

Solar Powering Your Community

Addressing Soft Costs and Barriers



 Powered by
SunShot
U.S. Department of Energy



Powered by

SunShot

U.S. Department of Energy

Ben Inskeep

Energy Policy Analyst

ben_inskeep@ncsu.edu

Kate Daniel

Energy Policy Analyst

kdaniel2@ncsu.edu



NC CLEAN ENERGY

TECHNOLOGY CENTER

About the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership



The **SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership (SolarOPs)** is a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) program designed to increase the use and integration of solar energy in communities across the US.

About the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership

- Increase installed capacity of solar electricity in U.S. communities
- Streamline and standardize **permitting and interconnection processes**
- Improve **planning and zoning codes/regulations** for solar electric technologies
- Increase access to **solar financing options**

Complimentary Services



Technical
Resources



Regional
Workshops



One to One
Assistance



Strategy
Session

Complimentary Services



Technical Resources

Helping Policymakers Understand Best Practices:

- Case Studies
- Fact Sheets
- How-to Guides
- Toolkits

www.solaroutreach.org



One to One Assistance

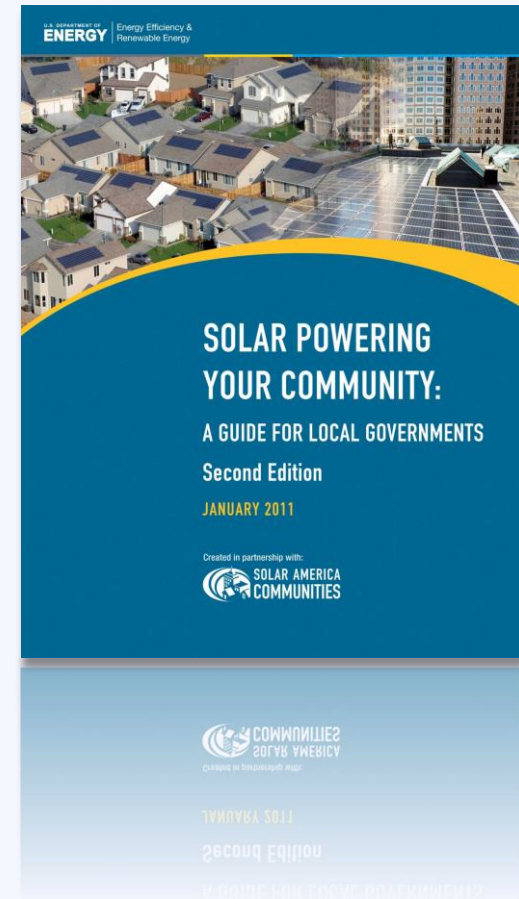
Technical Resources

Resource

Solar Powering Your Community Guide

A comprehensive resource to assist local governments and stakeholders in building local solar markets.

www.energy.gov



Complimentary Services

Quickly get up to speed on key solar policy issues:

- Solar 101
- Planning for Solar
- Implementing an Ordinance
- Streamlining Solar Permits
- Growing your Market



Regional Workshops



Strategy Session

Complimentary Services



Technical
Resources



Regional
Workshops

Develop an
implementation
strategy for smart
solar policy



Strategy
Session

Complimentary Services



Technical
Resources



Regional
Workshops



One to One
Assistance

Receive customized
technical support on
implementation of
smart solar policy

After This Session

Talk to Us!

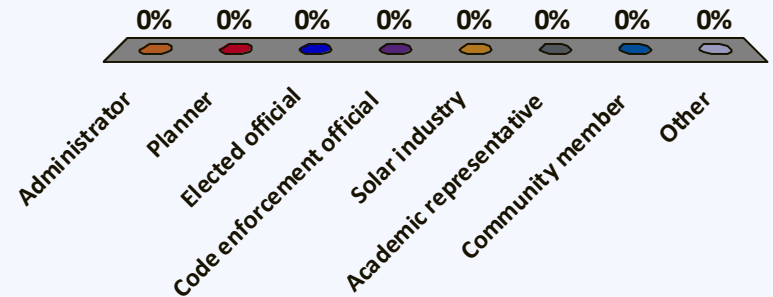
Sign up for a 20 minute
consultation to learn more about
our **free** services

See **Autumn Proudlove** to sign up.

We want to get to know you better

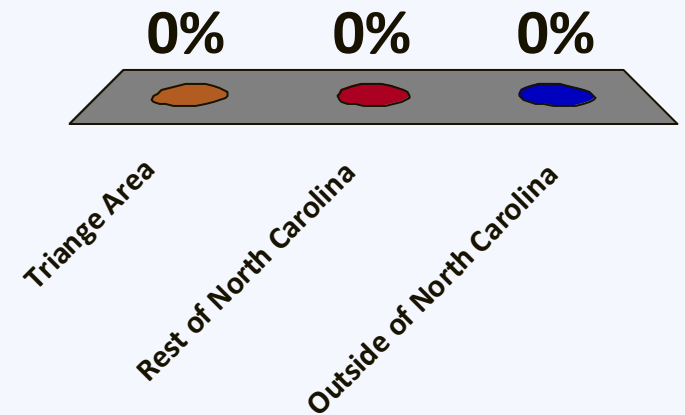
Who are you?

- A. Administrator
- B. Planner
- C. Elected official
- D. Code enforcement official
- E. Solar industry
- F. Academic representative
- G. Community member
- H. Other



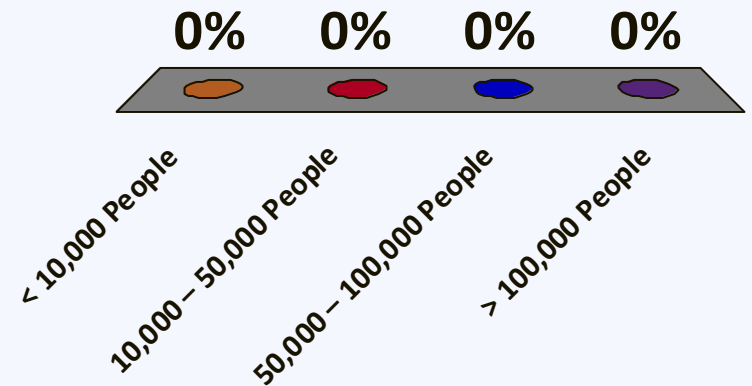
Where are you coming from?

- A. Triangle Area
- B. The rest of North Carolina
- C. Outside of North Carolina



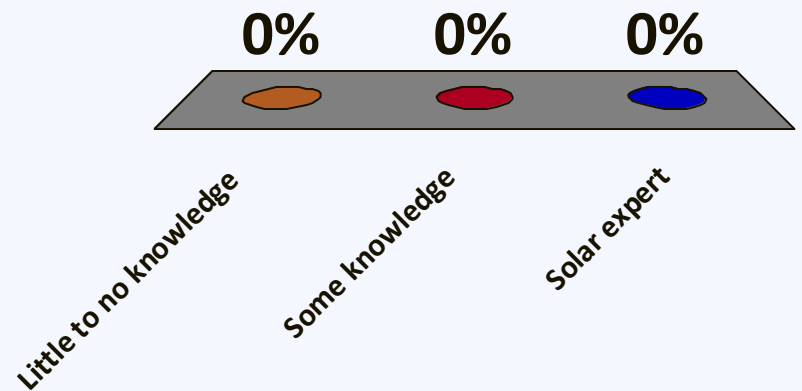
What size is your community?

- A. < 10,000 People
- B. 10,000 – 50,000 People
- C. 50,000 – 100,000 People
- D. > 100,000 People



How familiar are you with solar?

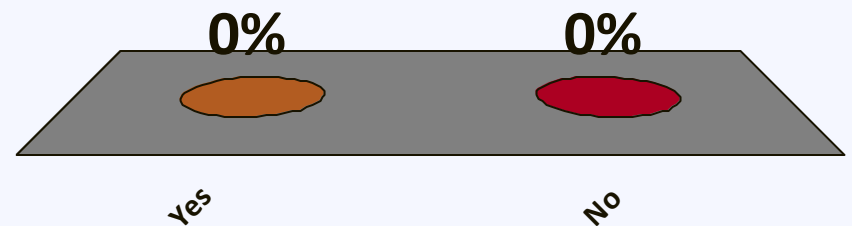
- A. Little to no knowledge
- B. Some knowledge
- C. Solar expert



Do you have solar on your home?

A. Yes

B. No



Solar Development in the US

In 2014, the US solar industry installed

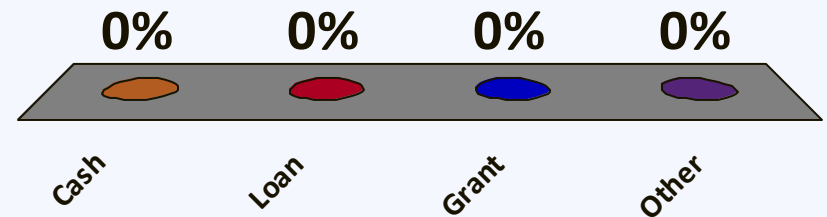
195,000 new solar installations

of which

95% were residential projects

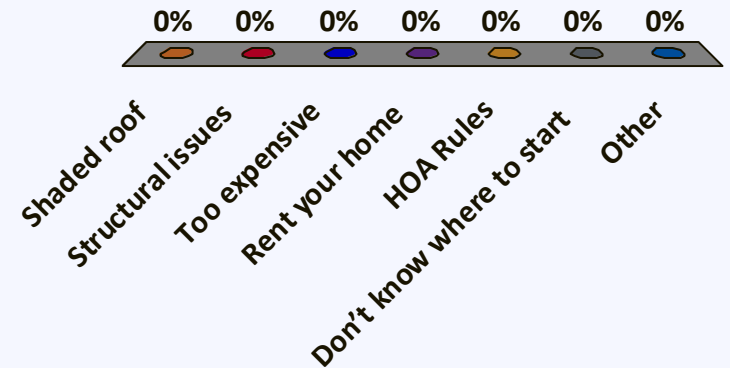
If you do have solar on your home: How did you finance it?

- A. Cash
- B. Loan
- C. Grant
- D. Other



If you don't have solar on your home: **Why not?**

- A. Shaded roof
- B. Structural issues
- C. Too expensive
- D. Rent your home
- E. HOA Rules
- F. Don't know where to start
- G. Other

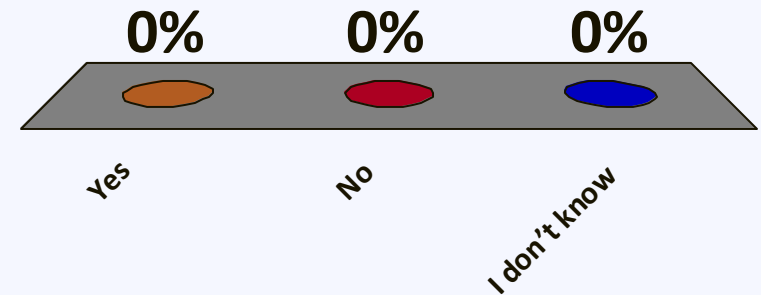


Does your local government have solar on public properties?

A. Yes

B. No

C. I don't know



Agenda

- 10:20 – 10:50 Putting Solar Energy on the Local Policy Agenda
- 10:50 – 11:20 State of the Local Solar Market
- 11:20 – 11:50 Federal, State, and Utility Policy Drivers
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- 2:20 – 3:00 Developing and Solar Policy Implementation Plan for

Your Community and Next Steps

Agenda

- | | |
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Your Community and Next Steps

Solar Technologies



Solar Photovoltaic (PV)



Solar Hot Water



Concentrated Solar Power

Solar Technologies



Solar Photovoltaic (PV)

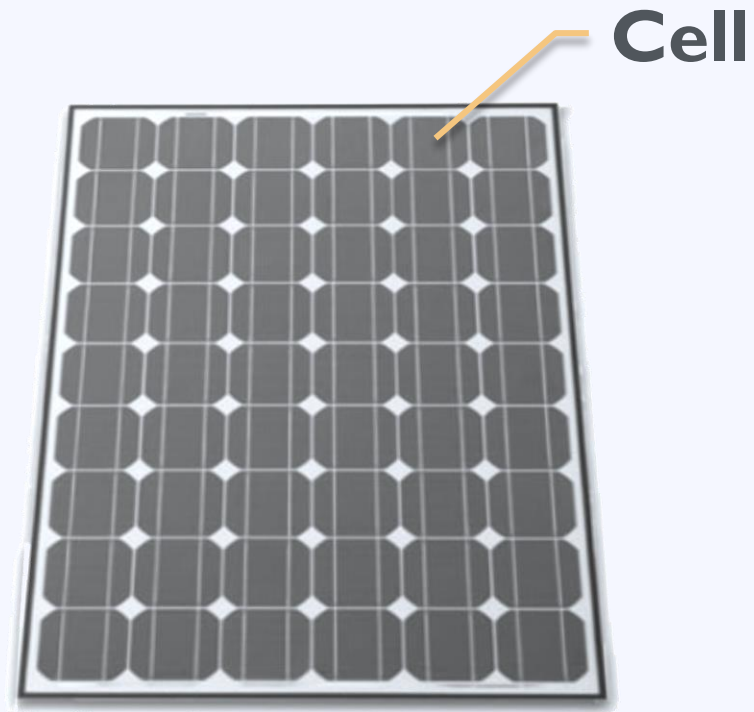


Solar Hot Water



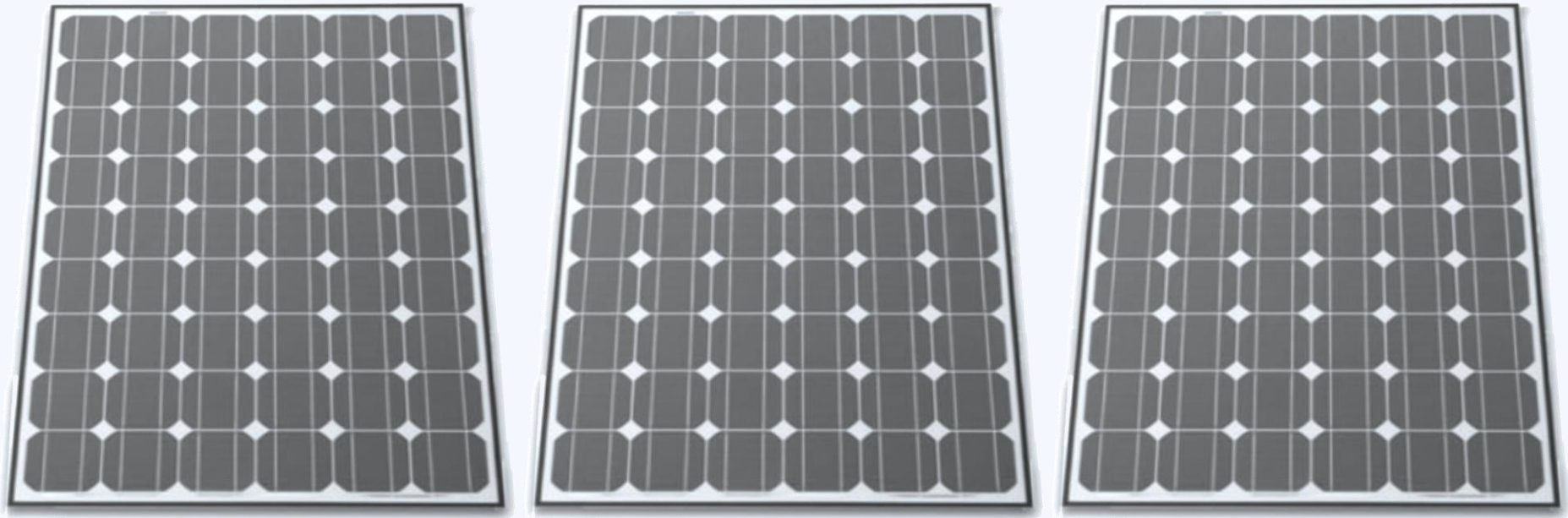
Concentrated Solar Power

Some Basic Terminology



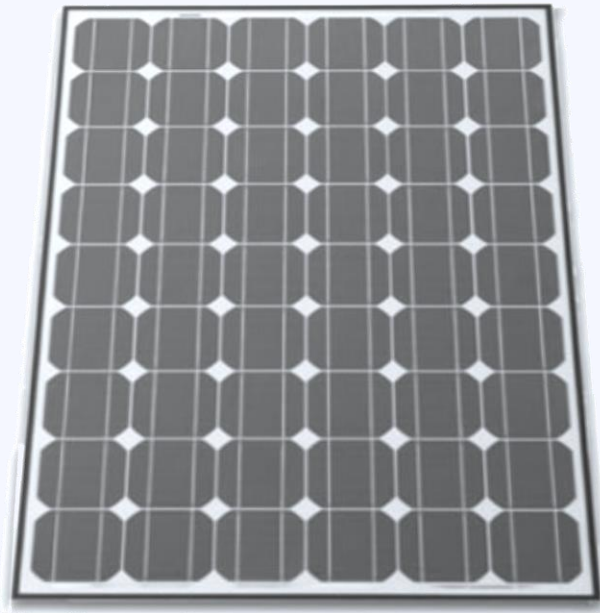
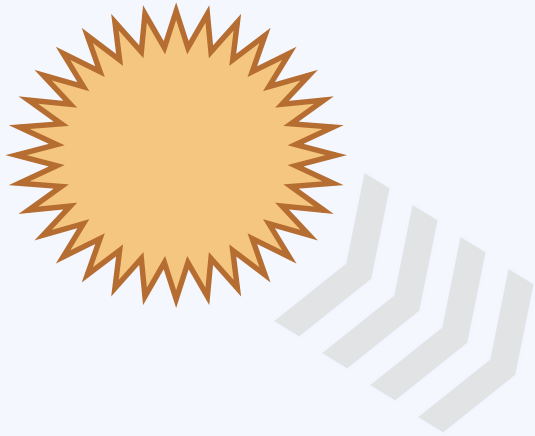
Panel / Module

Some Basic Terminology



Array

Some Basic Terminology



Production
Kilowatt-hour (kWh)

Capacity / Power
kilowatt (kW)

Some Basic Terminology



Residence
5 kW



Factory
1 MW+



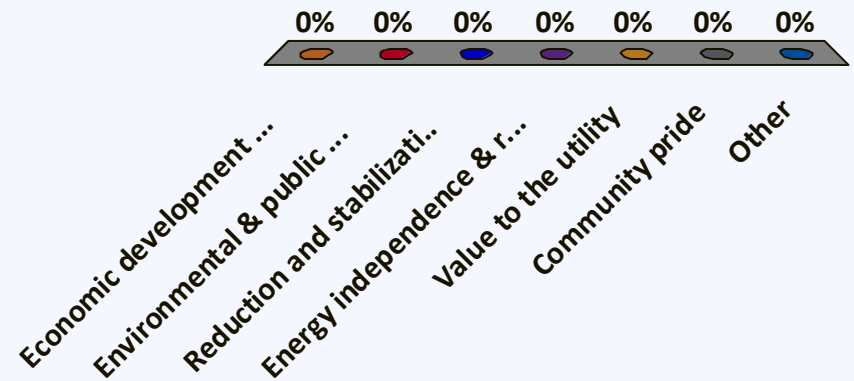
Office
50 – 500 kW



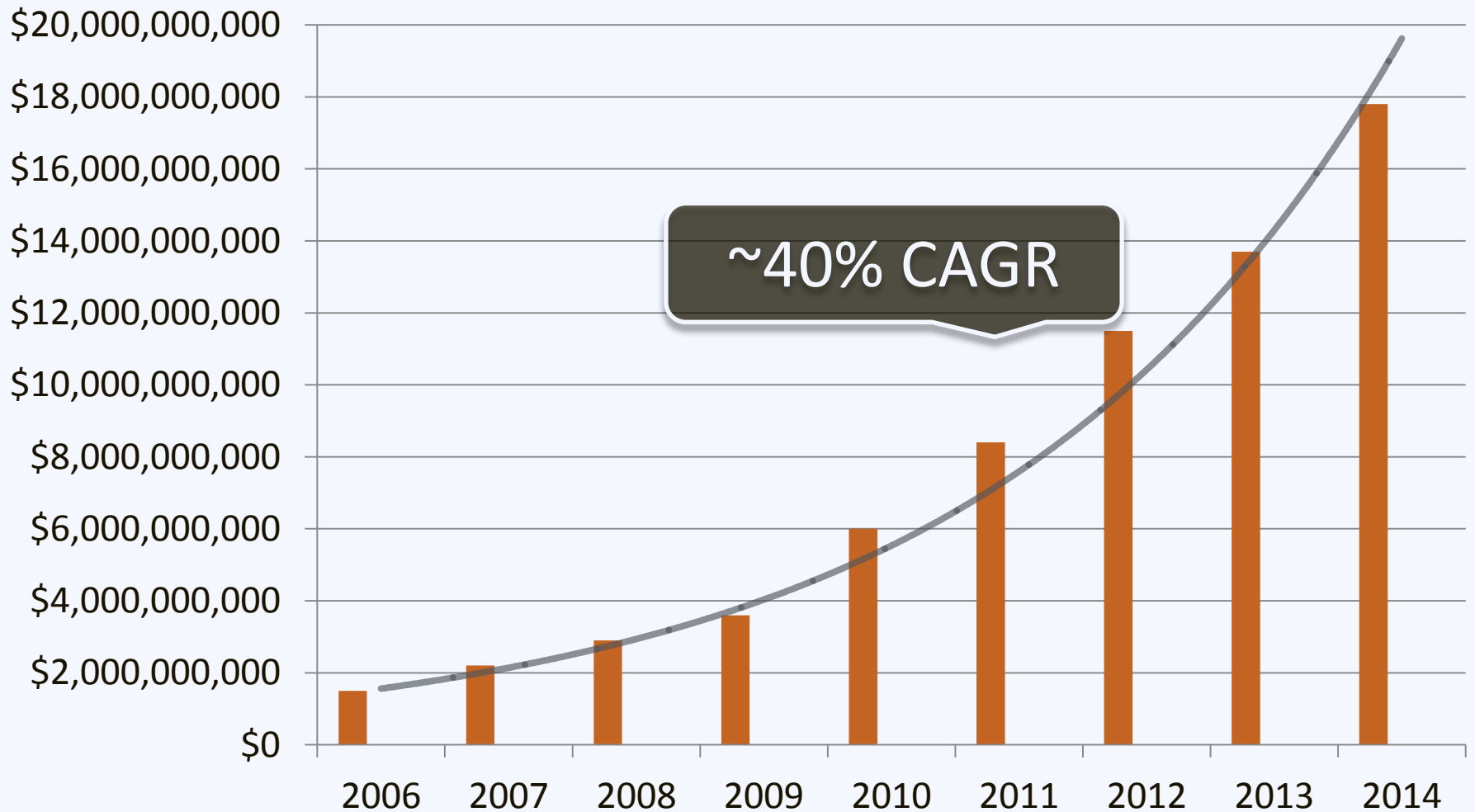
Utility
2 MW+

What are the top 3 benefits solar can bring to your community?

