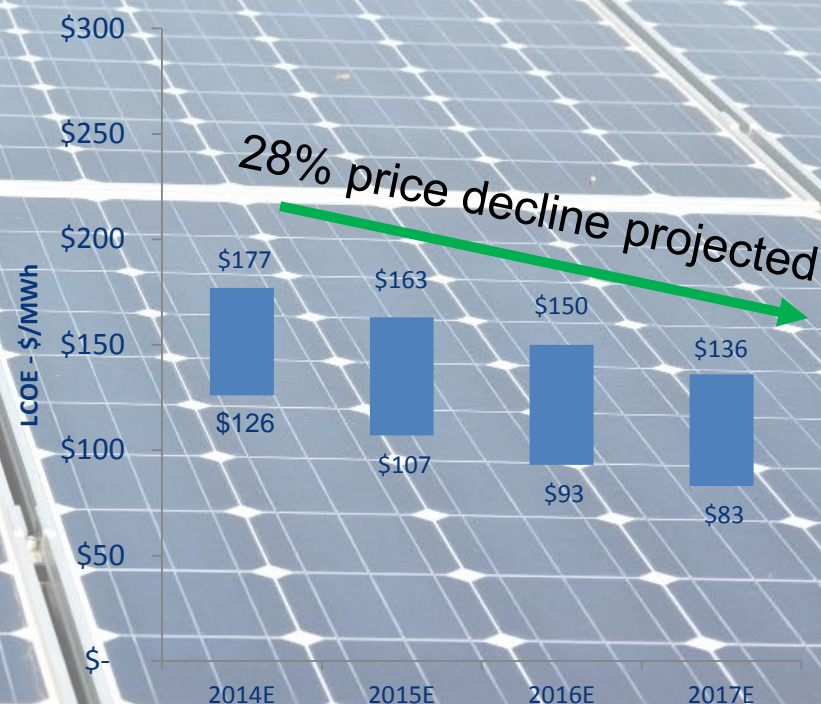


# LCOE Forecast Comparison

## Rooftop Residential



## Rooftop C&I







# Net Energy Metering Alternatives



# Addressing Solar DG Transaction

CAMP 1

CAMP 2

Business as Usual

Reforming the Solar Customer Transaction (NEM/rate reform)

RATE  
CONSTRUCT

## Single Transaction (Rate) Approach

## Two or More Transactions (Rates)

Apply NEM

Reform Existing Rates  
(all customers or solar only)

Solar Rate

Reform All Rates

MODEL

Current Rates

Increased Fixed Charge and/or Minimum Bill

Demand Charge

Stand-by or Solar Charge

Independent Energy Sale and Solar Purchase Rates

Value of Services

ATTRIBUTES

- Currently applicable rates result in an acceptable transaction
- Solar penetration does not warrant action

- Add or increase basic service charge (\$/month)
- Raise minimum bill requirements (\$/month)

