

Community Solar in Seattle



Renewable Energy Markets

Scaling Up Solar Power

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- Serves 350,000 residential customers
 - A “carbon neutral” electric utility
 - Solar America City since 2008
 - Received Special Project Grant for Community Solar in 2010



What is Community Solar?

A single solar energy system that provides energy and/or financial benefit to multiple community members

Increases access to solar energy

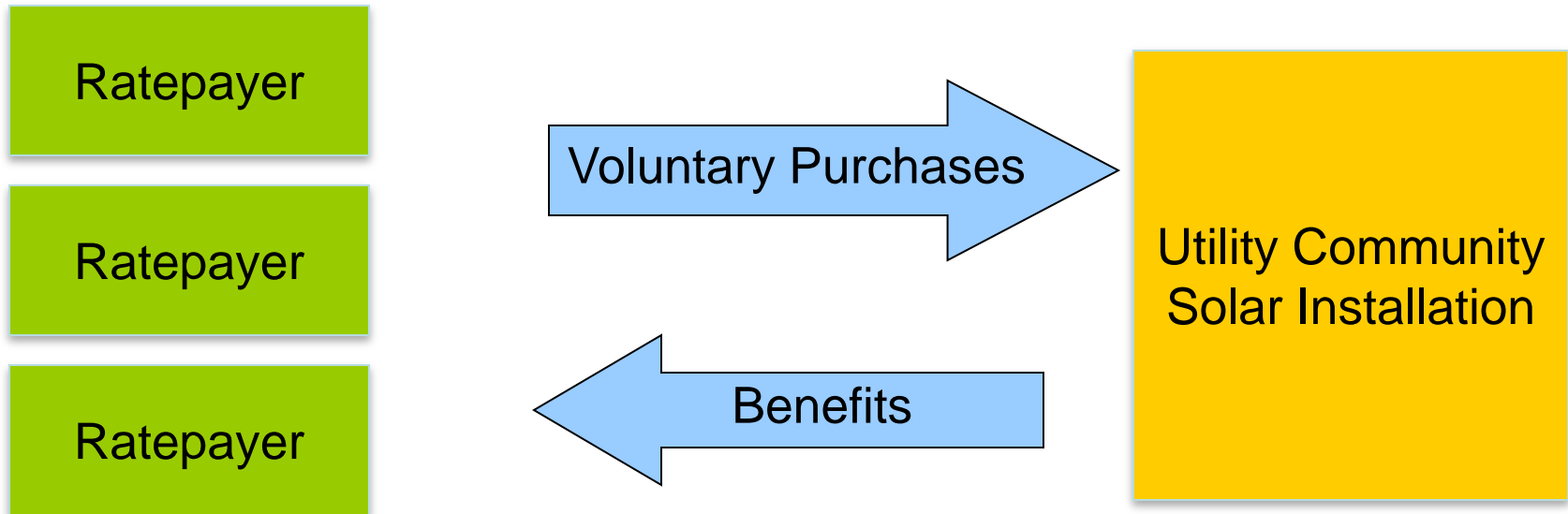


Community Solar Benefits

- Optimal siting
- Increased economies of scale
- Increased participation opportunities
- Community pride
- *plus all the “regular” benefits of solar!*



Utility Sponsored Model



Benefits

- Value of Energy
- Production Incentives
- RECs?

Utility Handles

- Financing
- Maintenance
- Insurance
- Billing
- Taxes

Utility Program Examples



Ellensburg



Sacramento Municipal Utility District



Florida Keys Electric Co-op



Seattle City Light – 2011

Why City Light is launching a program

- Ongoing commitment to renewable energy and customer choice
- Awarded Solar America Cities Special Project grant for Community Solar!
- WA State Production Incentive program- expanded to include Community Solar!

WA Production Incentive: SB 6658

- Utility Tax Credit passed to participating customers – individual or community solar
- Three types of Community Solar
 1. Group-owned on local government site
 2. Utility-owned
 3. Company-owned on local government site
- Community solar production incentives are double those for individual solar
- Production Incentives end in 2020

A participant of a CS project that uses WA-made modules and inverters could earn \$1.08/kWh!

Drivers of Program Design

- Open to all SCL customers
- Revolving fund
- State Production Incentive Program
- ARRA grant
- Securities laws
- Interconnection/Metering
- Billing IT
- Site opportunities
- Customer demand



First City Light Project

- 30 to 60 kilowatts
- Hope to use Washington made parts
- 300 to 500 participants
- Open to customer enrollment in 2011

Installation, operations, and maintenance handled
by Seattle City Light!

Site Selection Criteria

- Host partner (public space)
- Solar access
- Structural integrity & feasible interconnection
- Community visibility
- Security
- Ease of installation
- Readiness



Welcoming to Everyone!

Customer Experience: Enrollment

- Purchase a portion of the community solar array's energy output
- Sign up with Customer Agreement
- Minimum purchase: \$600 (1 portion)
- Aiming for: 1 portion is ~ 50-100 kWh/year (depends on installed cost per Watt)



Customer Experience: Participation

- Receive annual bill credit =
Total CS Generation x Pro Rata Share x
(Production Incentive + Value of energy)
SAMPLE:
30,000 kWh x 1/500 x (\$1.08 + \$.07) = \$69/ yr
- Aiming for return within 10 years
- Enrollment fees create revolving fund for future project construction

Monetary benefits on customer's electric bill

The Fine Print

- Only City Light customers are eligible
- Transferable within City Light territory
- Assign to another account if you move out of City Light territory
- City Light cannot guarantee state production incentive program
- Customer agreement ends June 2020

Project Timeline

- Site Selection: Fall 2010
- Installation: Winter - Spring 2011
- Enrollment: Spring - Summer 2011
- Enrollments Fund a Second Project
- Future Installations: 2011 – 2013...