- A. Economic development & job creation
- B. Environmental & public health benefits
- C. Reduction and stabilization of energy costs
- D. Energy independence & resilience
- E. Value to the utility
- F. Community pride
- G. Other

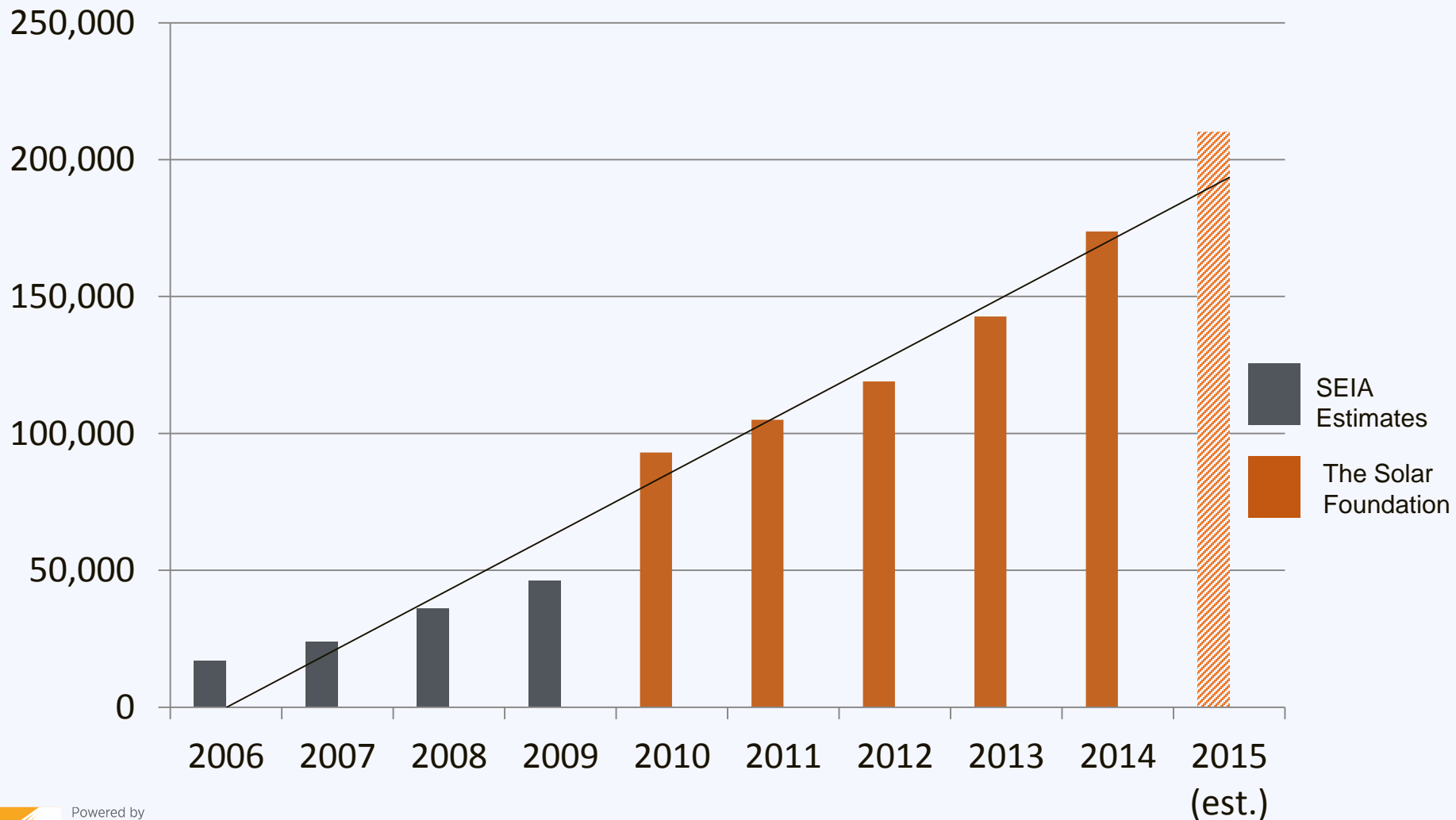


Benefits: Solar Economic Growth



Benefits: Solar Job Growth

Solar Job Growth in the US



The Local Economic Opportunity

1 Megawatt of Residential Solar
Development in North Carolina:

35 Jobs *and* **\$4.3 Million**
In economic output

Economic Development in North Carolina

There are currently

177 solar companies

that employ

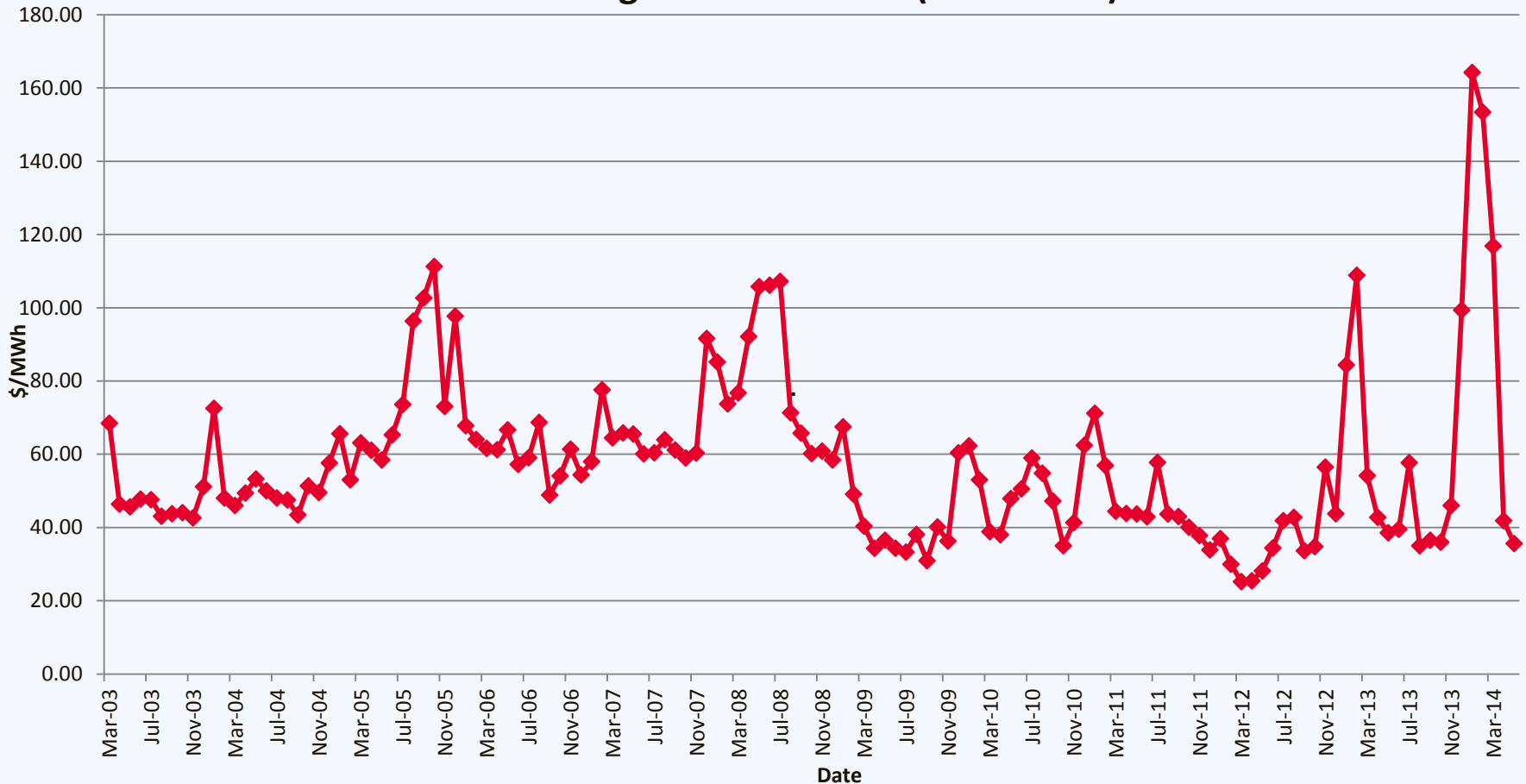
5,600 people

Economic Development in North Carolina

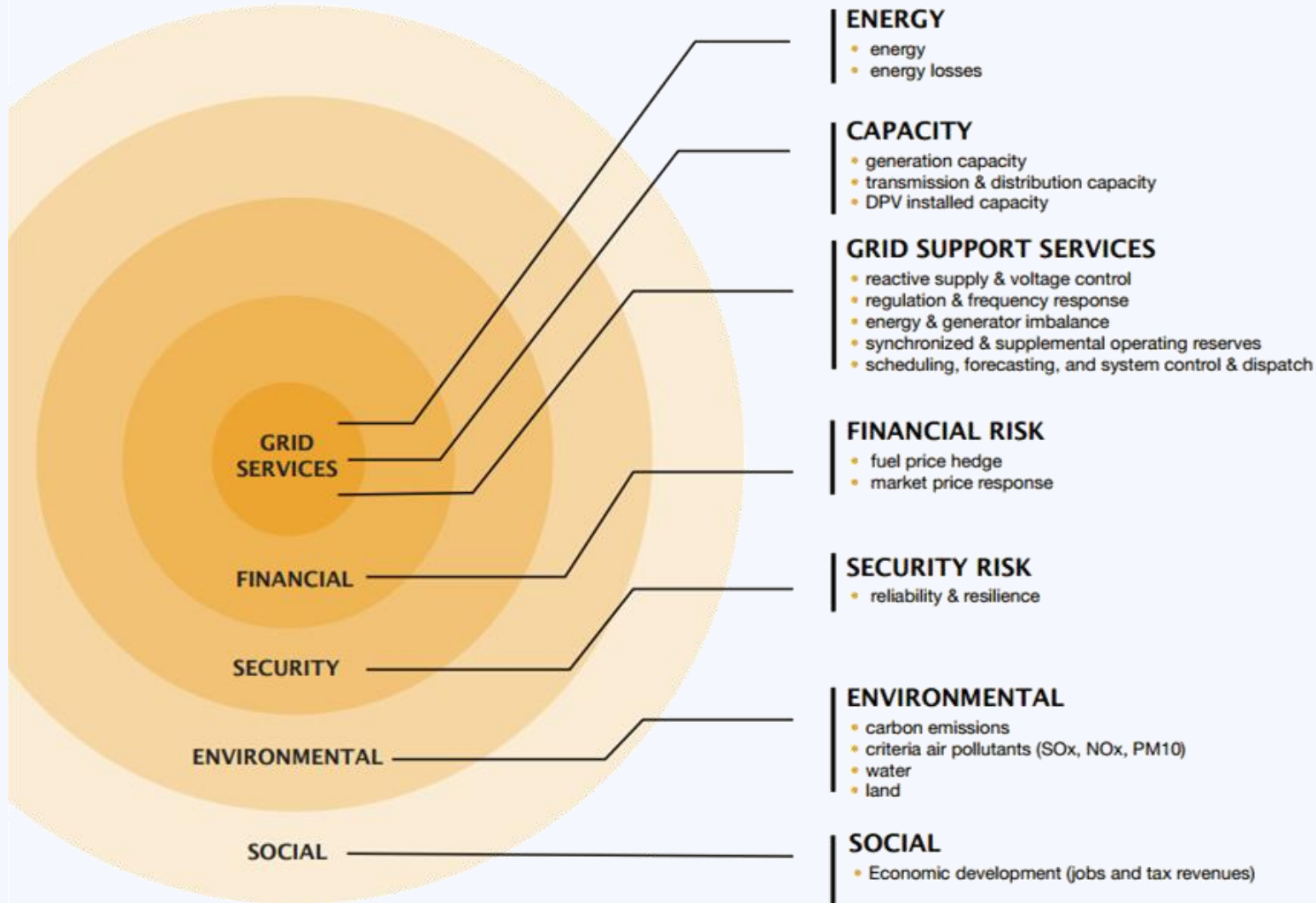


Benefit: Stabilize Energy Prices

Historical Avg Real-Time LMP (NEMABOS)

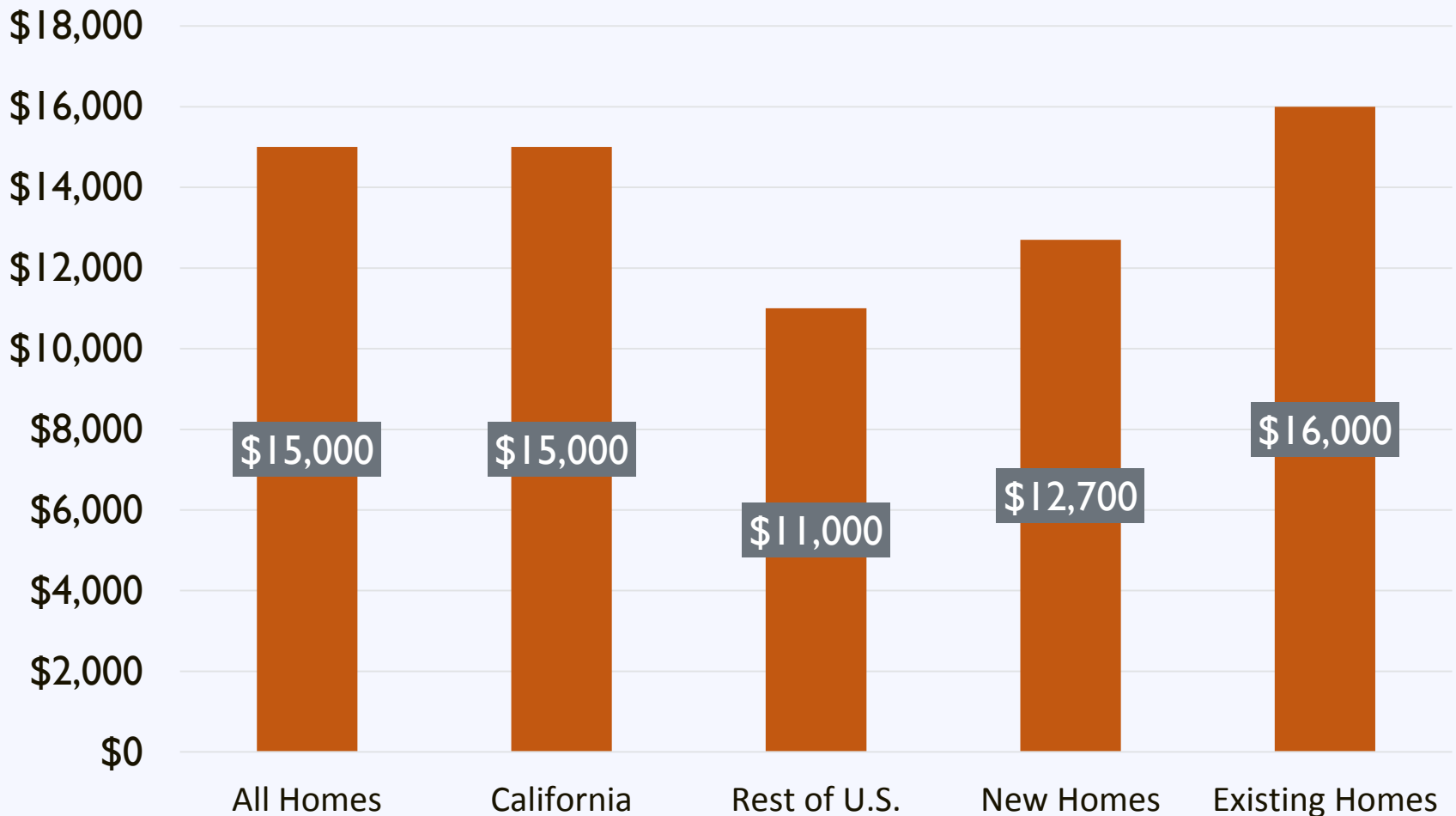


Valuable to Community & Utilities



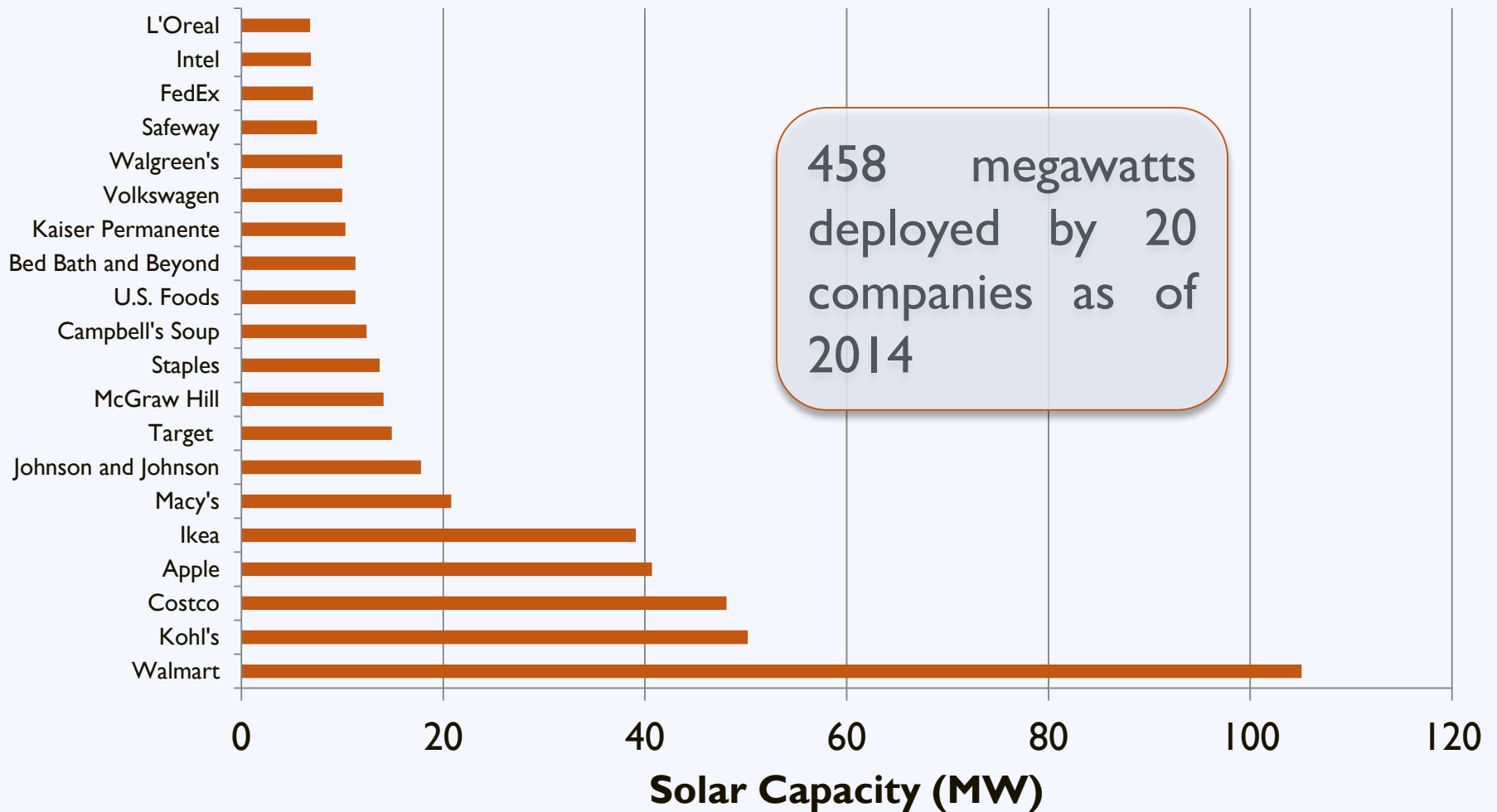
Smart Investment for Homeowners

Average Value Premium for Homes with Solar PV Systems



Smart Investment for Businesses

Top 20 Companies by Solar Capacity



Smart Investment for Governments



Solar on Schools

Current:



×

3,752



=

\$77.8m

Potential:



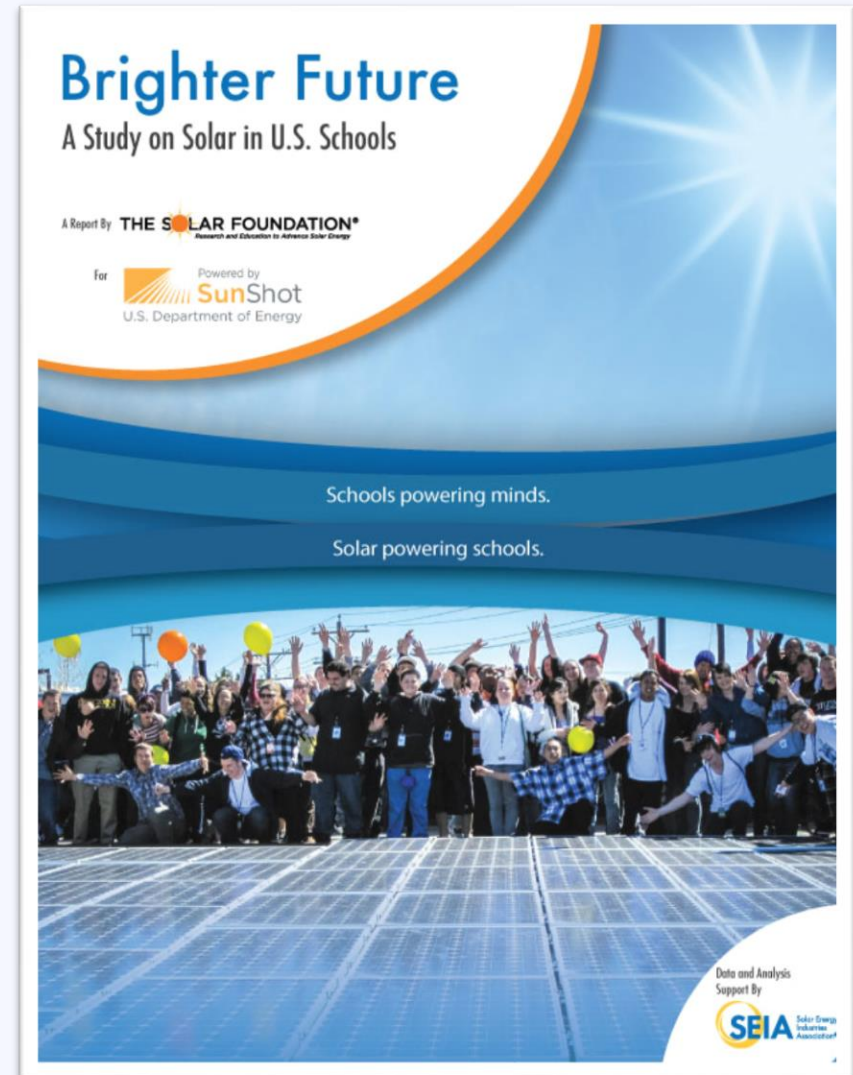
×

40,000 –
72,000



=

\$800m

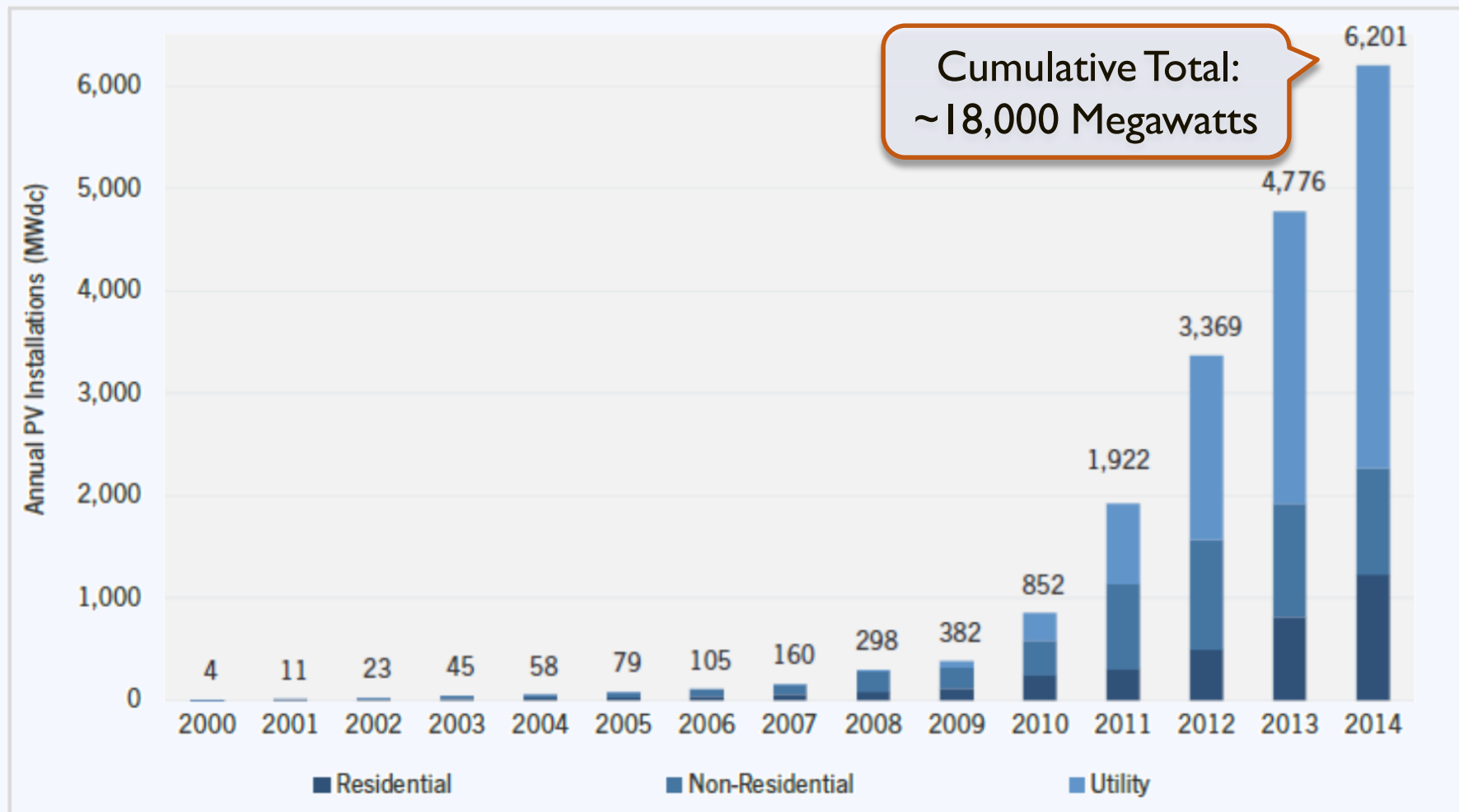


Agenda

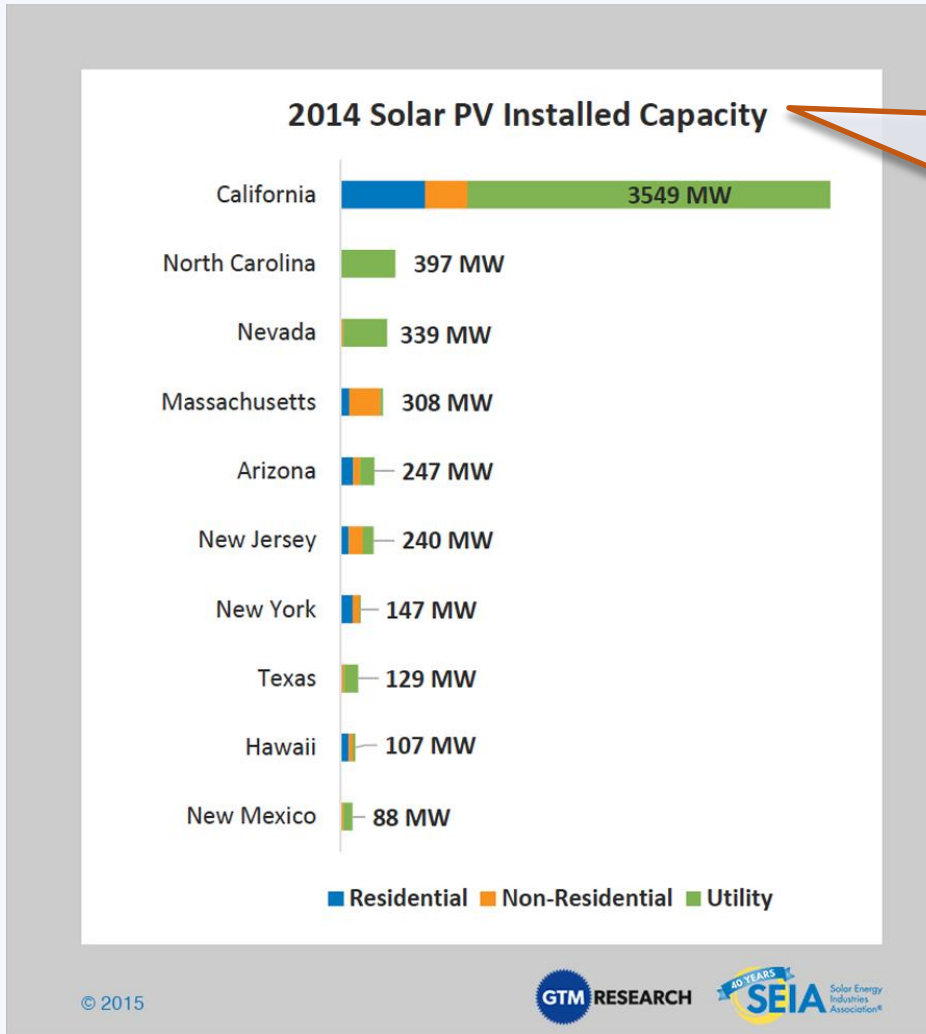
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Your Community and Next Steps