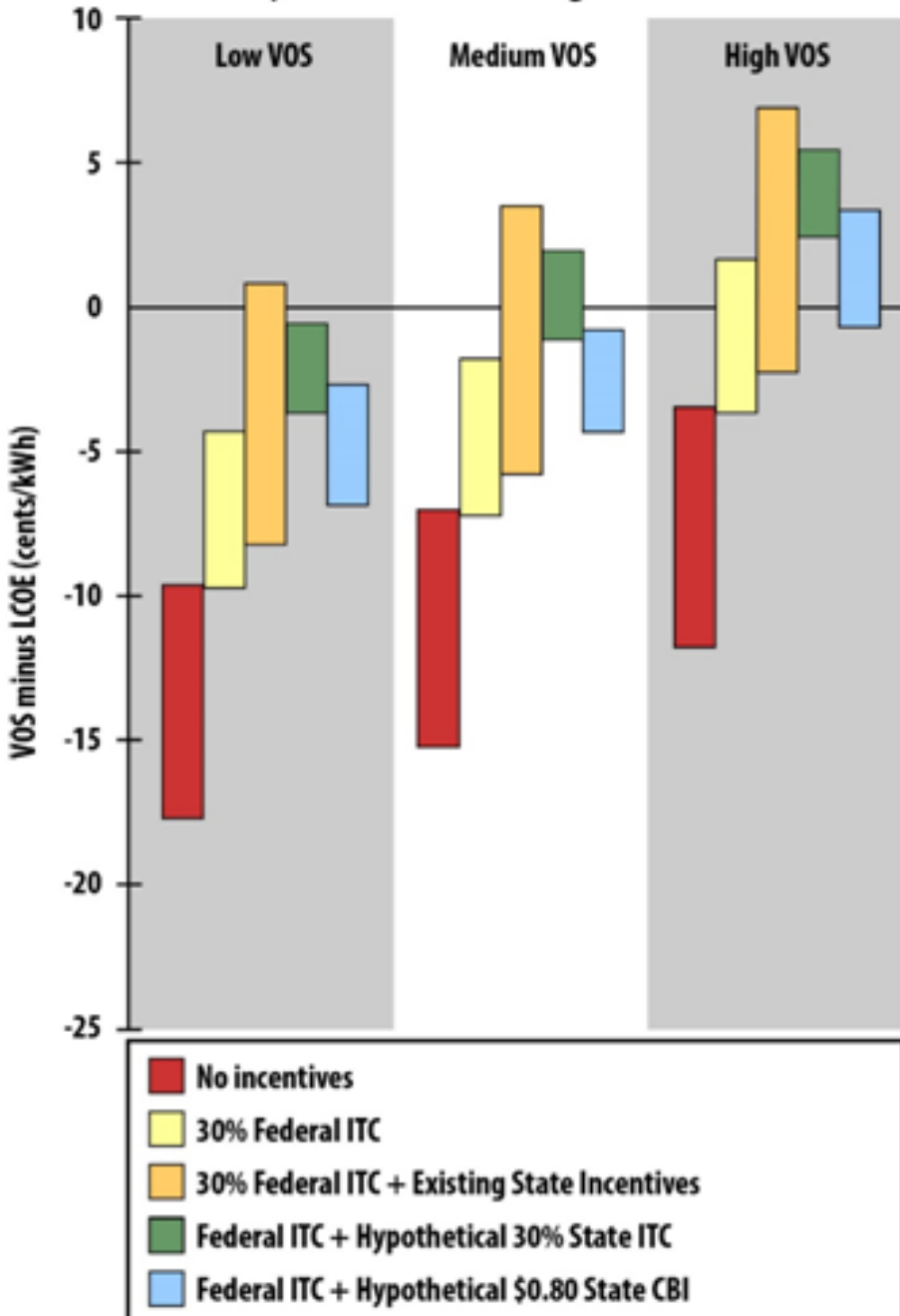
- Add or increase customer fee for demand (\$/kW/month)

- Charge for stand-by capacity, based on DG system size (\$/kW/month or \$/kW/yr)

- Retain existing rates for services provided from utility to cust.
- Establish second rate to purchase from customer

- Design rates to reflect itemized services from utility to cust. and from cust. to utility

**Gap between Value of Solar (VOS) profiles and Life-cycle cost of PV: Range for U.S. States**



## Value of Solar

- Price-support Market ( $LCOE\text{-}PV > VOS$  Tariff)
- Transitional Market ( $LCOE\text{-}PV \approx VOS$  Tariff)
- Price-competitive Market ( $LCOE\text{-}PV \leq VOS$  Tariff)

