

# **Community Solar: resources and more information**

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*This document lists resources about community shared solar that could be useful in learning about community solar, understanding relevant policy, and staying up to date in this emerging field. Under each category, the best resources are generally listed first.*

## **Basic guides and summaries**

- The most comprehensive and understandable guide to community solar, released by the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy branch.  
<http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy11osti/49930.pdf>
- A very simple, easy to understand guide to community solar for those just getting started with the concept. <https://www.energysage.com/solar/community-solar/community-solar-power-explained>
- The Department of Energy also has a web page on Community Renewable Energy, with links to other useful resources, financing options, and a simple FAQ page.  
[http://apps3.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/community\\_development/](http://apps3.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/community_development/)
- The Solar Energy Industries Association has a primer on shared renewables:  
<https://www.seia.org/policy/distributed-solar/shared-renewablescommunity-solar>
- Clean Energy Collective has resources to help learn about community solar:  
<http://cleaneasyenergy.com/cecblog/index.php/category/learn-about-community-solar/>
- The National Renewable Energy Lab has a deep dive into the market landscape of shared solar.  
<http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy15osti/63892.pdf>

## **State-based existing policy overviews**

- Shared Renewables HQ has an interactive map with the major community solar policies in place statewide. <http://www.sharedrenewables.org/community-energy-projects/>
- For an interactive map with state-by-state information on interconnection and net metering standards, Freeing the Grid has up-to-date and very comprehensive information.  
<http://freeingthegrid.org/>
- The Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency has an interactive map with all renewables policies listed, very up to date and detailed. <http://www.dsireusa.org/>
  - For more focused maps, DSIRE has released a few maps focused on solar, net metering, RPS, etc. <http://www.dsireusa.org/resources/detailed-summary-maps/>
- While its website appears relatively unofficial, Solar Power Rocks has useful grades and analyses of each state's amenability to solar power, including net metering, RPS, and incentives.  
<http://www.solarpowerrocks.com/>

- The American Council on Renewable Energy also provides a high-level overview on the status of renewable energy in each state.  
[http://www.acore.org/publications/50states?utm\\_source=SilverpopMailing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=50%20State%20Report%20press%20release%20\(1\)&utm\\_content](http://www.acore.org/publications/50states?utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=50%20State%20Report%20press%20release%20(1)&utm_content)
- The Institute for Local Self-Reliance has a virtual net metering map of the US (current as of 2014). <http://ilsr.org/virtual-net-metering/>

### **Policy analysis**

- For fantastic model rules for shared renewable energy programs, the Interstate Renewable Energy Council provides up-to-date templates with detailed background reports and suggestions for state policy. <http://www.irecusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/IREC-Model-Rules-for-Shared-Renewable-Energy-Programs-2013.pdf>
- The Interstate Renewable Energy Council also provides a summary of virtual net metering, with a focus on the program in California. <http://www.irecusa.org/virtual-net-metering-policy-background-and-tariff-summary-report/>
- The National Renewable Energy Lab provides a guide to policy and regulatory considerations. <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy14osti/62367.pdf>
- The Solar Electric Power Association provides a utility perspective on community solar, useful if you are getting deep into the details of community solar policy and anticipate pushback. <http://www.solarelectricpower.org/media/71959/solarops-community-solar-handbook.pdf>
- The University of Delaware has conducted research on and evaluation of policies that support community solar initiatives. [http://ceep.udel.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/2012\\_es\\_READY\\_CommunitySolar\\_2.pdf](http://ceep.udel.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/2012_es_READY_CommunitySolar_2.pdf)

### **Interesting articles and news websites**

- Clean Energy Collective published an article with justifications for why community solar may be more bird-friendly than other renewable energy sources. This website also has plenty of other information on community solar, with additional resources available as well. <http://cleaneasyenergy.com/cecblog/index.php/community-solar-wont-burn-birds/>
- Climate Progress's article compiles plenty of facts and figures, as well as solar garden benefits, based on established research for a convincing argument asserting the growth of community solar gardens. <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/07/09/3674045/community-solar-gardens-grow/>
- Utility Dive provides a justification for the importance of 2015 to the community solar market. Their website generally has solid, up-to-date community solar information. <http://www.utilitydive.com/news/note-to-utilities-heres-why-2015-is-the-tipping-point-for-community-sol/403284/>
- Green Tech Media online generally also has current information, backgrounds, and opinions about community solar that are worth looking into.

### **Other useful websites/organizations**

- Vote Solar is a leader in making solar energy resources mainstream, and a large part of their campaign is community solar. <http://votesolar.org/>
- Community Power Network has a map of shared solar energy projects, resources to help plan a project, and more action opportunities. <http://communitypowernetwork.com/>
- Community Solar Hub also has a map of projects, resources, and the tools to help you plan your own community solar garden. <https://www.communitysolarhub.com/>