US Solar Market



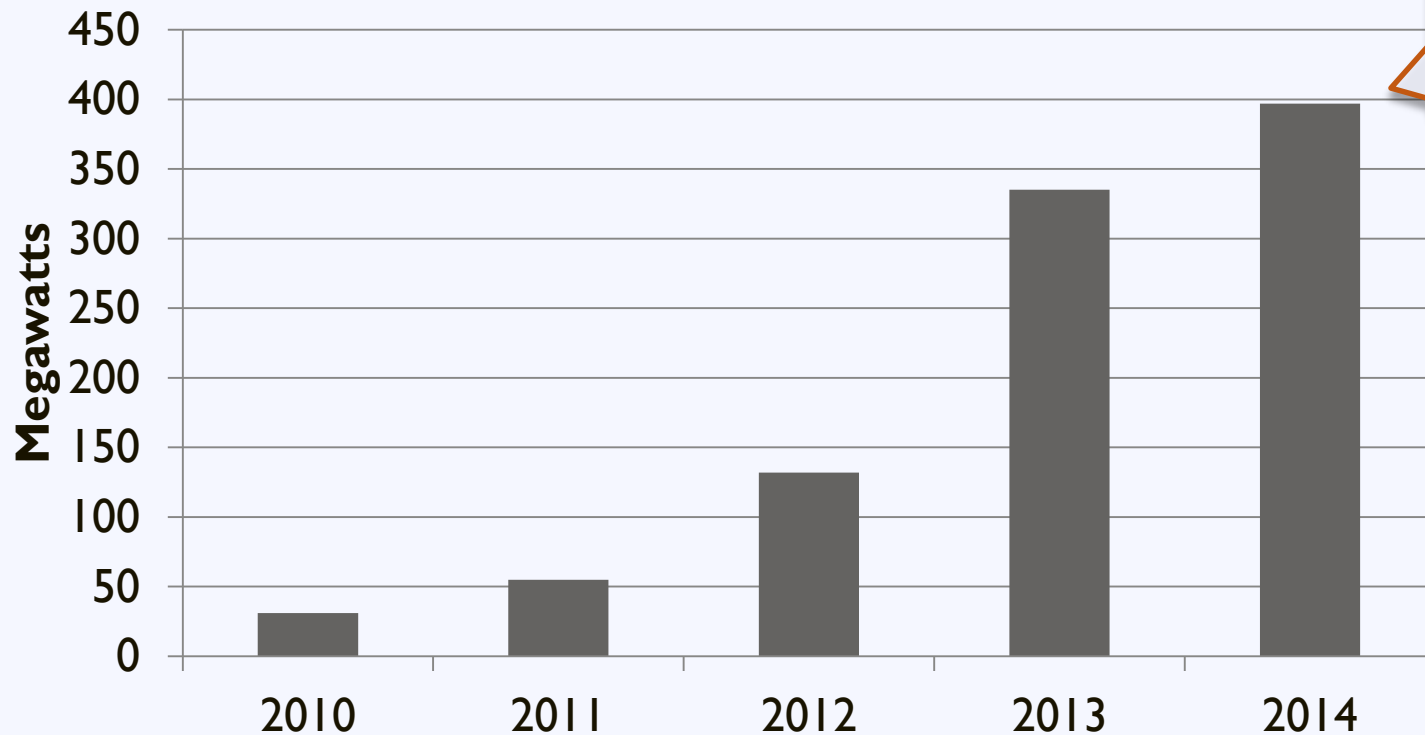
US Solar Market



Total U.S.
Installations in
2014: ~7,000
Megawatts

North Carolina Solar Market

Annual Installed PV Capacity in North Carolina

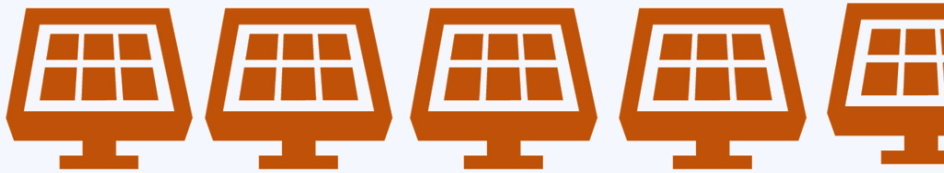


953 MW of
Cumulative
Capacity at
end of 2014

North Carolina Solar Market

As of 2013...

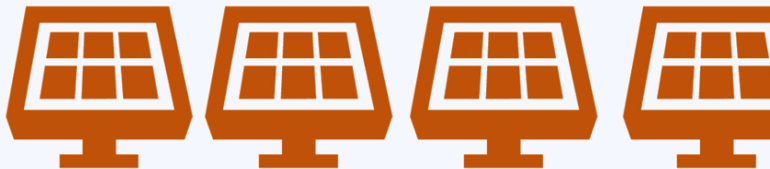
North Carolina



47.6

watts per person

US

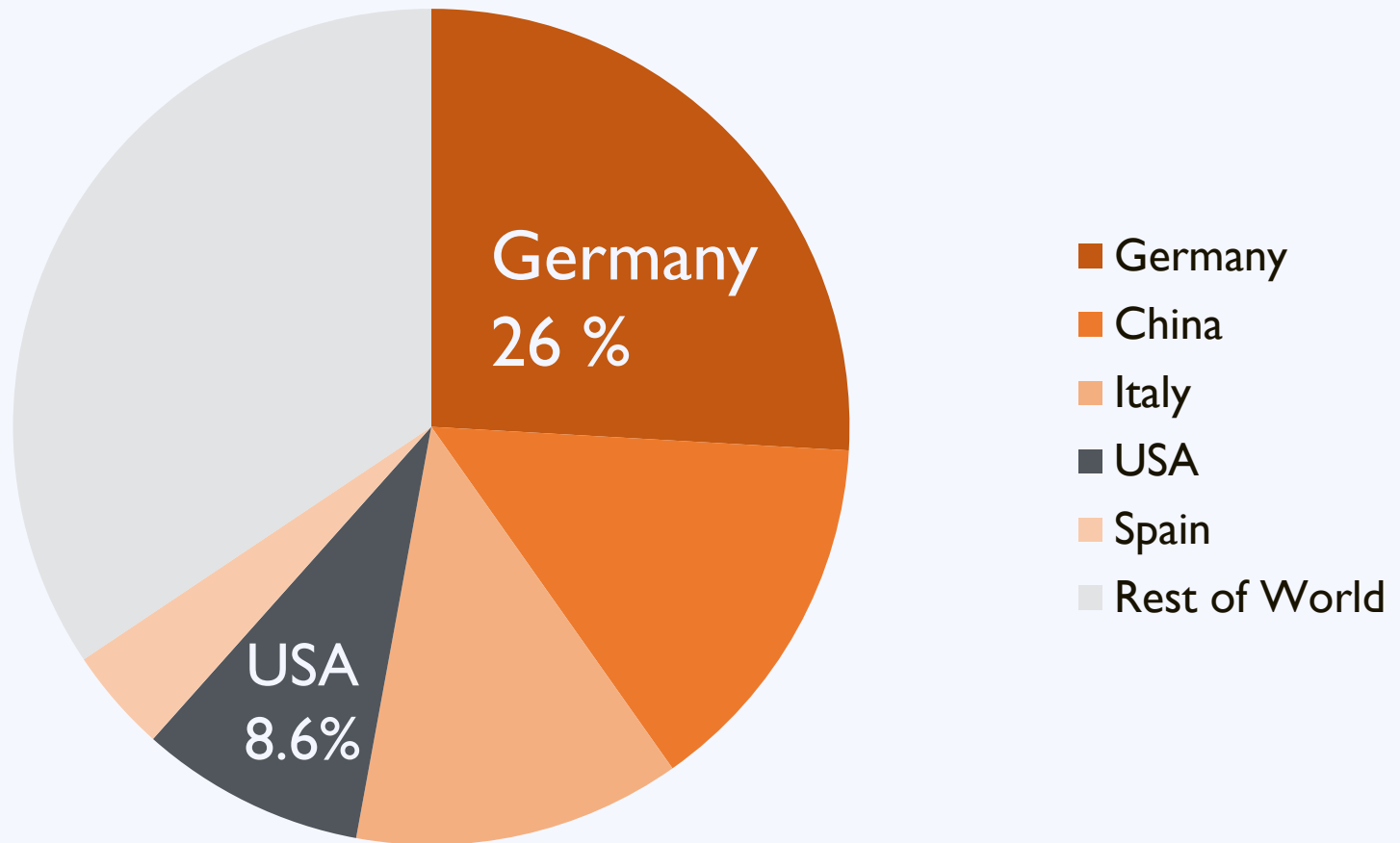


39

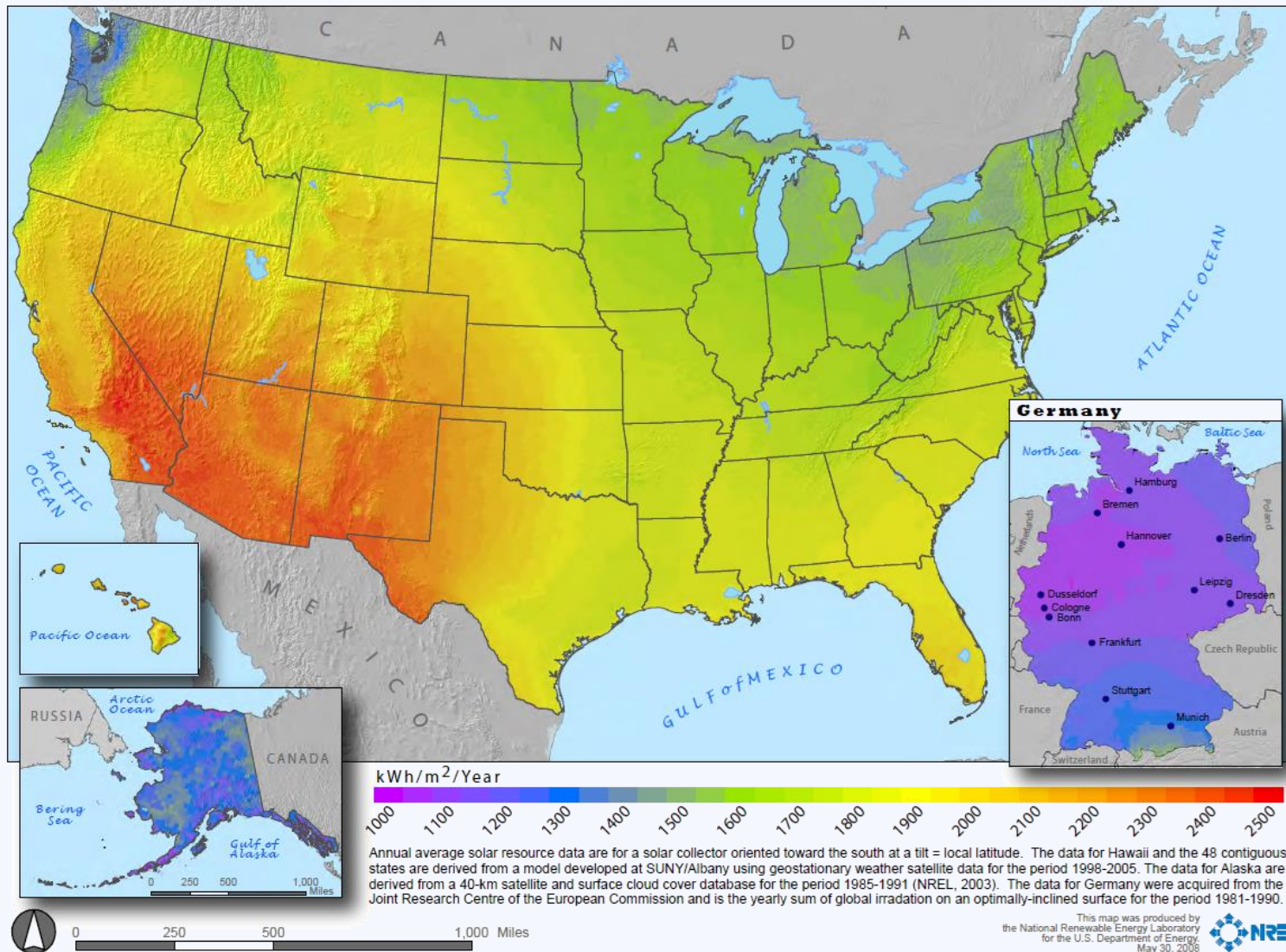
watts per person

World Solar Market

Top 5 Countries Solar Operating Capacity (2013)

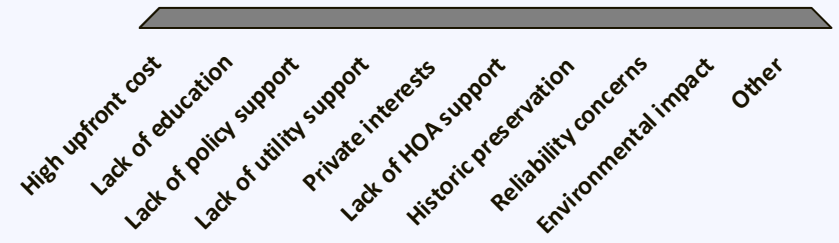


US Solar Resource



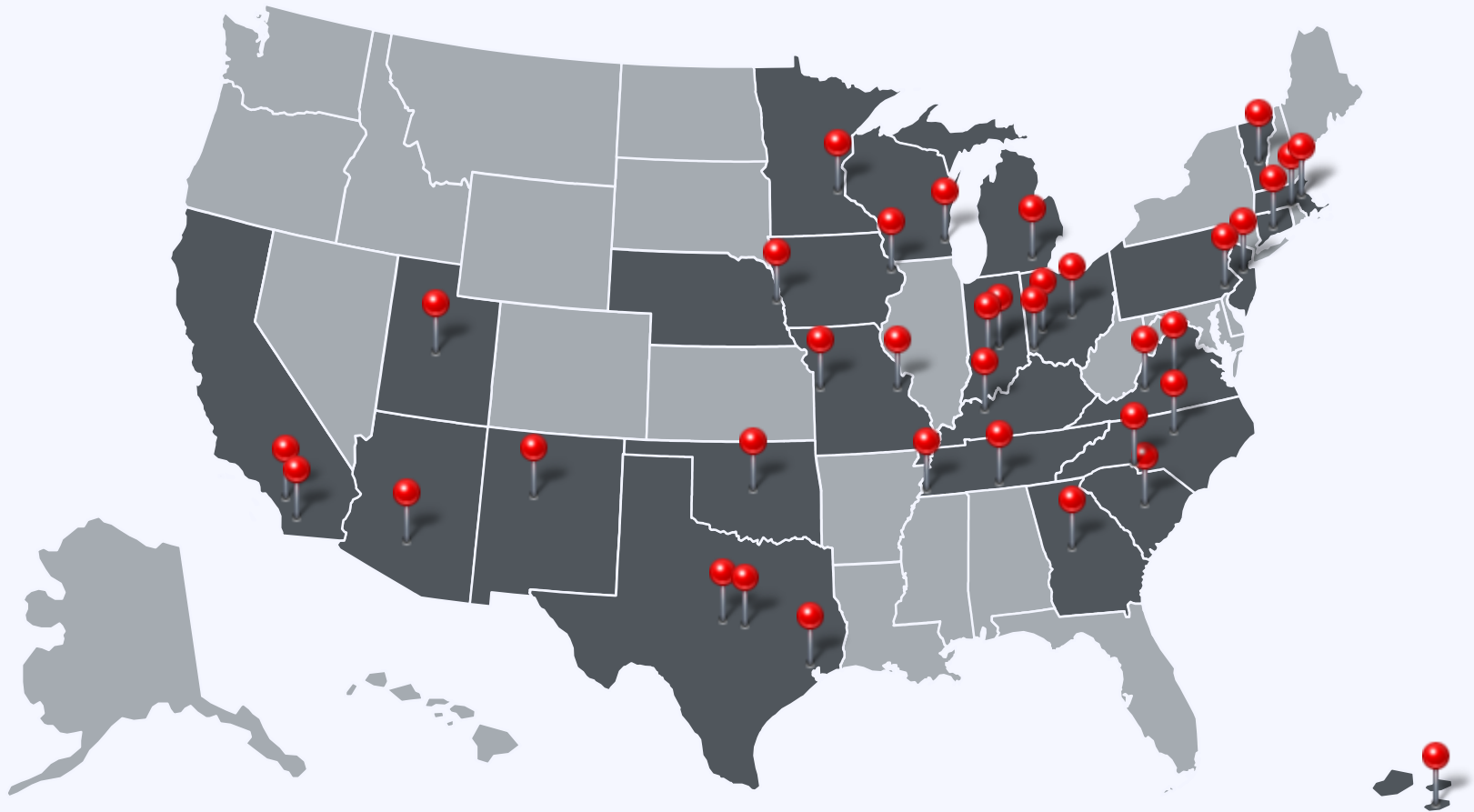
What are the top 3 barriers to solar adoption in your community?

- A. High upfront cost
- B. Lack of education
- C. Lack of policy support
- D. Lack of utility support
- E. Private interests
- F. Lack of HOA support
- G. Historic preservation
- H. Reliability concerns
- I. Environmental impact
- J. Other

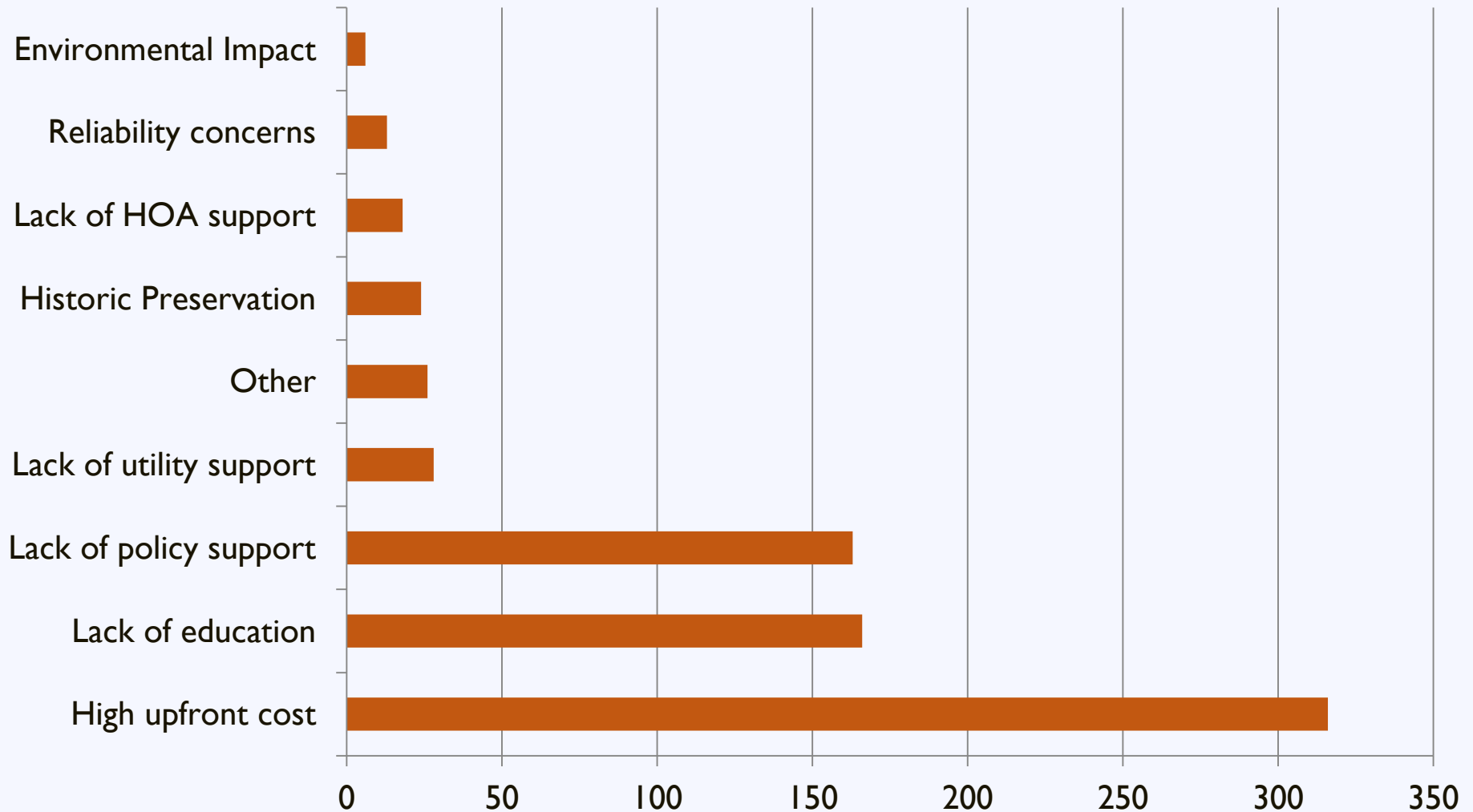


Regional Workshop Surveys

Q: What is the greatest barrier to solar adoption in your community?