Source: NREL; SEPA, 2015





# Emerging Discussions

## Community Solar and Utility Rooftop Ownership



# Utility-Owned Residential Rooftop Models

## APS Rooftop Ownership

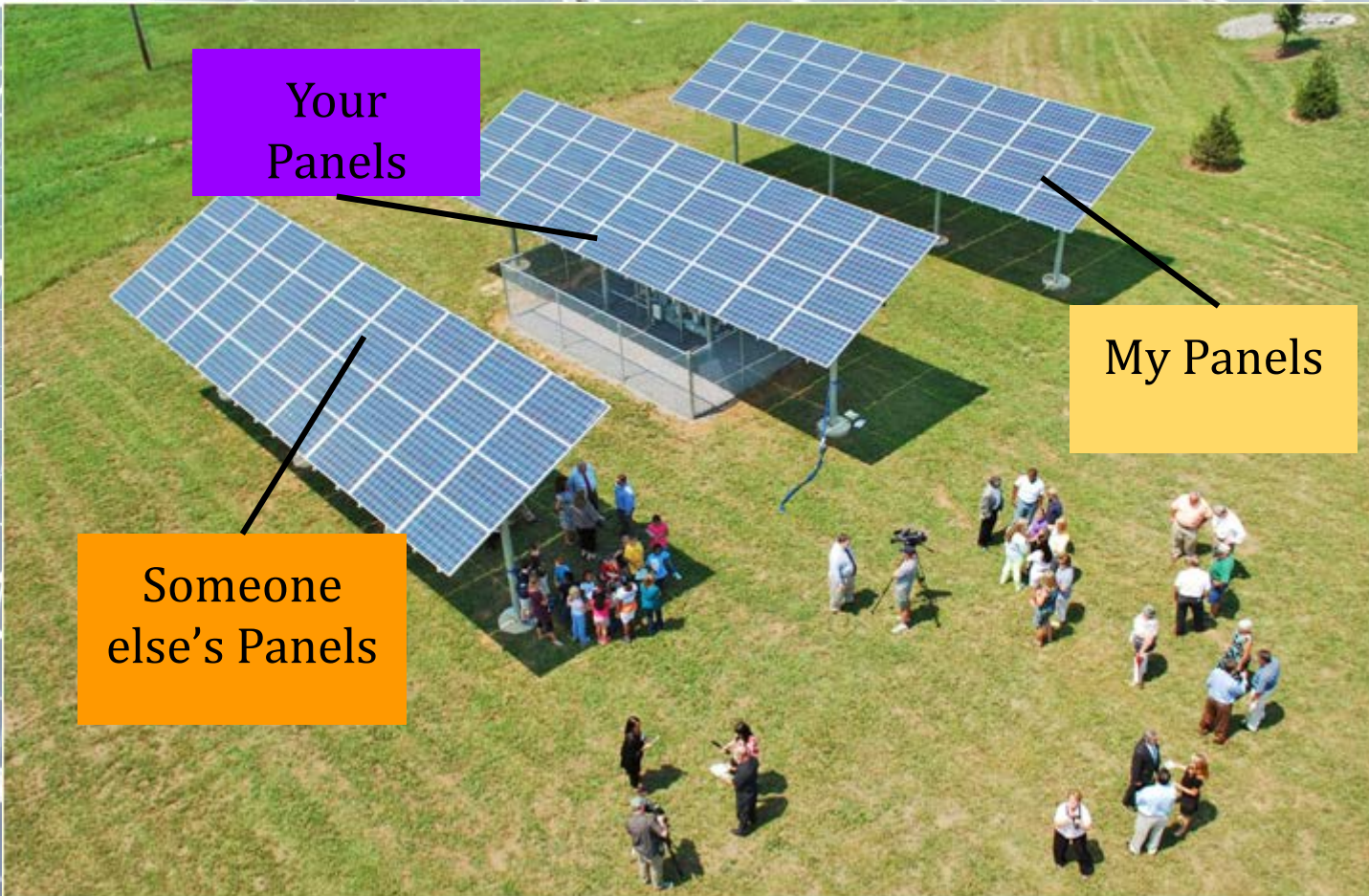
- Utility installed and owned rooftop PV
- 10 MW cumulative program size for about 1,500 customers
- Customers get a \$30 monthly bill credit for 20 years (lease payment for rooftop real estate)
- Competitive process using local contractors
- Precedent – APS already has two rooftop ownership models in place (Flagstaff pilot project and Schools & Government)

## Tucson Electric Power

- Utility owned rooftop PV
- 3.5 MW or about 600 customers
- Customers get a fixed monthly rate for 25 years
  - Flat monthly bill (e.g., \$100)
  - Usage band of +/- 15% off of average historical consumption
- Competitive process using local contractors
- Strong interest already in program; first installations about to occur



# How Community Solar Works





# Program Example:

## Orlando Utilities Commission

- Offer: 1 kW blocks, up to 15 kW at \$0.13/kWh fixed based on actual plant generation; net metered bill credit
  - Equates to \$.025/kWh (residential) or \$.015/kWh (commercial) more than current customer rates
- Phase 1 Supply: 400 kW
- Term: 25 years
- Performance risk: No guarantee
- Additional details:
  - Customers pay a \$50 deposit (refundable after 2 years)
  - Fully subscribed in 6 days; active waiting list for Phase 2