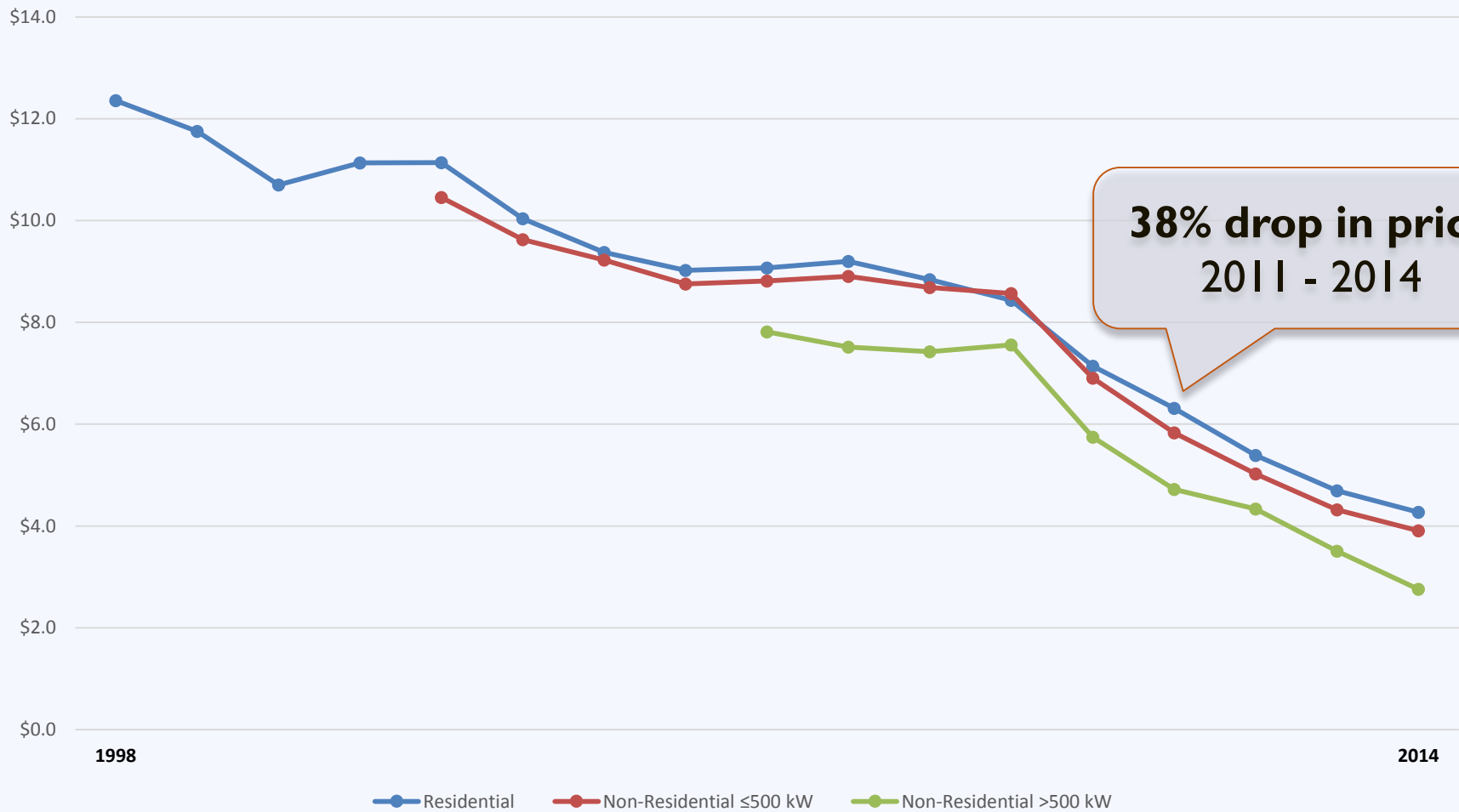


Activity: Addressing Barriers

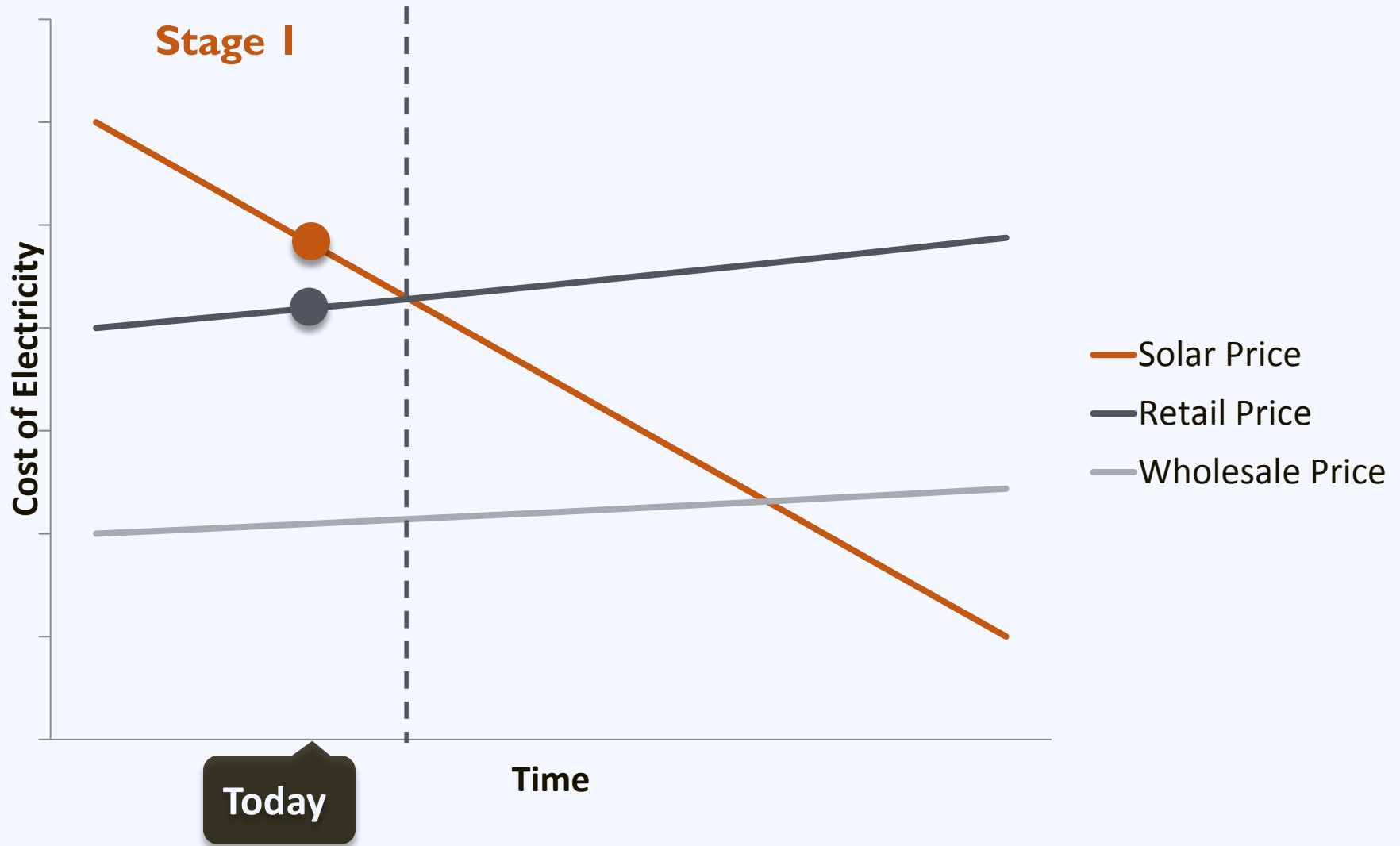


The Cost of Solar PV

Median Installed Price

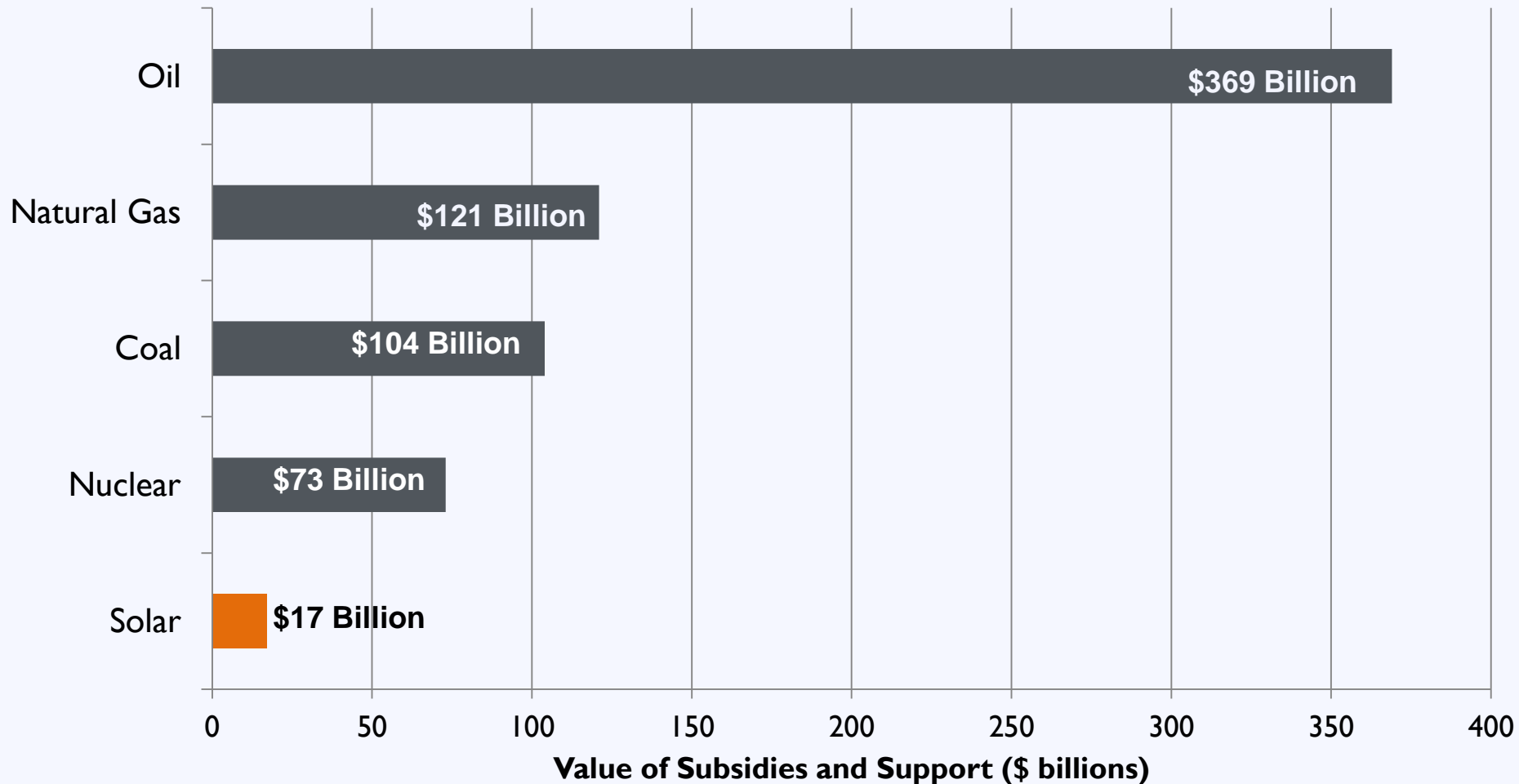


The Cost of Solar PV

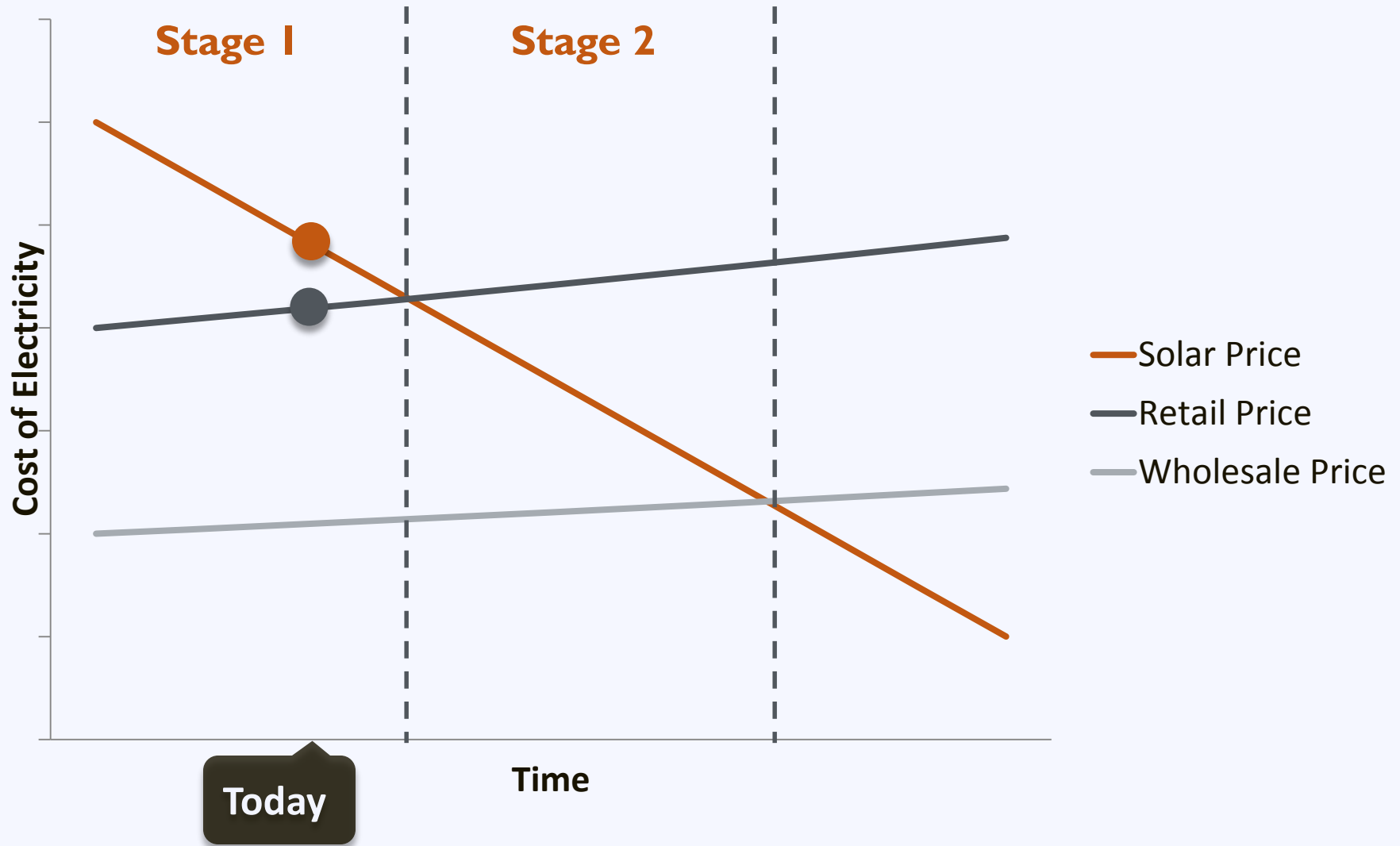


Subsidies and Support

Subsidies for Conventional and Solar Energy, 1950-2010

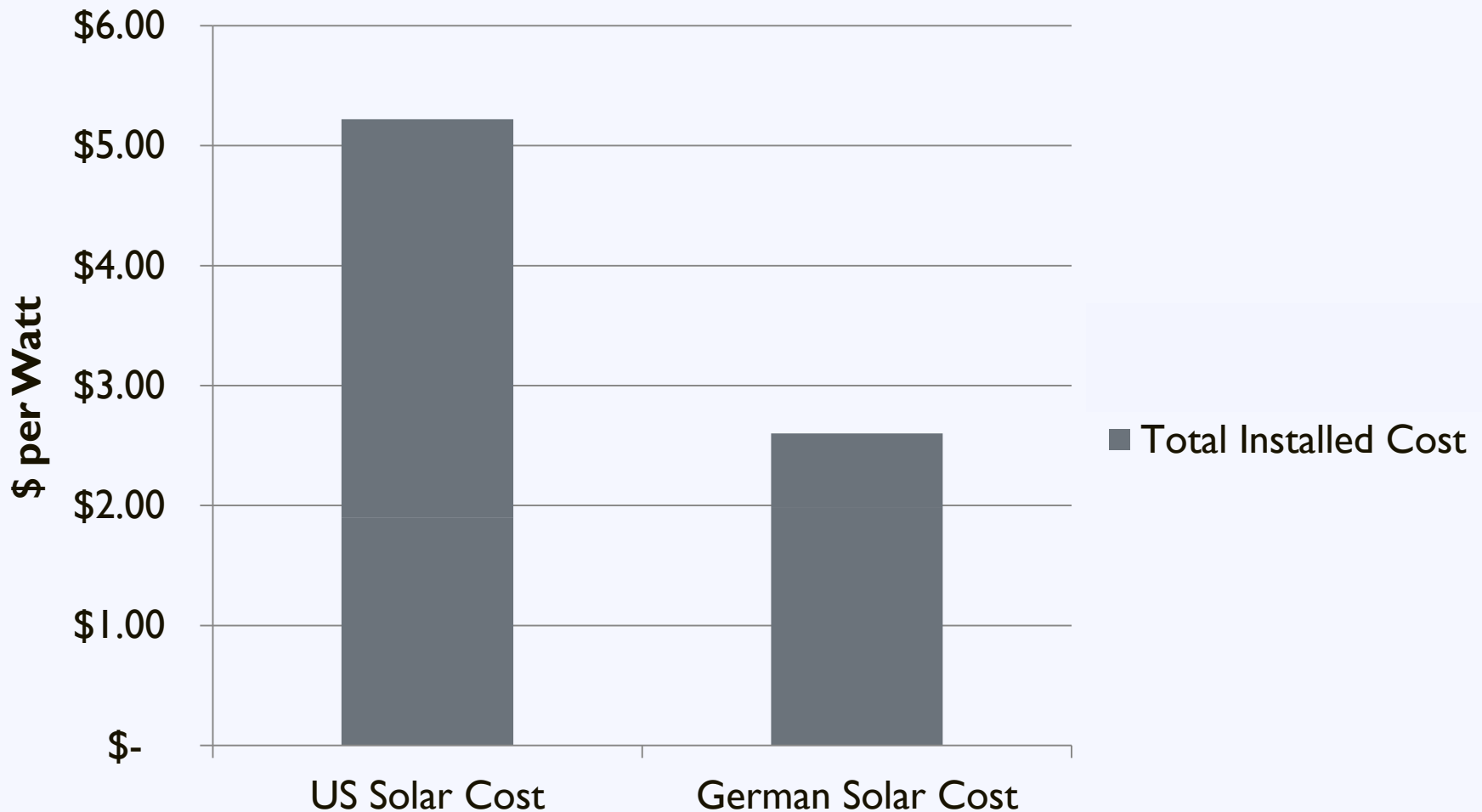


The Cost of Solar PV



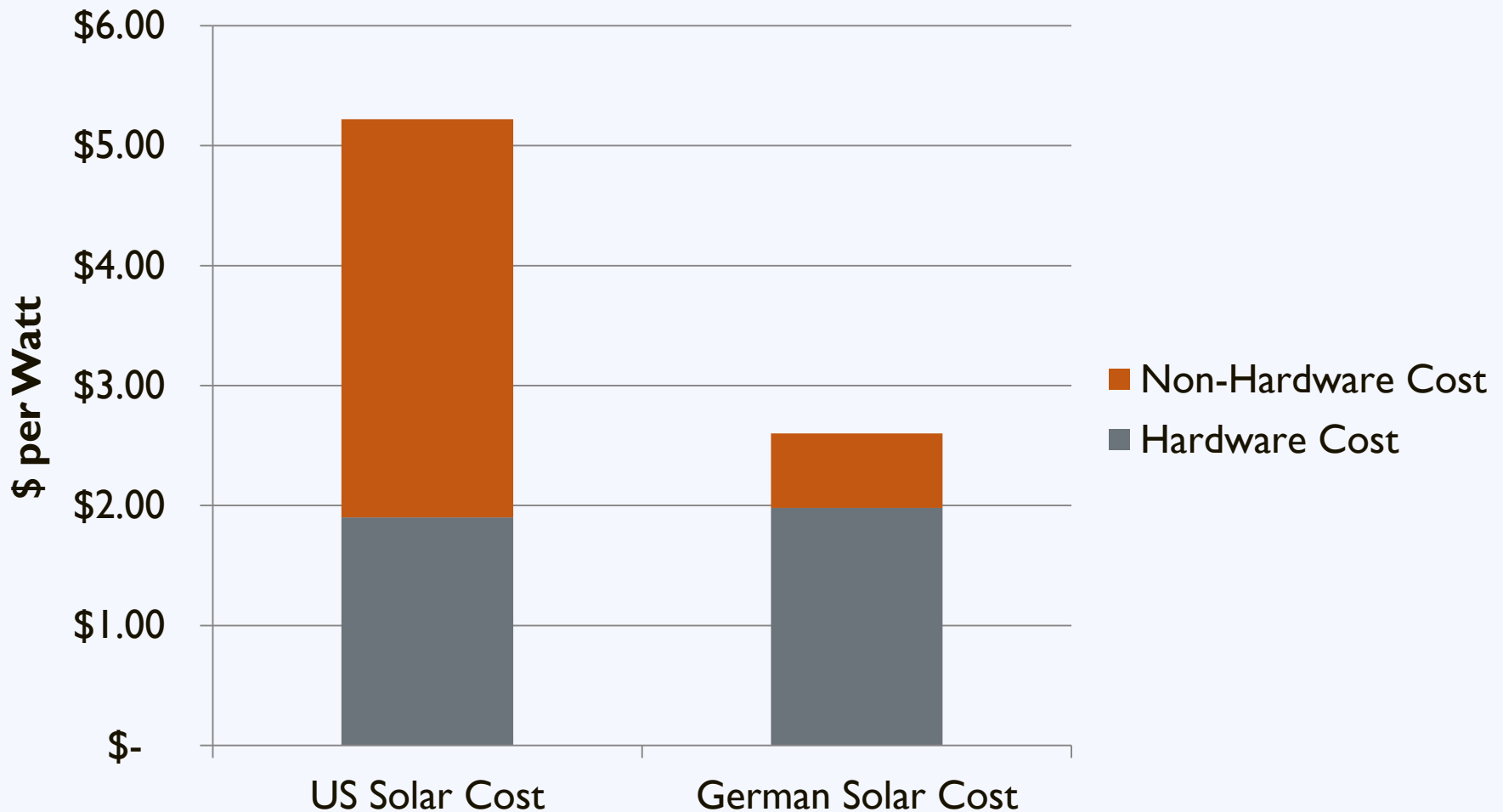
The Cost of Solar in the US

Comparison of US and German Solar Costs



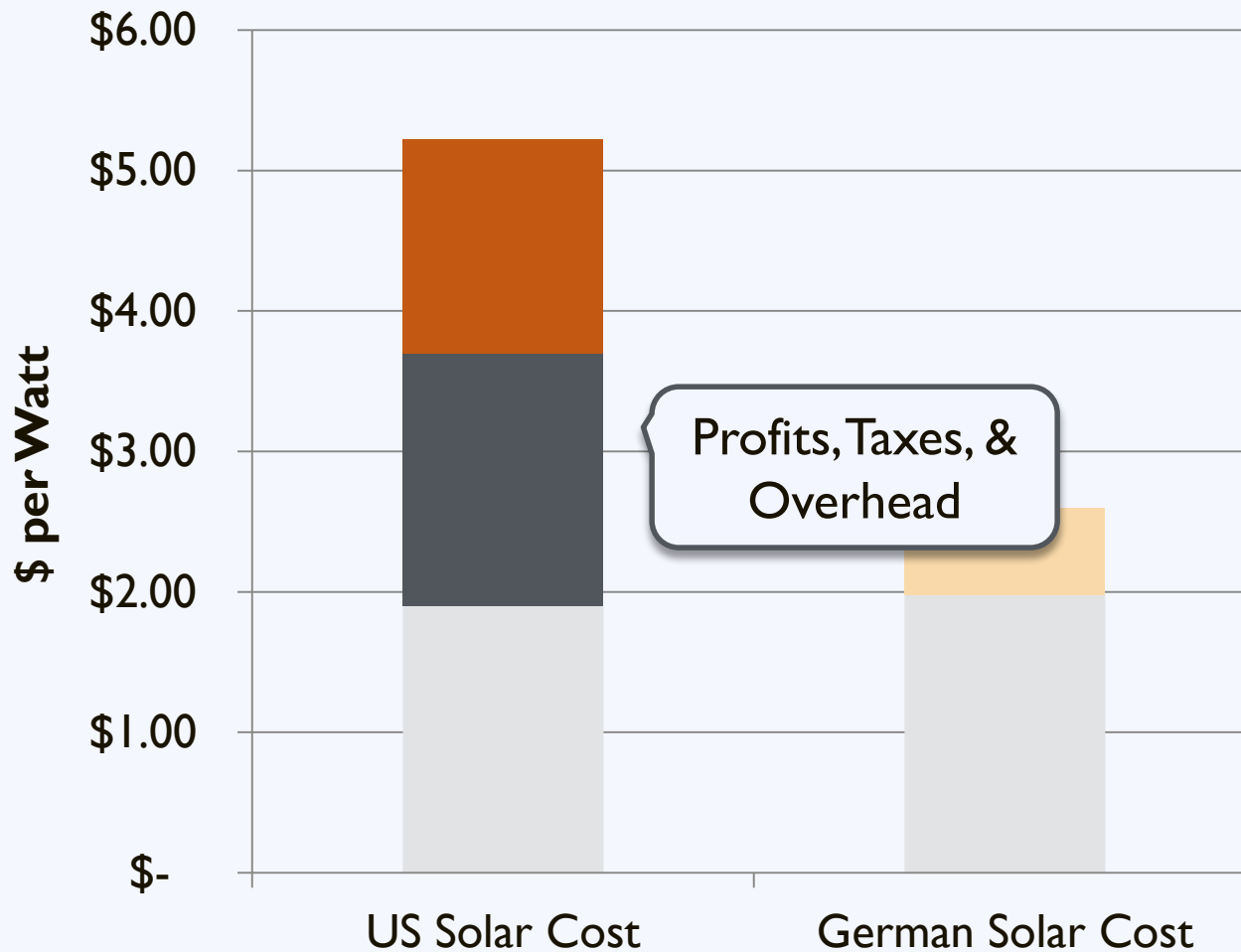
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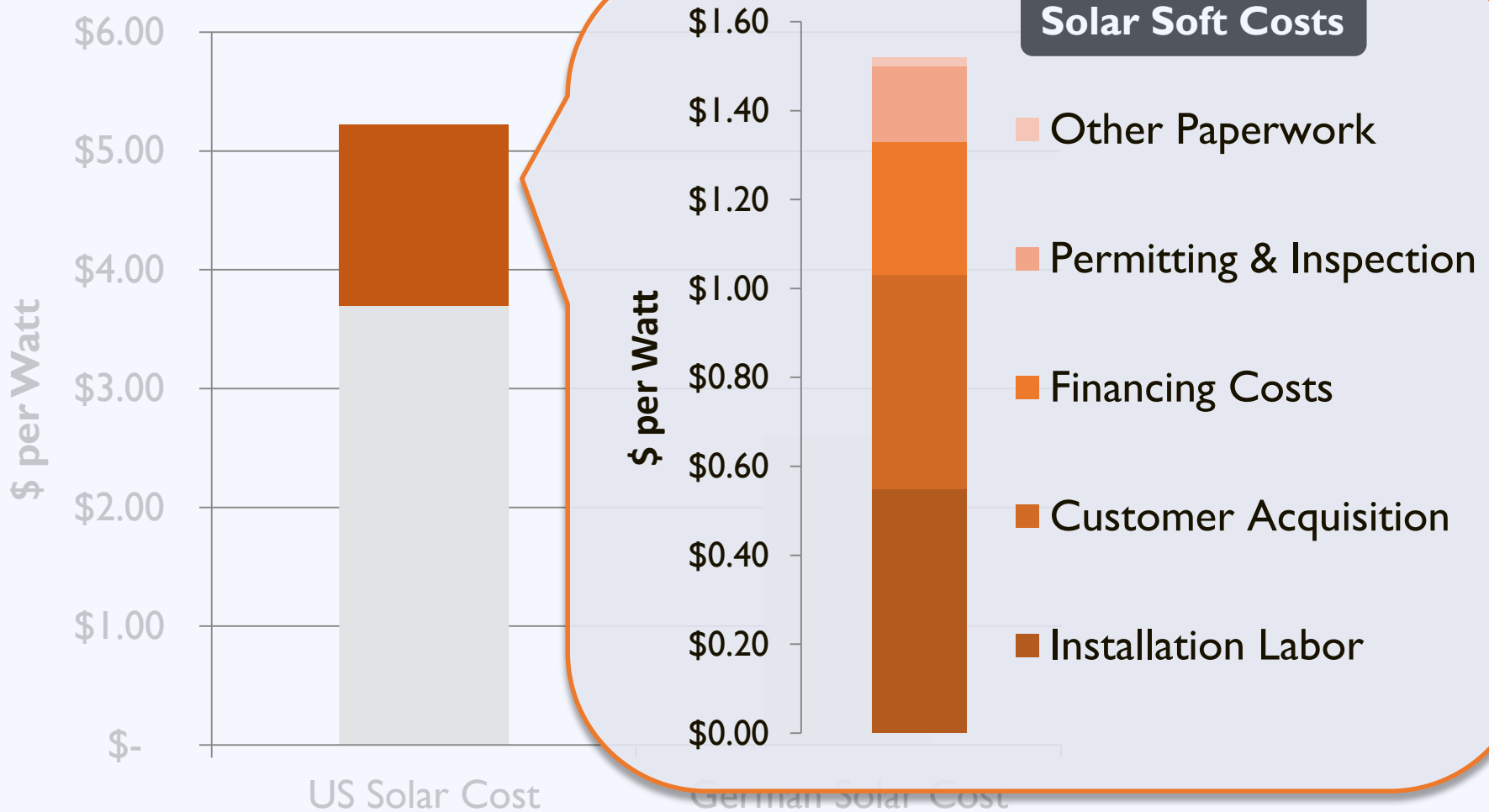
The Cost of Solar in the US

Comparison of US and German Solar Costs



The Cost of Solar in the US

Comparison of US and German Solar Costs



Challenge: Installation Time



**New York City's
Goal**

100 days

from inception to completion



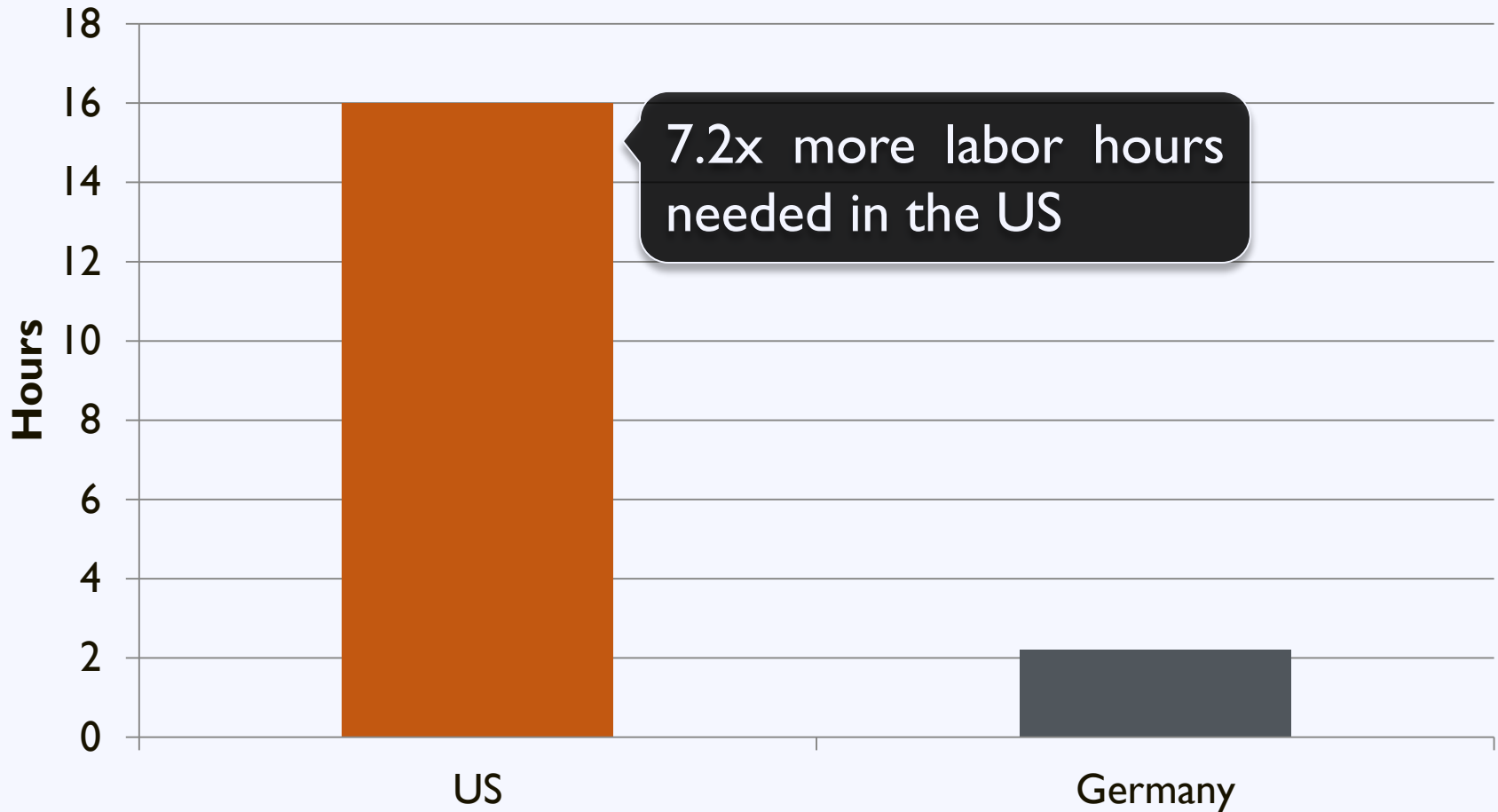
**Germany
Today**

8 days

from inception to completion

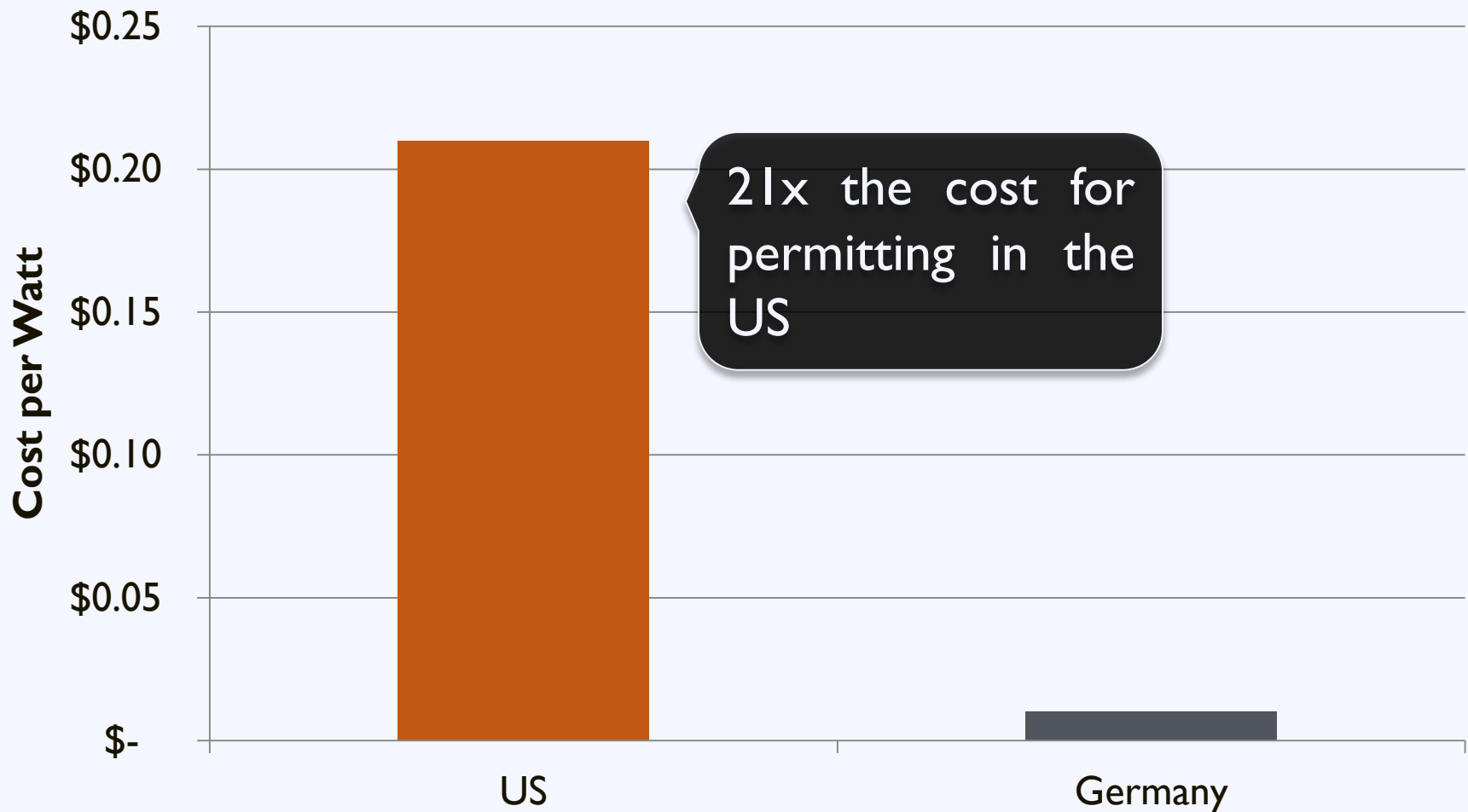
Time to Installation

Average Time to Permit a Solar Installation



Permitting Costs

Average Cost of Permitting in the US and Germany



Germany's Success

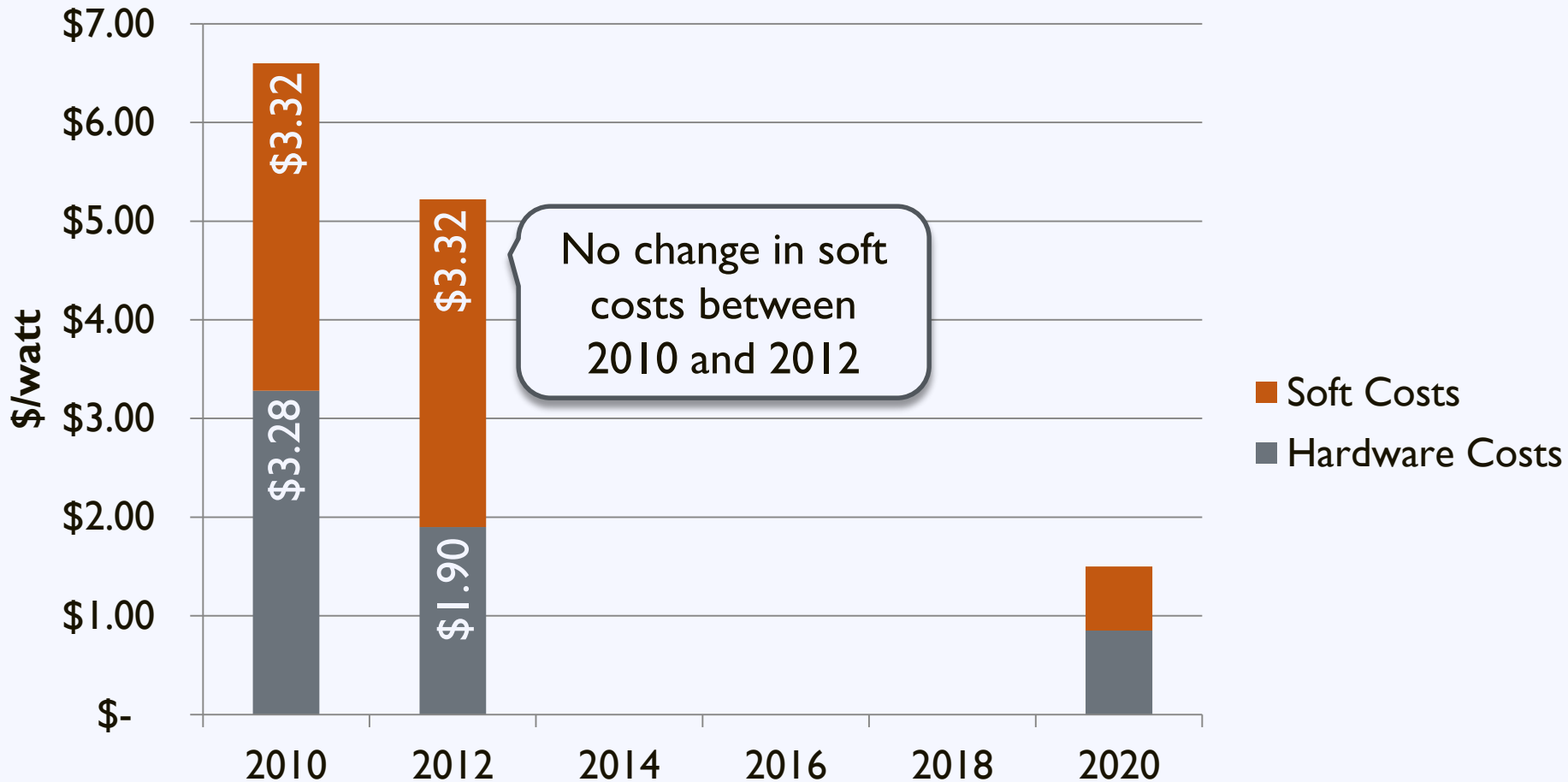
Consistency and Transparency

through

Standardized Processes

The Cost of Solar in the US

Change in Soft Costs and Hardware Costs Over Time



Local Government Impact

What would be the impact of a 25% reduction in local government-addressable soft costs on the value of a 5 kW solar investment?

Q4 2014 US Avg. Residential Installed Cost:		\$3.48/W
Net Present Value:		\$2,924
Payback Period:		14.8 years
After 25% Reduction in addressable soft costs:		\$3.26/W
Net Present Value:		\$3,696
Payback Period:		13.9 years
Difference:		\$0.22/W
Net Present Value:		+ 26%
Payback Period:		- 6%

Workshop Goal

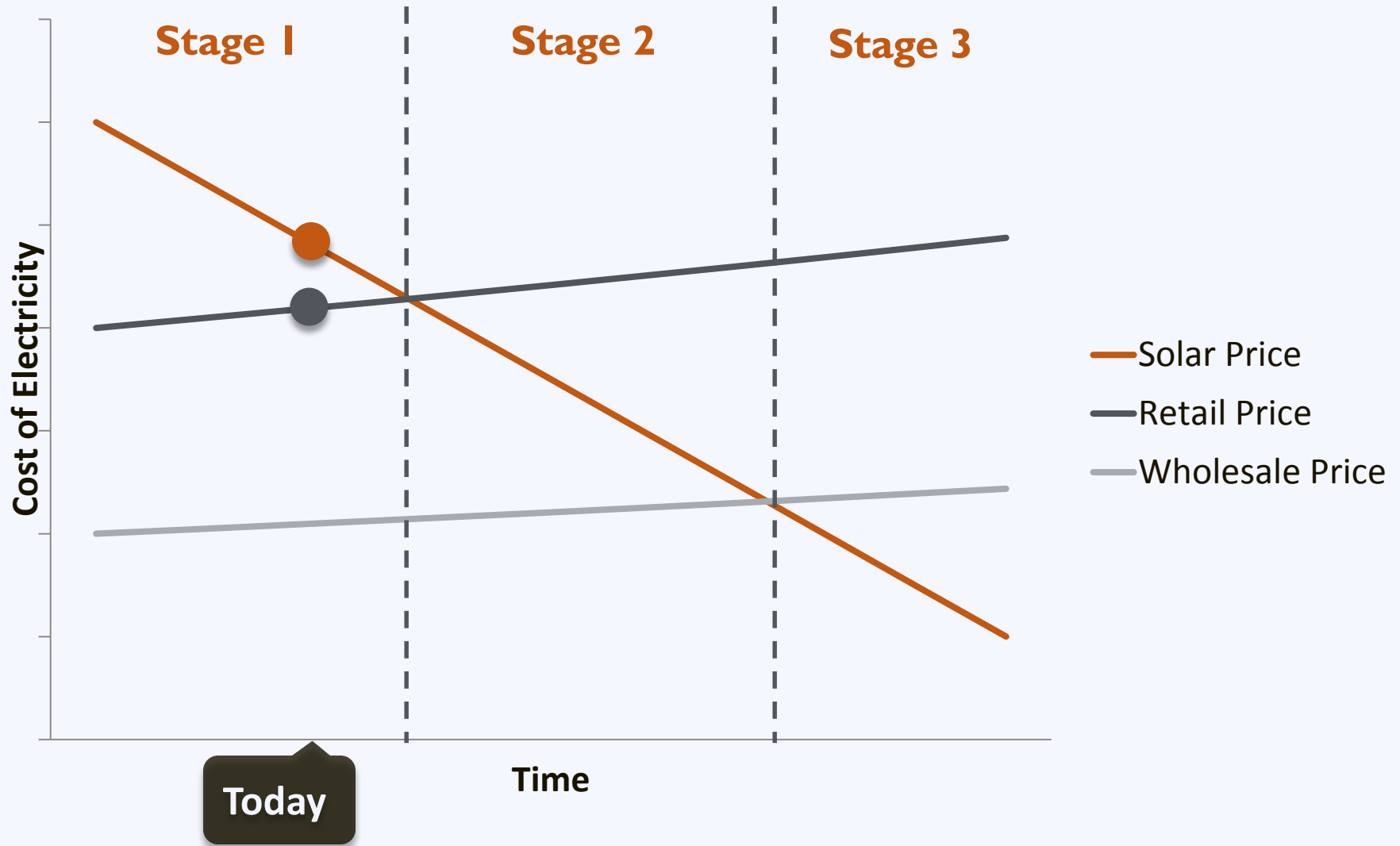
Enable local governments to replicate successful solar practices to **reduce soft costs** and **expand local adoption of solar energy**

Agenda

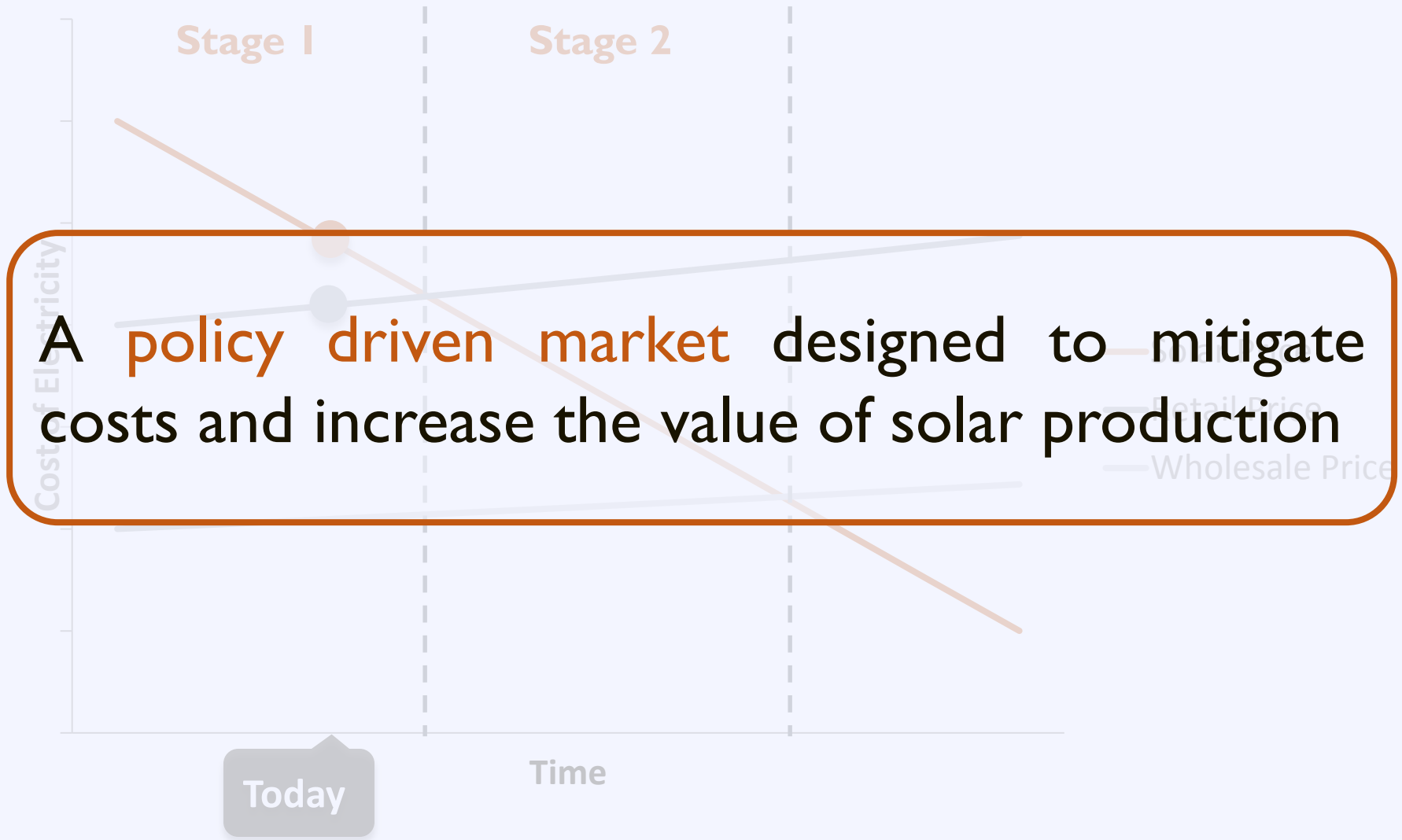
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Solar Market: Trends