### Community Solar Farm Calculator

**Step: 1**  
Please select the type of building

☒ Residential ☐ Commercial

**Step: 2**  
How much energy on average do you use monthly?

800<sup>kWh</sup> | | | | | 2000<sup>kWh</sup>

**Step: 3**  
How many solar blocks would you like to reserve?

1 | | | | | 15

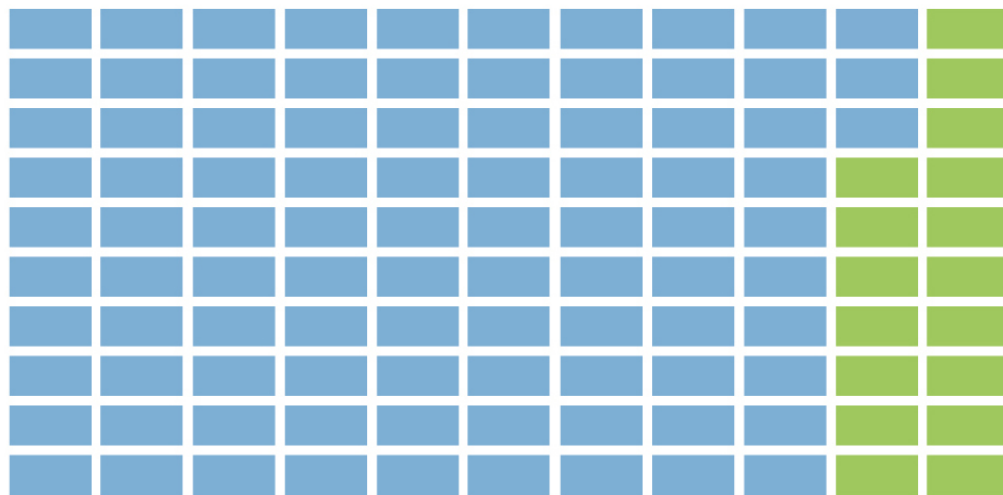
**Cost to Participate\*:**

Average Monthly Cost	\$0	Average Annual Cost	\$0
Average Monthly Offset	0 kWh	Average Annual Offset	0 kWh

Reserve Your **1** Blocks of Solar Today



# What are Participants Buying?



Capacity Offering **74%**

Rate Offering **17%**

**A breakdown of active and planned community solar program structures.**

## Capacity Offering

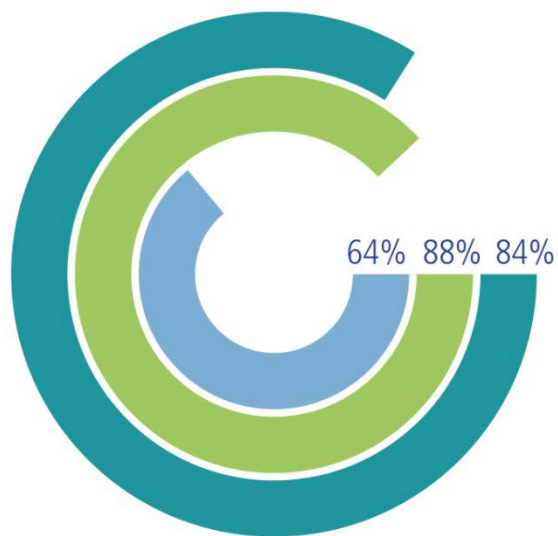
Customer purchases or leases blocks of capacity – often in panel increments – and, in some cases, receives a virtual or simulated net metering rate

## Rate Offering

Customer purchases blocks of energy output, measured in kWh, at a predetermined and sometimes fixed rate, potentially offering a hedge against higher future utility rates

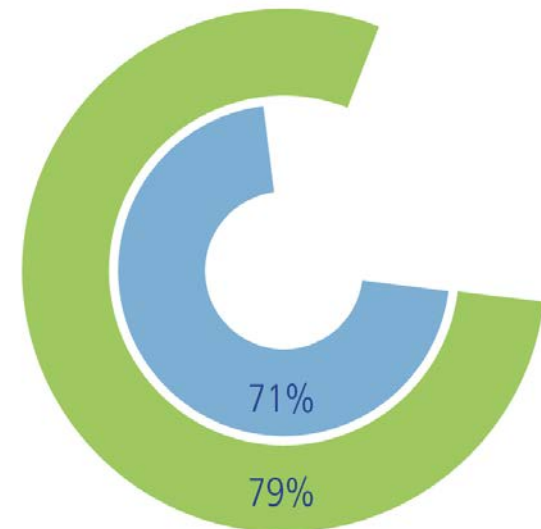


# How Successful are They?



**Average community solar program subscription amount, based on available capacity**

Public Power IOU Co-op



**Average subscription amounts: Capacity vs. Rate**

Rate offer Capacity offer



# Contact Information

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