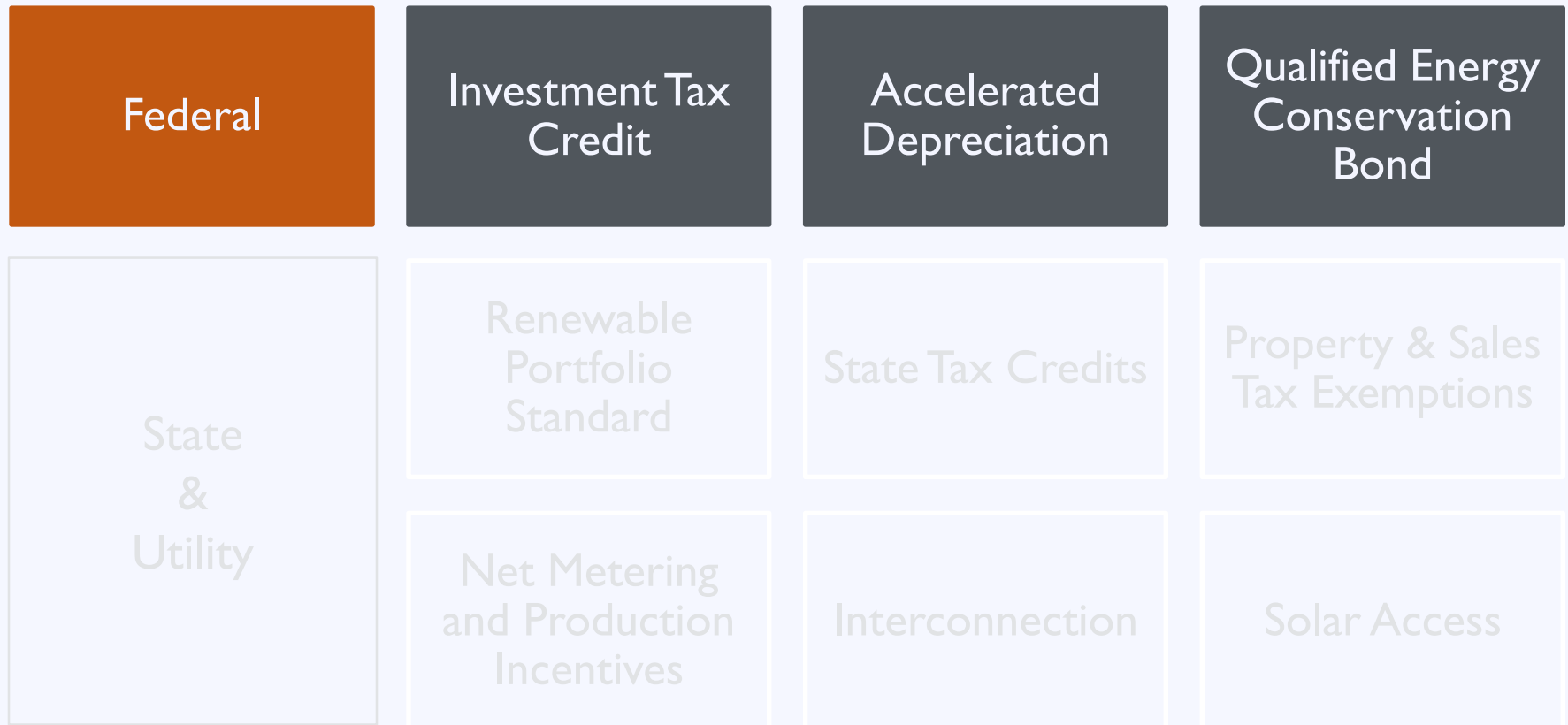
Solar Market: Trends



A Policy Driven Market

Federal	Investment Tax Credit	Accelerated Depreciation	Qualified Energy Conservation Bond
State & Utility	Renewable Portfolio Standard	State Tax Credits	Property & Sales Tax Exemptions
	Net Metering and Production Incentives	Interconnection	Solar Access

A Policy Driven Market



Investment Tax Credit

Type: Tax Credit

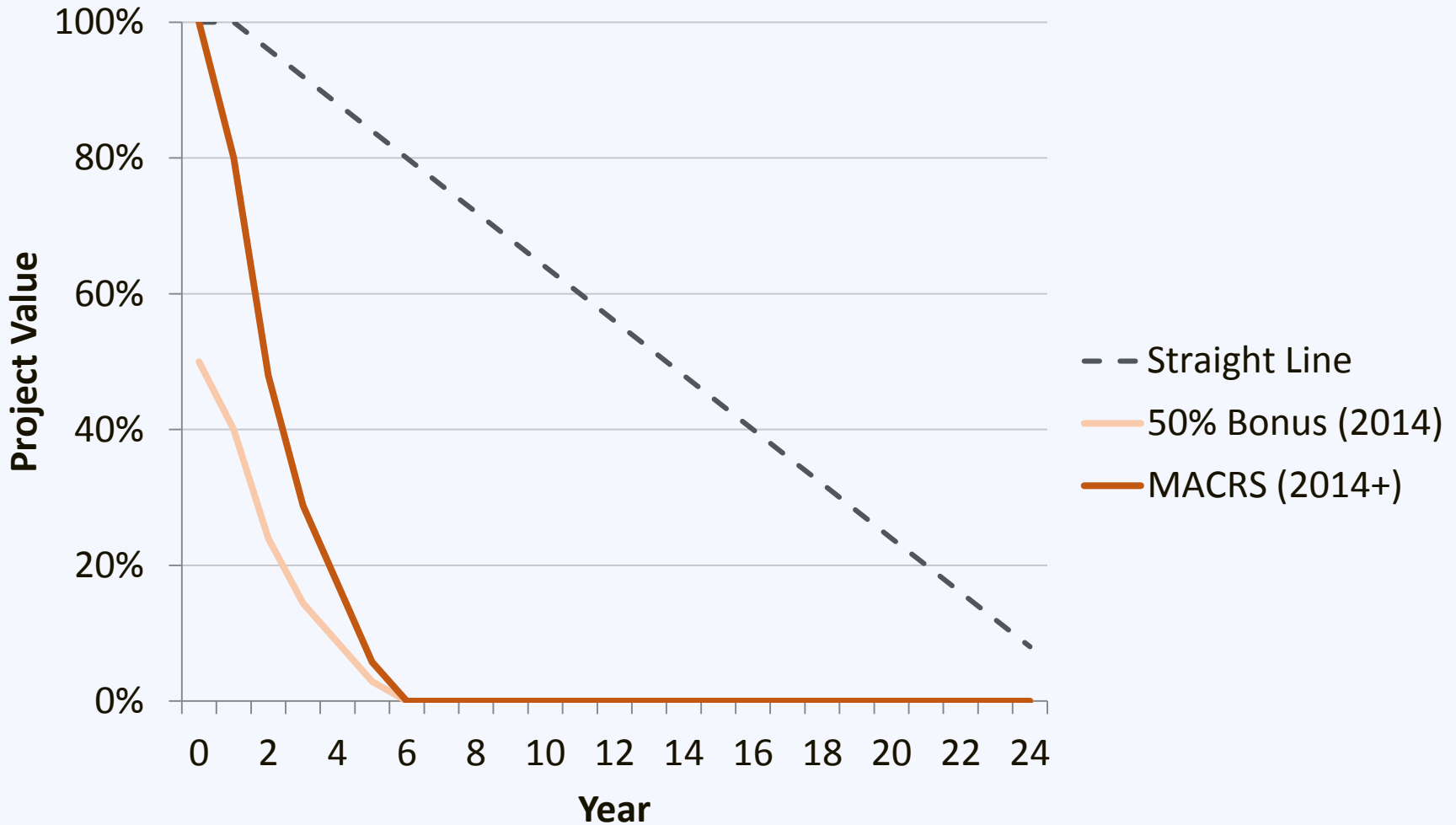
Eligibility: For-Profit Organization or Individual

Value: 30% of the installation cost

Availability: Through 12/31/2016

Accelerated Depreciation

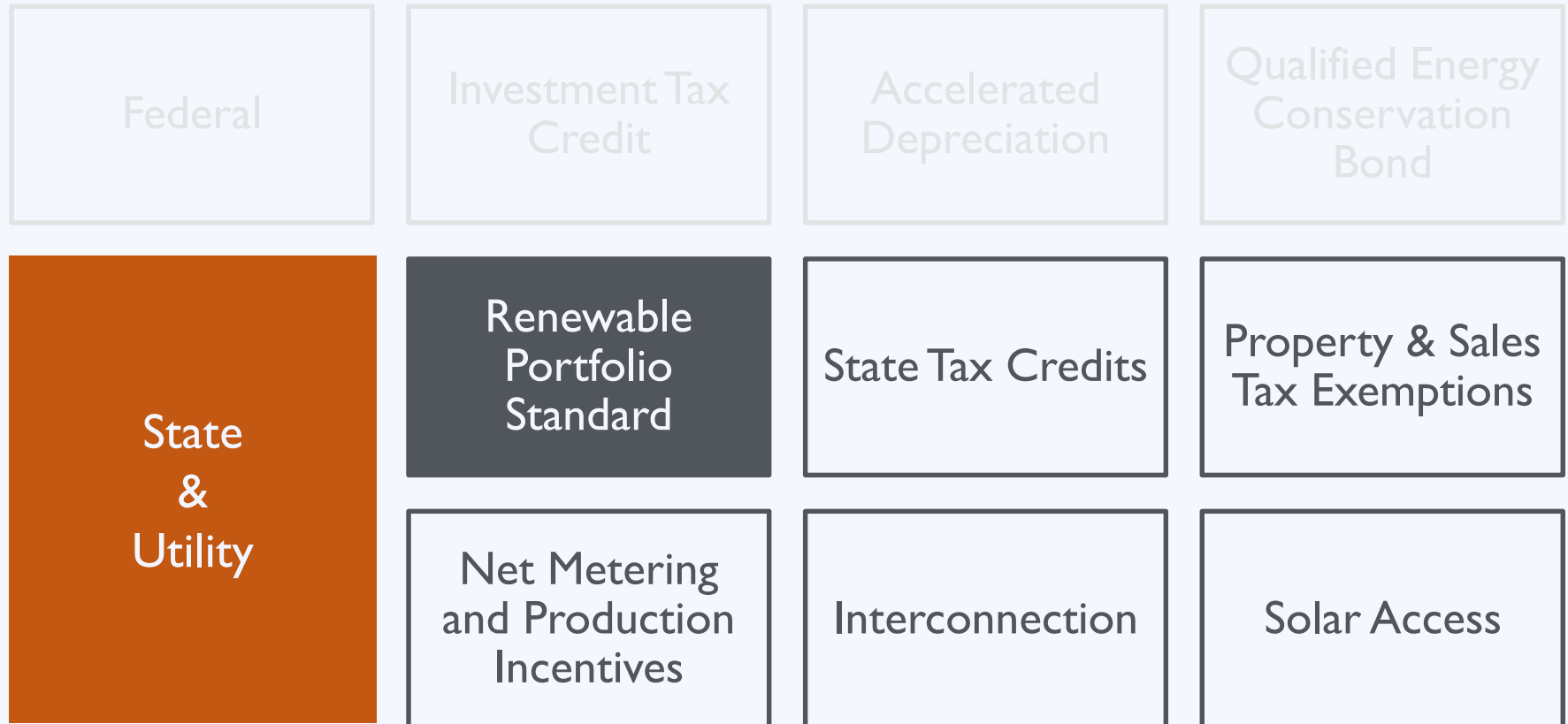
Modified Accelerated Cost-Recovery System (MACRS)



Qualified Energy Conservation Bond

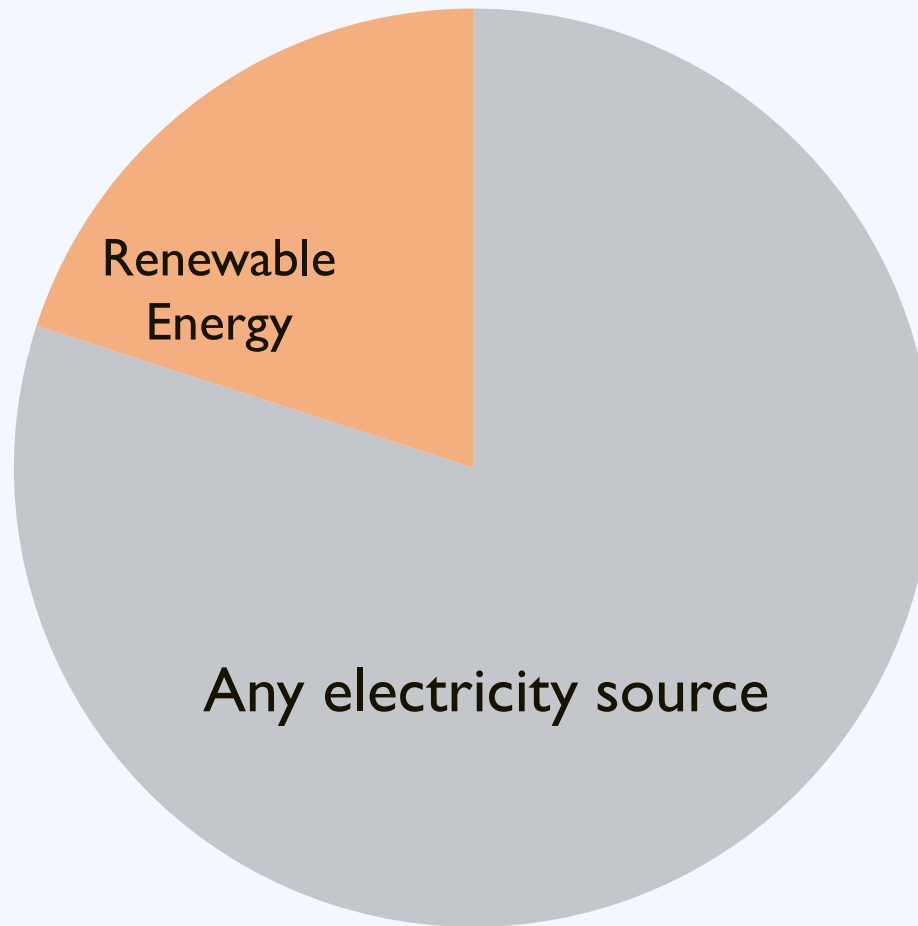


A Policy Driven Market



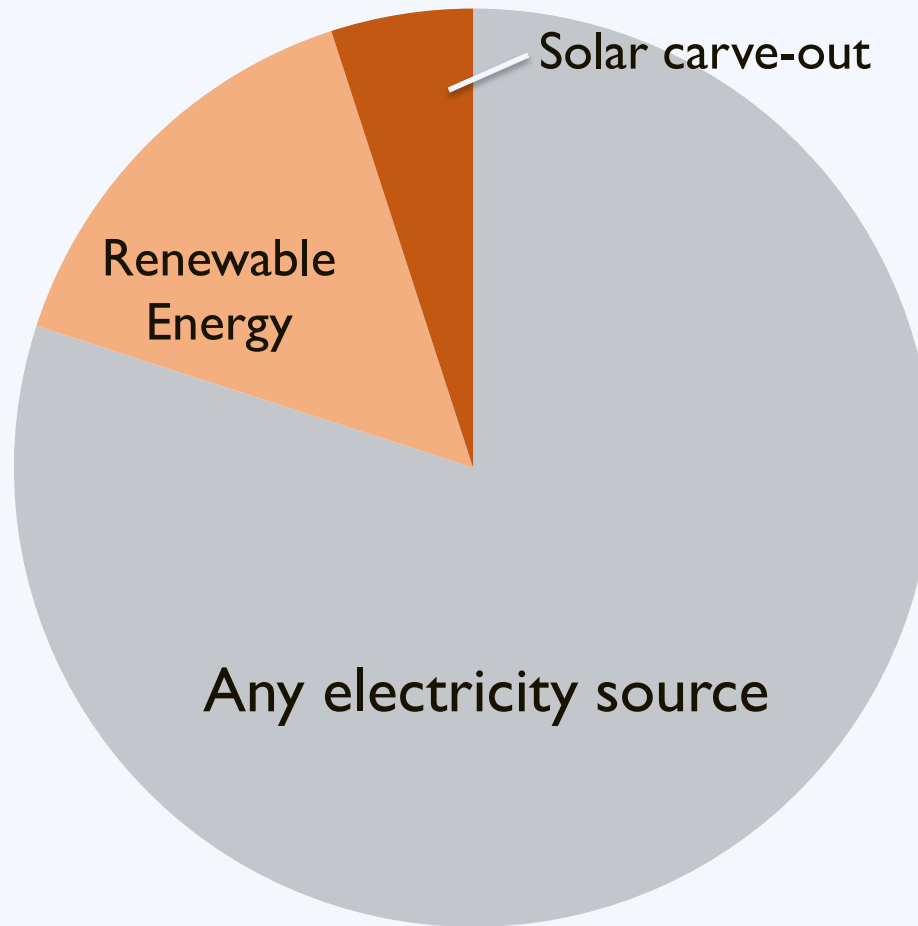
Renewable Portfolio Standard

Retail Electricity Sales



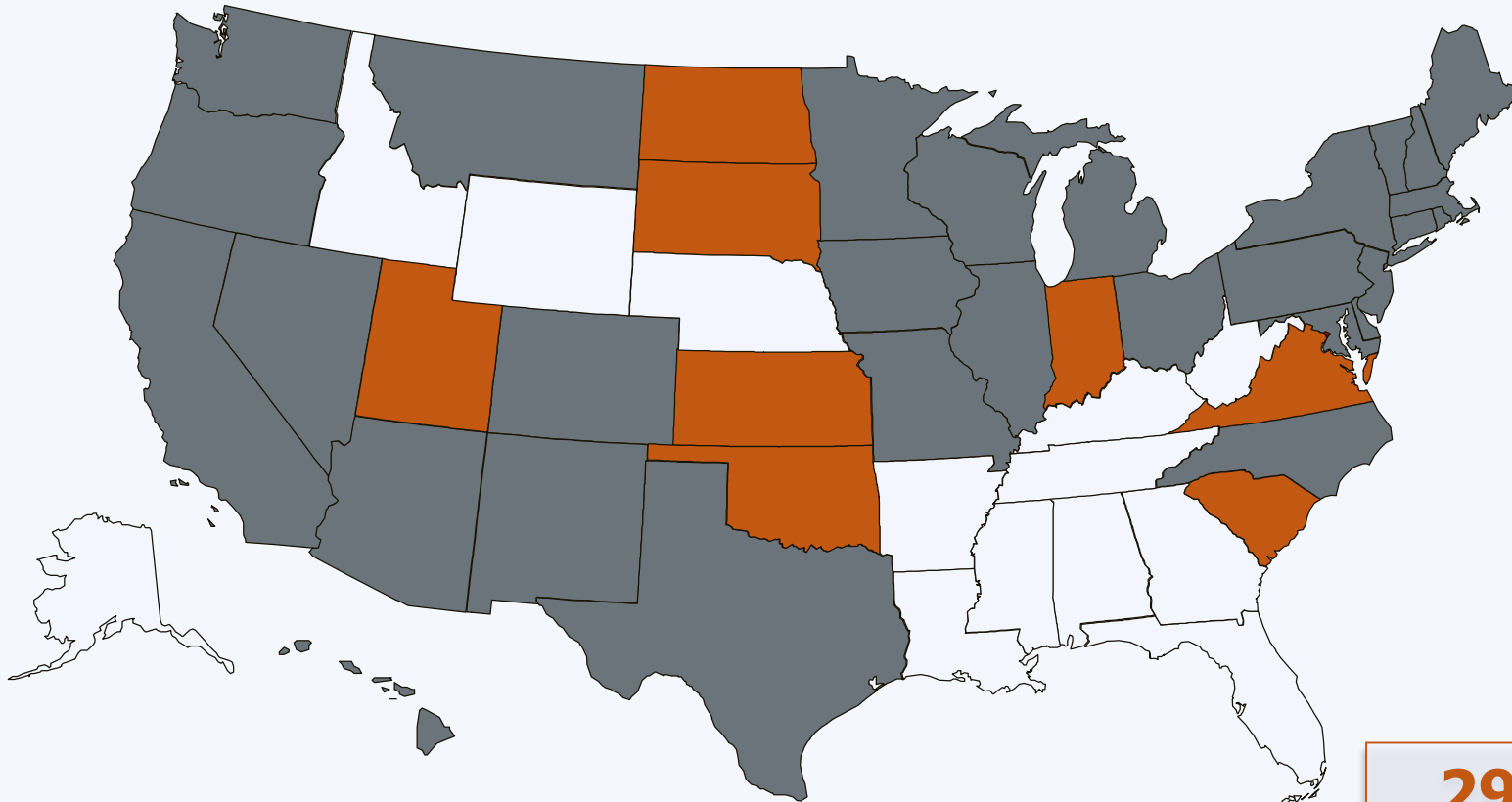
Renewable Portfolio Standard



Retail Electricity Sales



Renewable Portfolio Standard

www.dsireusa.org / June 2015

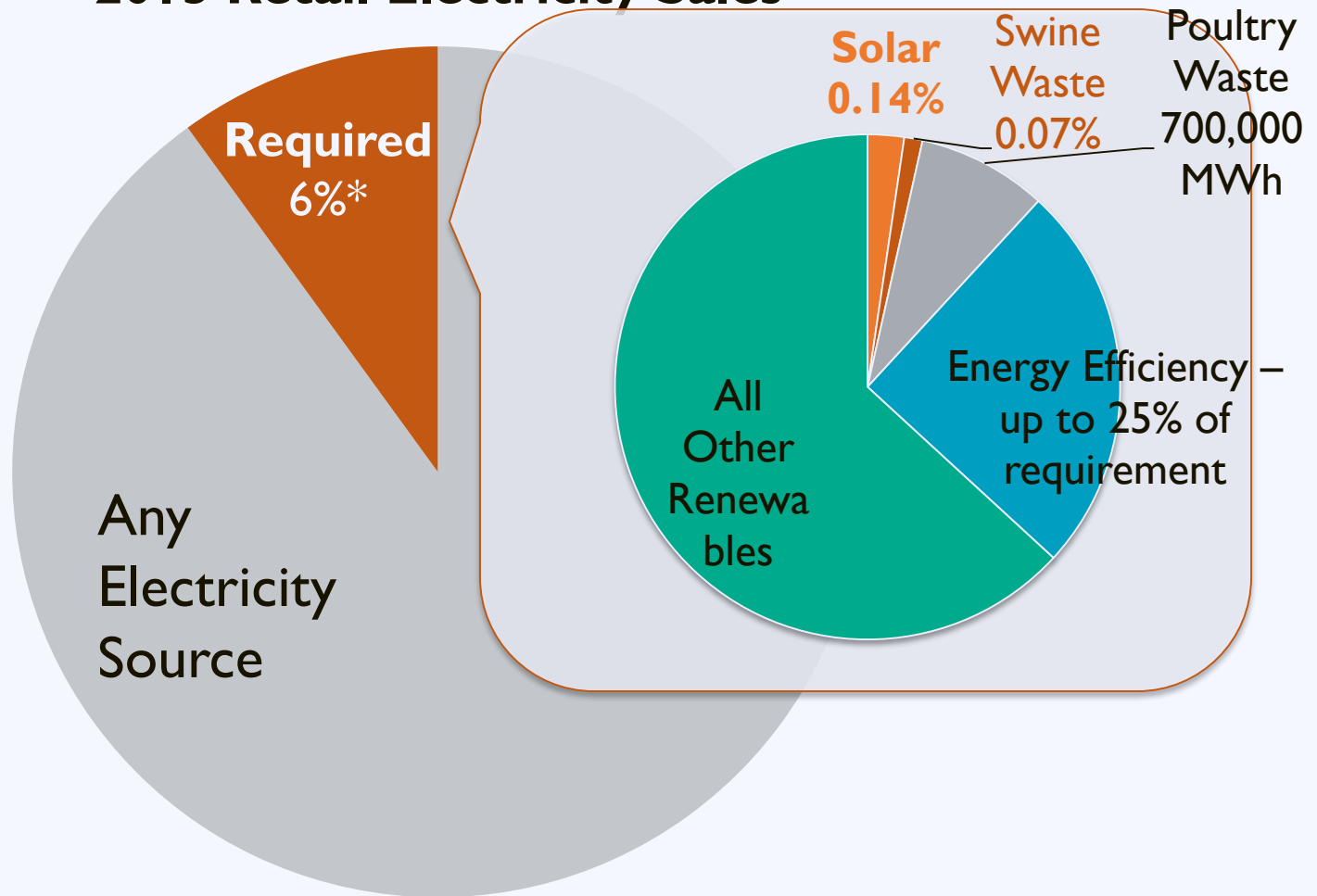


 Renewable portfolio standard
 Renewable portfolio goal

29 states +
Washington DC and 3
territories have
Renewable Portfolio
Standards
(8 states and 1 territory have
renewable portfolio goals)

North Carolina REPS

2015 Retail Electricity Sales

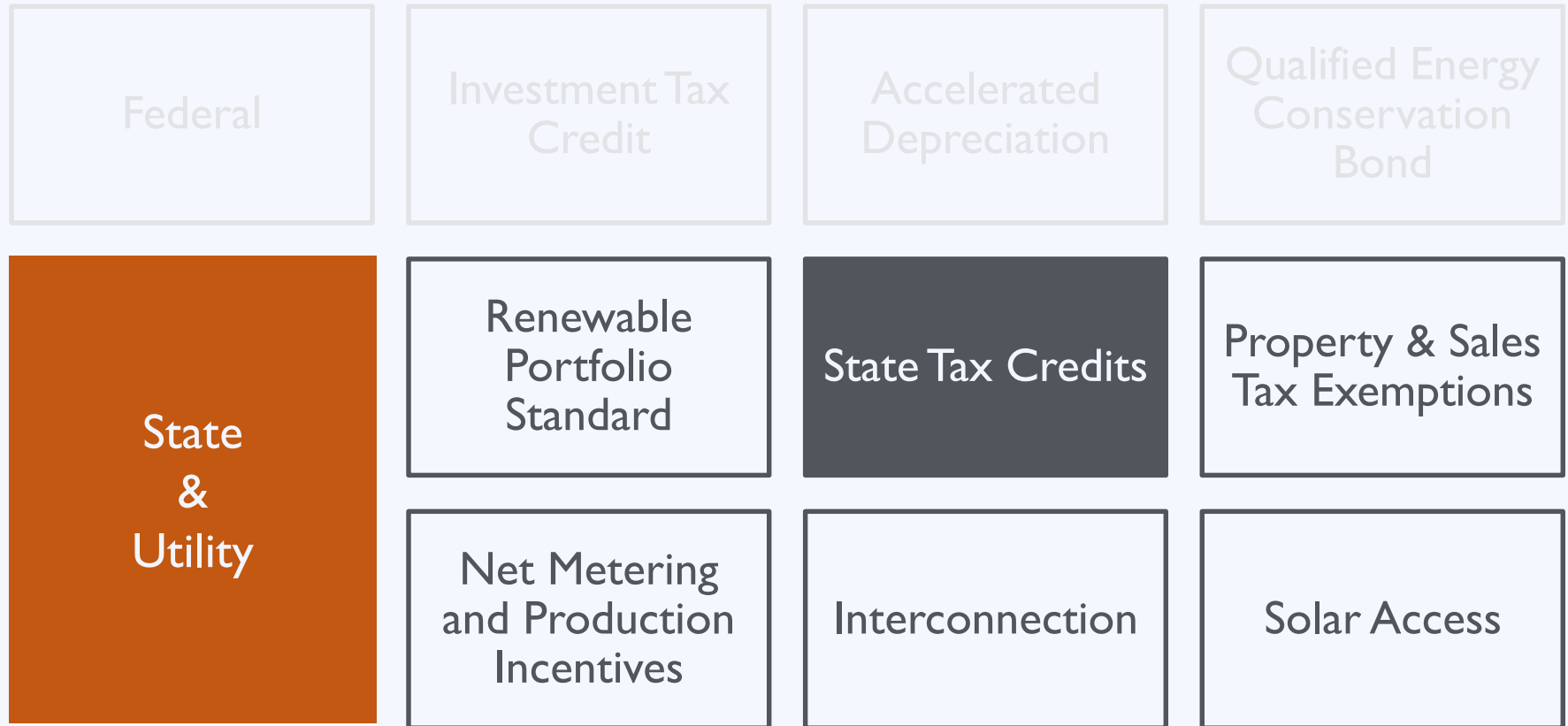


RPS Impacts: Solar Deployment

RPS and Solar/DG Status of Top Ten Solar States by Cumulative Installed Capacity (as of Q1 2015)

Rank	State	RPS?	Solar/DG Provision?
1	California	Y	N
2	Arizona	Y	Y
3	New Jersey	Y	Y
4	North Carolina	Y	Y
5	Nevada	Y	Y
6	Massachusetts	Y	Y
7	Hawaii	Y	N
8	New York	Y	Y
9	Colorado	Y	Y
10	Texas	Y	N

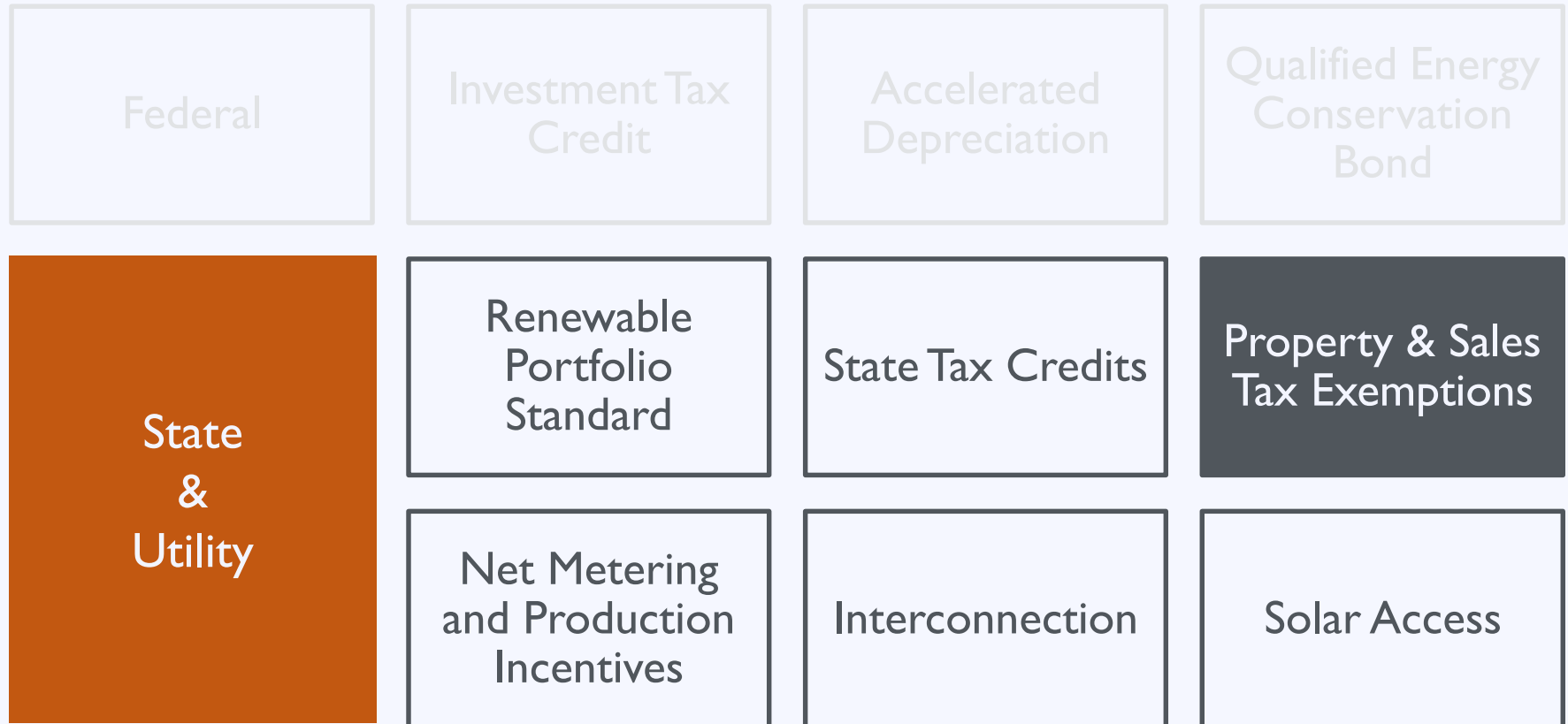
A Policy Driven Market



Renewable Energy Tax Credit

- **35%** of cost of renewable energy project
- Available to North Carolina taxpayers for projects built and placed into service in NC during the tax year
- Residential PV max: \$10,500/installation
- Non-residential PV max: \$2.5 M/installation
- Expires at end of 2015
 - Sunset provision for partially completed projects

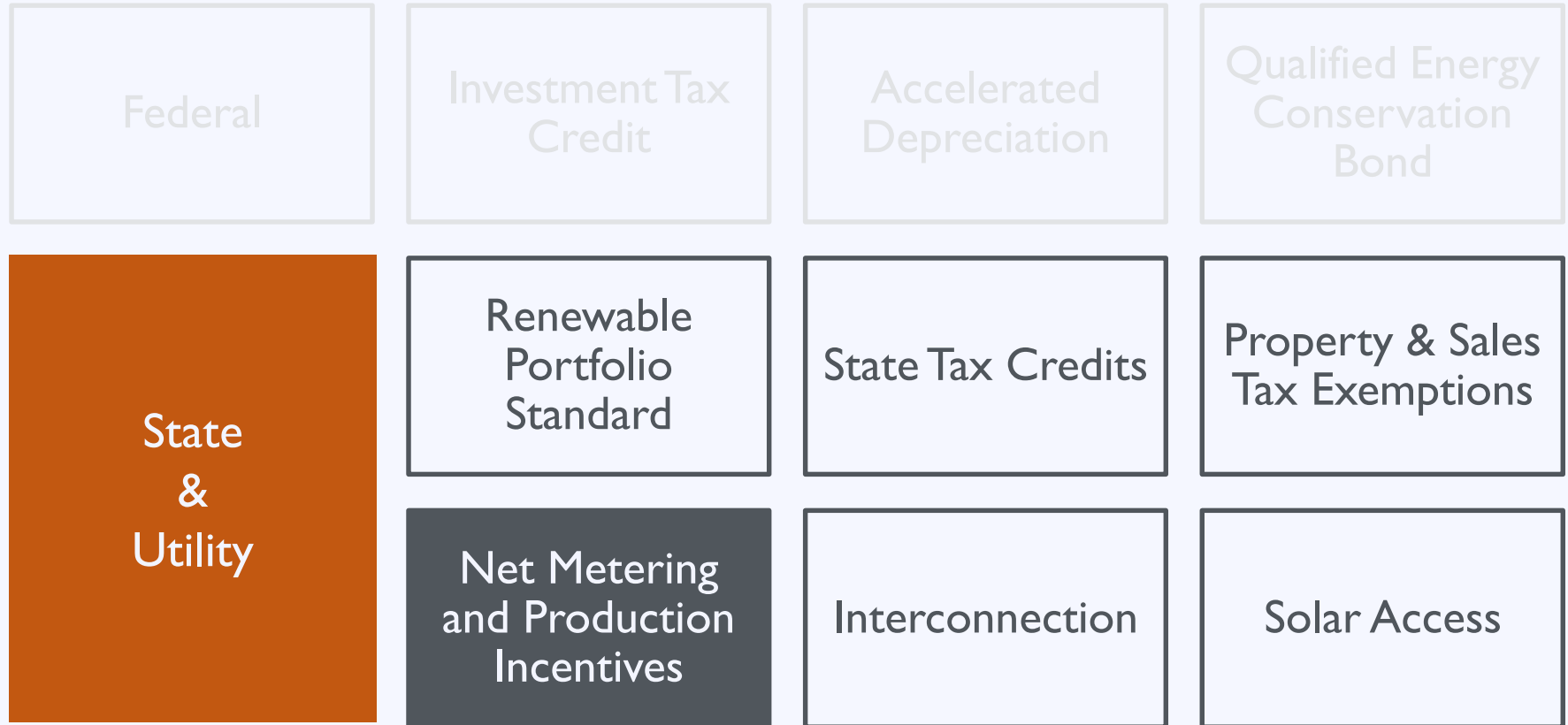
A Policy Driven Market



Property Tax Incentive

- Property Tax Abatement for Solar PV
 - 80% of the appraised value is exempt from property tax
 - Residential systems may be 100% exempt as non-business personal property.
 - Does not have to be net-metered, but owner cannot recognize income from a utility for the generation
- No sales tax exemption in NC
 - State rate is 4.75% for sales and use tax, plus local sales and use rates

A Policy Driven Market

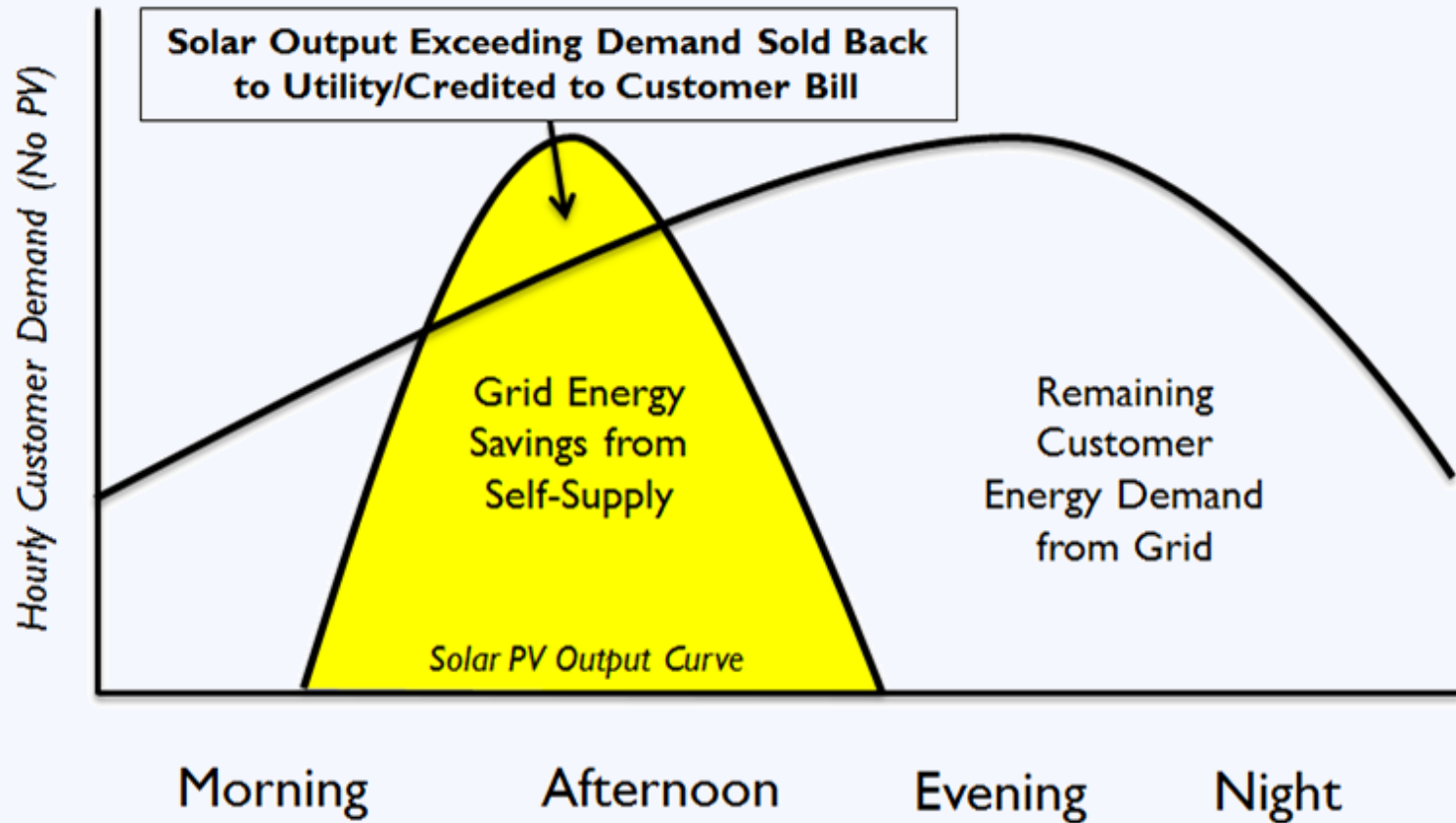


Net Metering

Net metering allows customers to export power to the grid during times of excess generation, and receive credits that can be applied to later electricity usage.

Net Metering

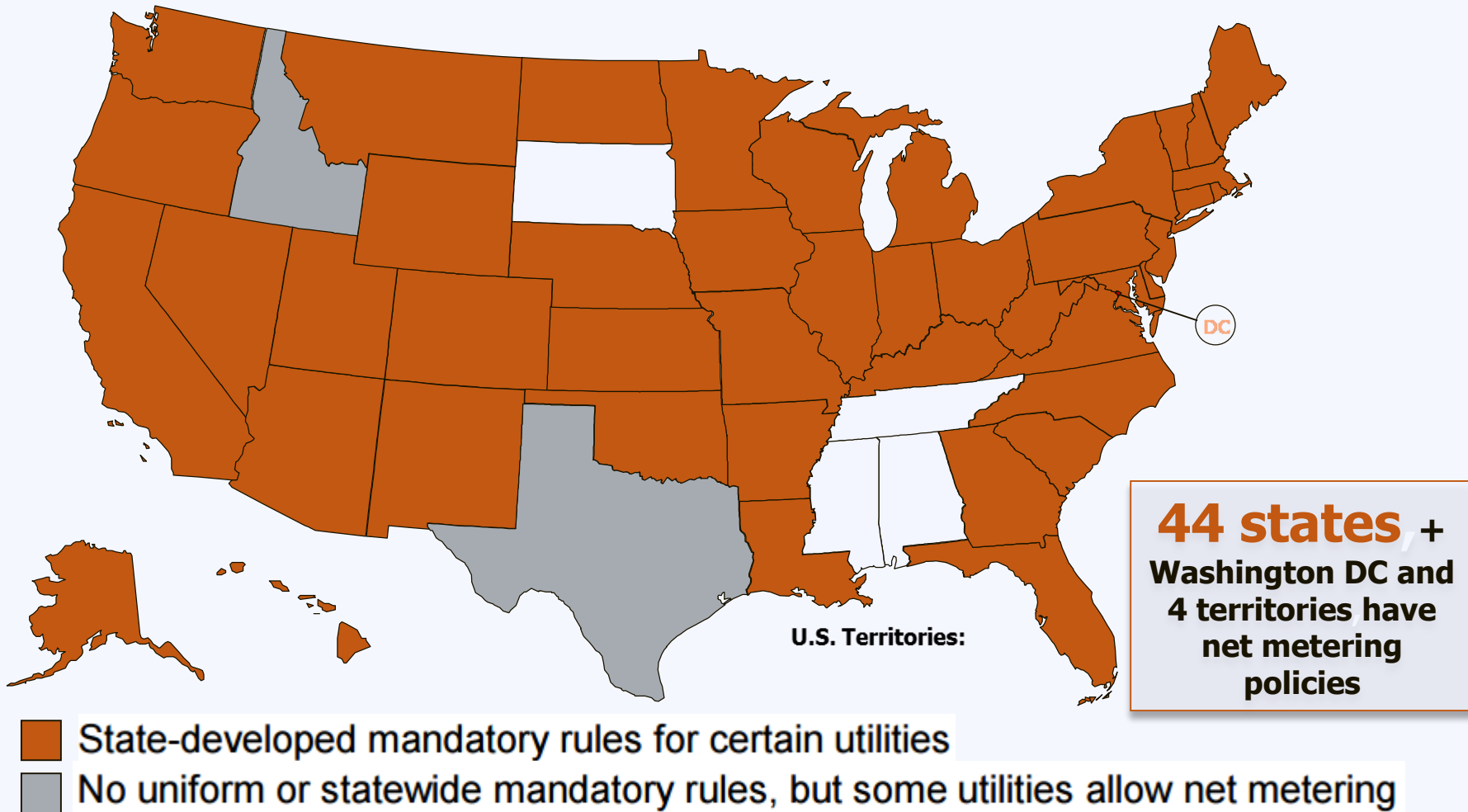
Selling Energy Back to the Utility: Net Metering



Net Metering: Market Share

Approximately **95%** of distributed PV Installations are net-metered

Net Metering

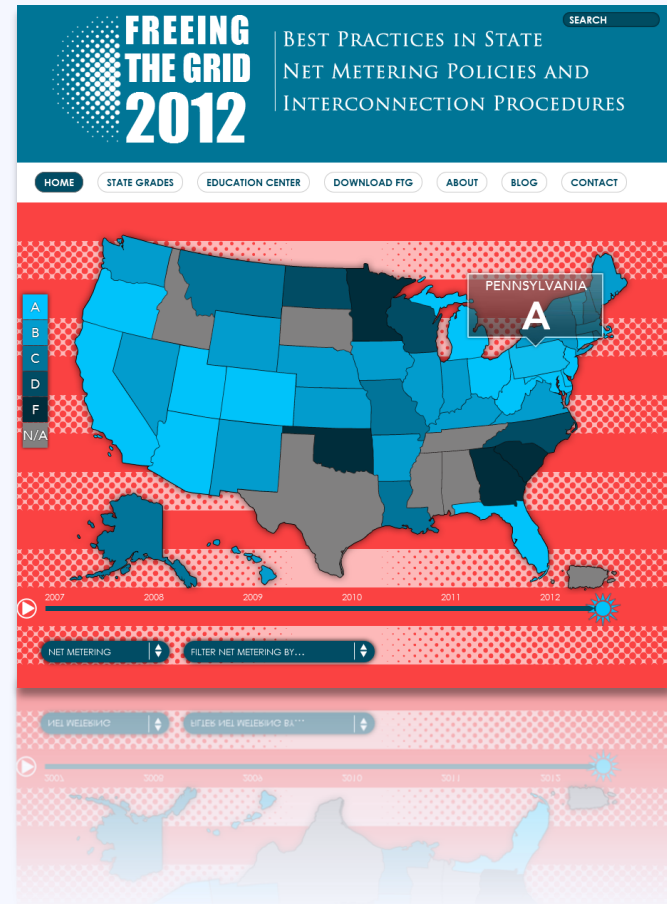


Net Metering: Resources

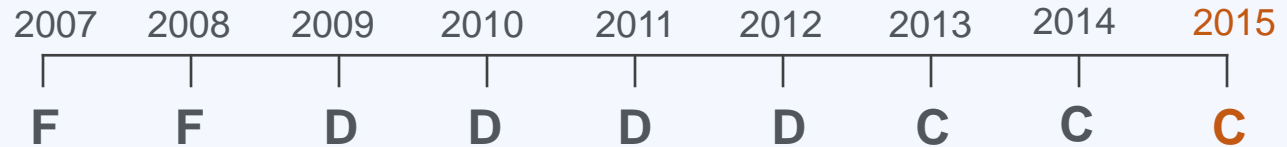
Resource **Freeing the Grid**

Provides a “report card” for state policy on net metering and interconnection

<http://freeingthegrid.org/>



Net Metering: North Carolina



Net Excess Credit Value

Retail Rate

Granted to utility at end of annual cycle



Applicable Utilities

IOUs Only



System Capacity Limit

1 MW



REC Ownership

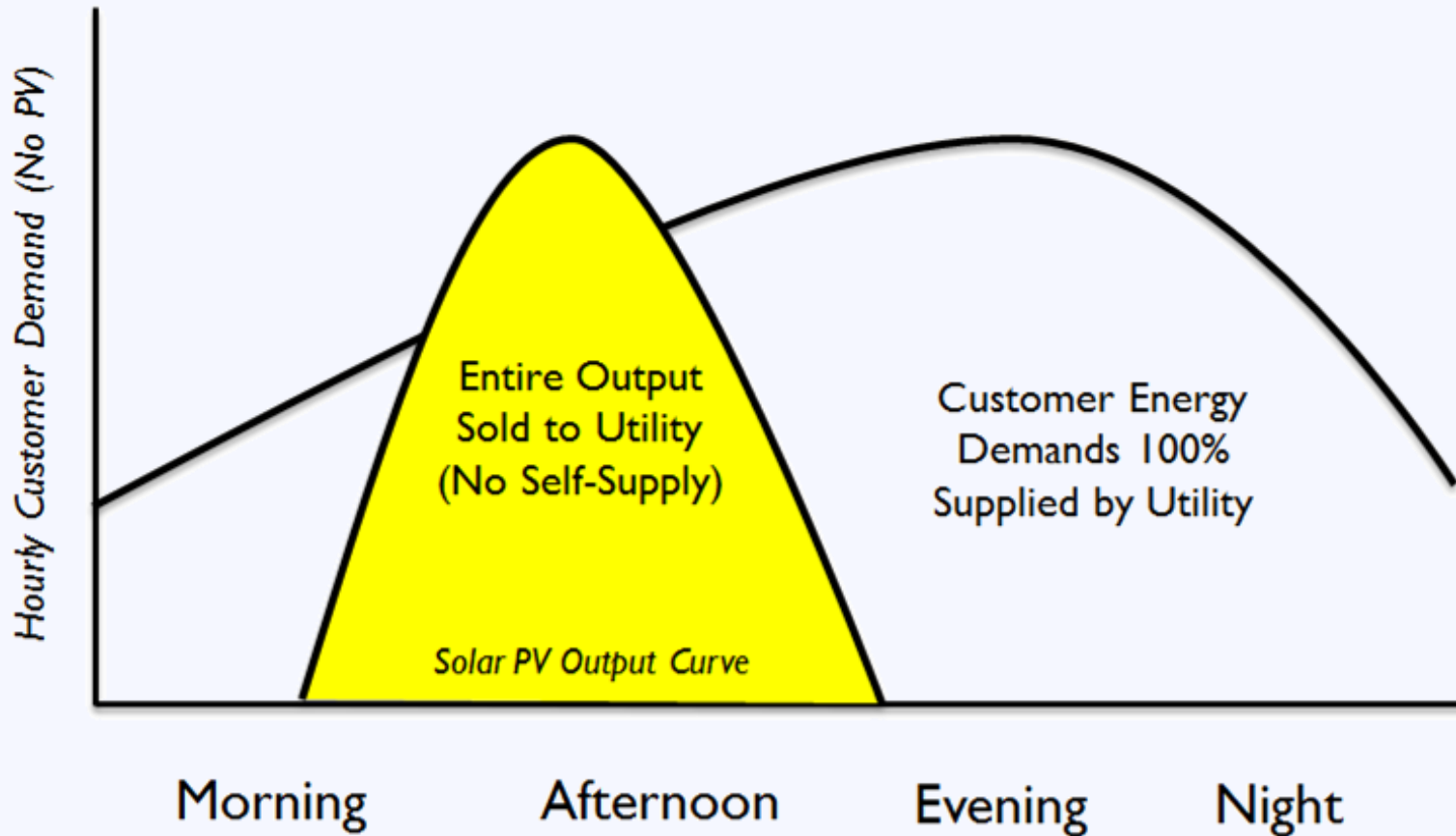
Utility owns RECs*

NC GreenPower

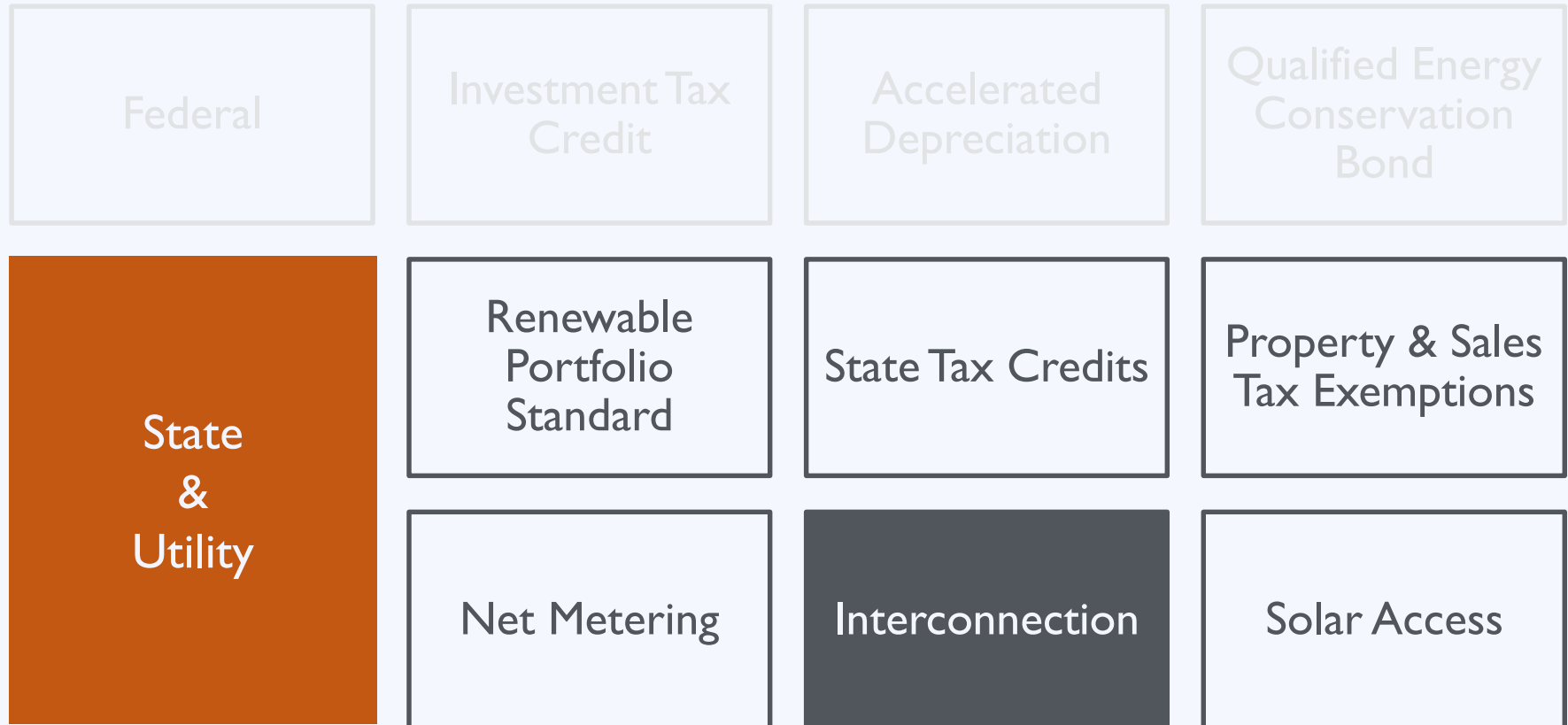
- Alternative to net metering: “buy-all, sell-all”
- Production payments for grid-tied PV, funded by voluntary contributions
- Annual cap of 100 kW for small PV – currently full
- Must enter into a PPA with the utility
- Systems up to 5 kW receive \$0.06/kWh plus utility PPA (~\$0.04/kWh) for 5 years
- Larger systems must apply through an RFP

NC Green Power

Selling Energy Back to the Utility: NC GreenPower



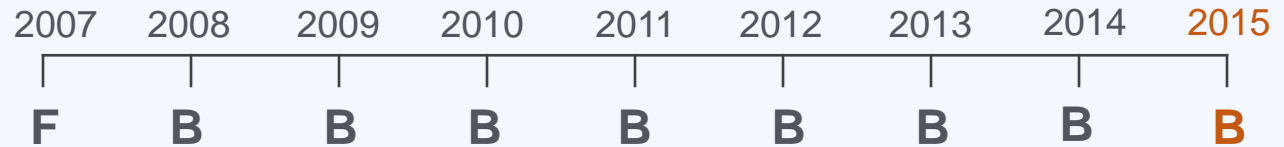
A Policy Driven Market



Interconnection

Standardized interconnection rules require utilities to provide a fair and transparent pathway for customer-generators and other developers of distributed energy resources to interconnect with the utility's grid.

Interconnection: North Carolina



Applicable Technologies

Includes solar PV, as well as other distributed generation technologies



Applicable Utilities

IOUs



System Capacity Limit

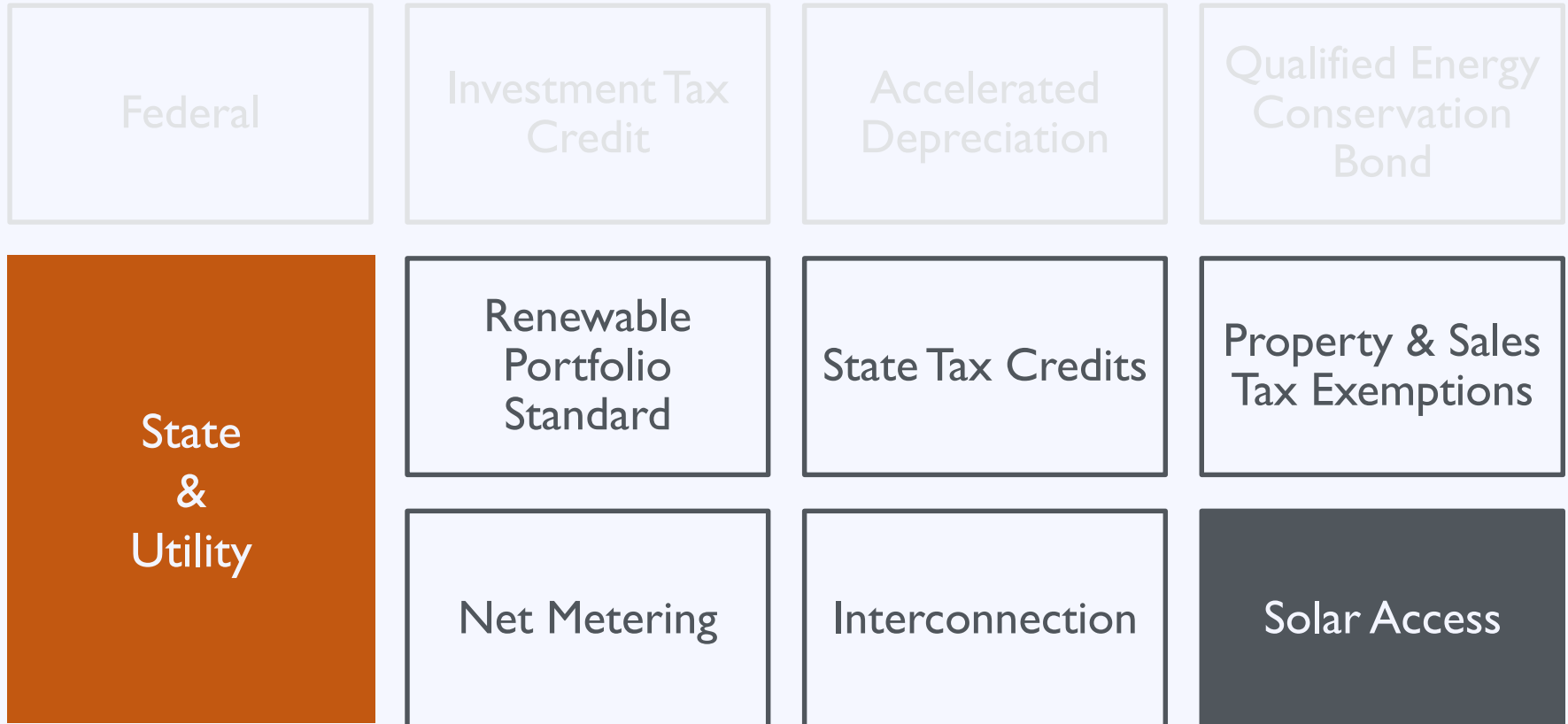
No limit specified



Bonus

Based on FERC Small Generator Interconnection Procedures

A Policy Driven Market



Solar Access



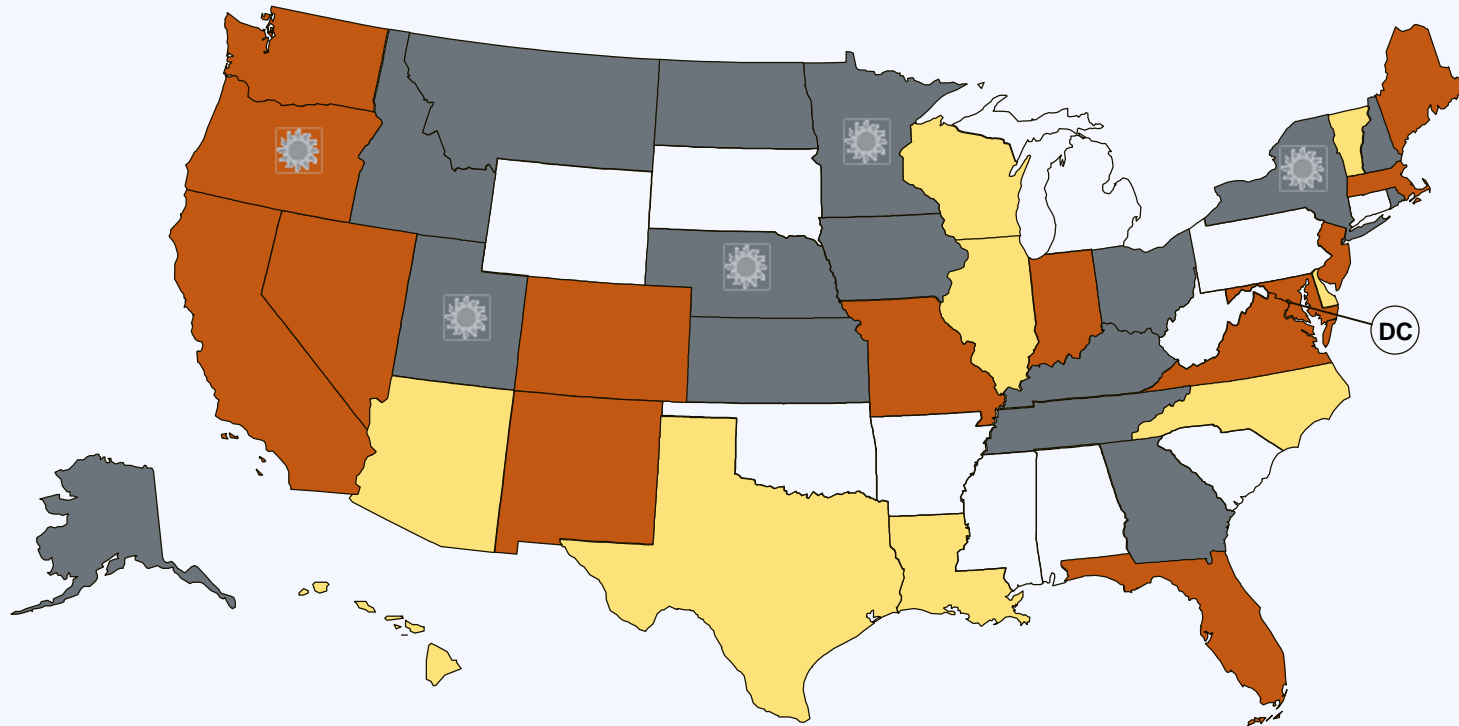
A landowner does not have any legal right to the free flow of light and air across the adjoining land of his neighbor

Solar Access

Solar Access Laws:

1. Increase the likelihood that properties will receive sunlight
2. Reduce the risk that systems will be shaded after installation
3. Protect the rights of property owners to install solar

Solar Access



■ Solar Easements Provision

■ Solar Rights Provision

■ Solar Easements and Solar Rights Provisions

☀ Local option to create solar rights provision

● U.S. Virgin Islands

North Carolina's Solar Rights

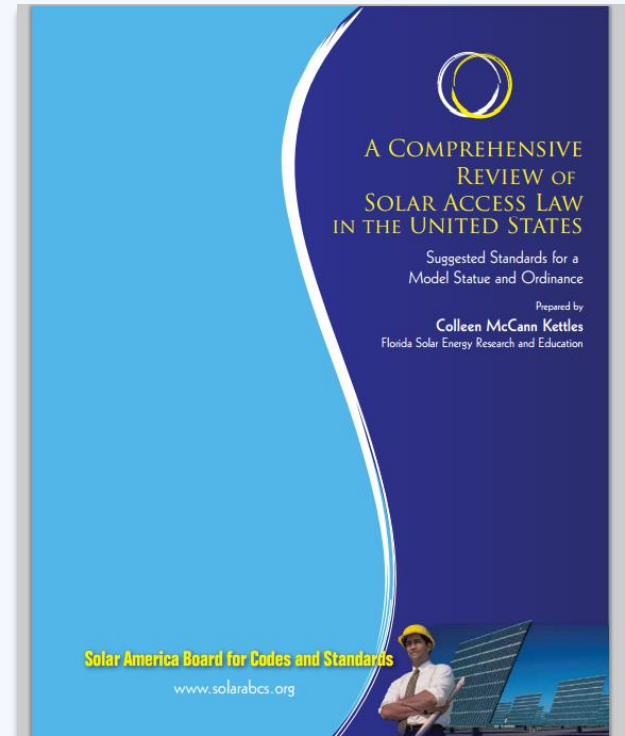
- Cities and counties generally may not prohibit solar energy installations
 - May place certain restrictions on installations visible from areas of common or public access
- Deed restrictions prohibiting solar installations are also not allowed

Solar Access

Resource Solar America Board for Codes & Standards

A comprehensive review of solar access law in the US – Suggested standards for a model ordinance

www.solarabcs.org



Agenda

- 10:20 – 10:50 Putting Solar Energy on the Local Policy Agenda
- 10:50 – 11:20 State of the Local Solar Market
- 11:20 – 11:50 Federal, State, and Utility Policy Drivers
- 11:50 – 12:15** *Break and Grab Lunch*
- 12:15 – 12:50 Planning for Solar: Getting Solar Ready
- 12:50 – 1:25 Solar Market Development Tools
- 1:25 – 1:35 *Break*
- 1:35 – 2:20 Local Speakers
- 2:20 – 3:00 Developing and Solar Policy Implementation Plan for

Your Community and Next Steps

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Your Community and Next Steps

Effective Local Solar Policy

Local Solar Policy

Planning for Solar

Solar in Development Regulation

Effective Solar Permitting Process

Solar Market Development Tools

Effective Local Solar Policy

Local Solar
Policy

Planning for
Solar

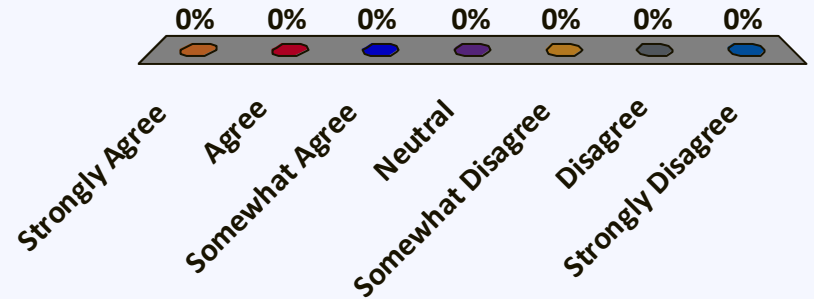
Visioning &
goal setting

Effective Solar
Permitting
Process

Solar Market
Development
Tools

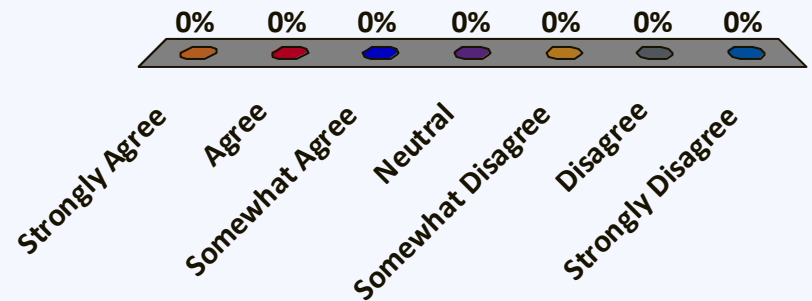
Solar advances your community's energy goals

- A. Strongly Agree
- B. Agree
- C. Somewhat Agree
- D. Neutral
- E. Somewhat Disagree
- F. Disagree
- G. Strongly Disagree



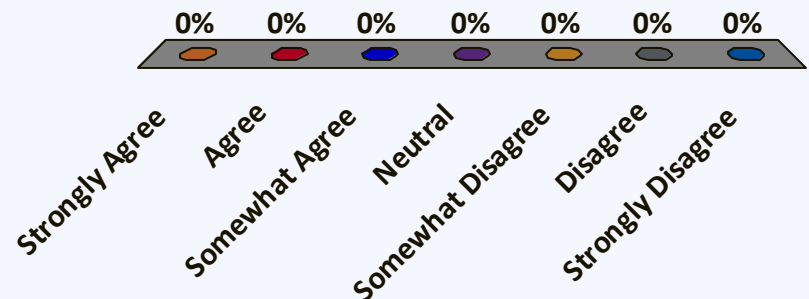
Solar advances your economic development goals

- A. Strongly Agree
- B. Agree
- C. Somewhat Agree
- D. Neutral
- E. Somewhat Disagree
- F. Disagree
- G. Strongly Disagree



Solar advances your environmental and health goals

- A. Strongly Agree
- B. Agree
- C. Somewhat Agree
- D. Neutral
- E. Somewhat Disagree
- F. Disagree
- G. Strongly Disagree



Visioning: Scales & Contexts

Poll

Is solar on residential rooftops appropriate for your community?

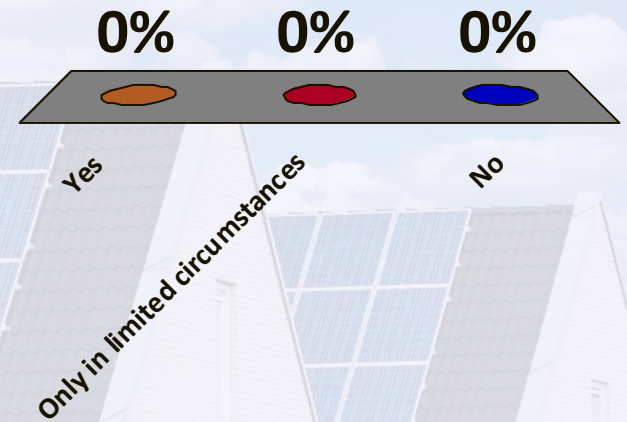


Visioning: Scales & Contexts

Poll

Is solar on residential rooftops appropriate for your community?

- A. Yes
- B. Only in limited circumstances
- C. No



Visioning: Scales & Contexts

Poll

Is solar on
commercial
rooftops
appropriate for
your community?

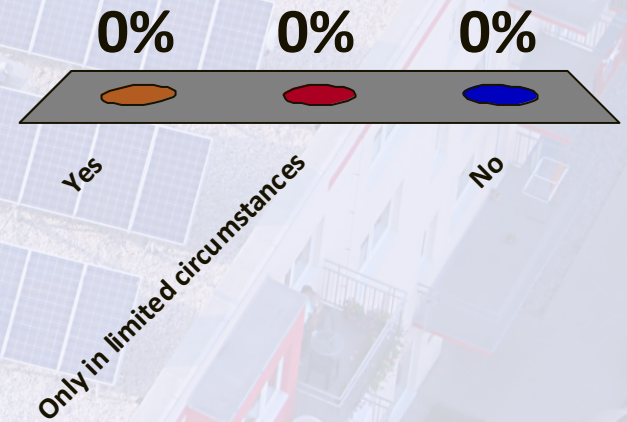


Visioning: Scales & Contexts

Poll

Is solar on
commercial
rooftops
appropriate for
your community?

- A. Yes
- B. Only in limited
circumstances
- C. No



Visioning: Scales & Contexts

Poll

Is solar on historic structures appropriate for your community?

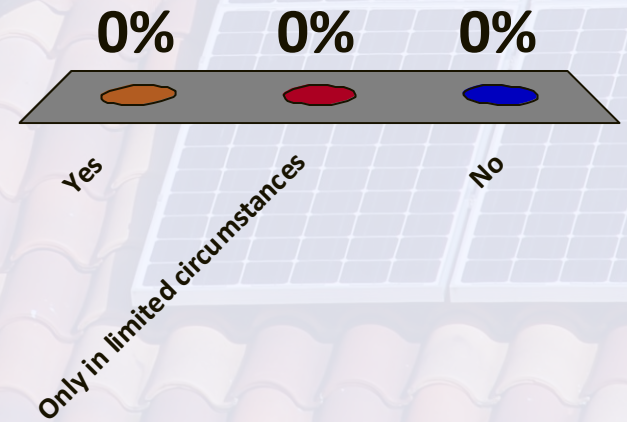


Visioning: Scales & Contexts

Poll

Is solar on historic structures appropriate for your community?

- A. Yes
- B. Only in limited circumstances
- C. No



Visioning: Scales & Contexts

Poll

Is solar on
brownfields
appropriate for
your community?

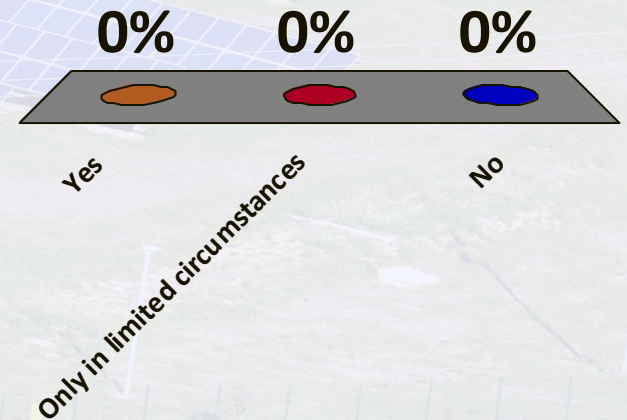


Visioning: Scales & Contexts

Poll

Is solar on
brownfields
appropriate for
your community?

- A. Yes
- B. Only in limited circumstances
- C. No



Visioning: Scales & Contexts

Poll

Is solar on
greenfields
appropriate for
your community?

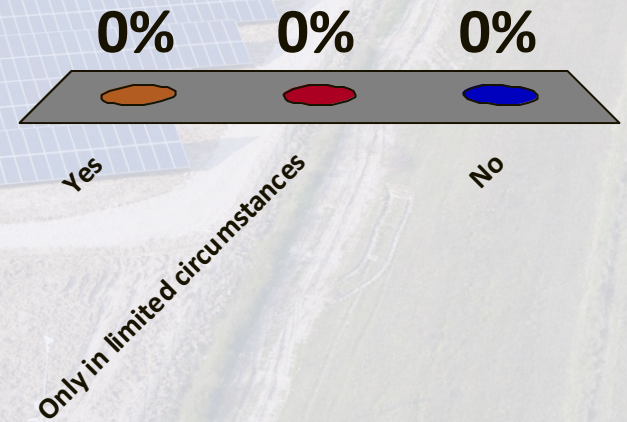


Visioning: Scales & Contexts

Poll

Is solar on greenfields appropriate for your community?

- A. Yes
- B. Only in limited circumstances
- C. No



Visioning: Scales & Contexts

Poll

Is solar on parking lots appropriate for your community?

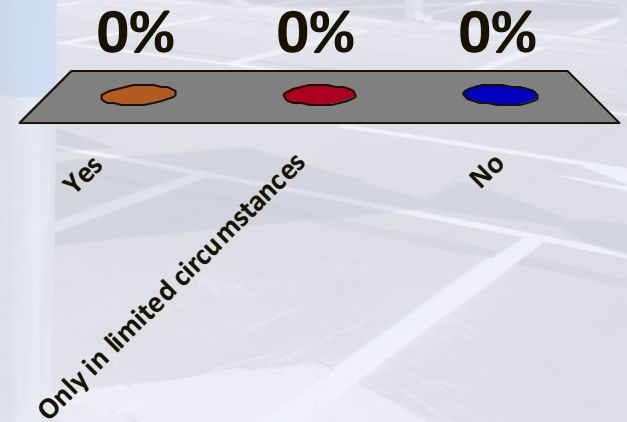


Visioning: Scales & Contexts

Poll

Is solar on parking lots appropriate for your community?

- A. Yes
- B. Only in limited circumstances
- C. No



Visioning: Scales & Contexts

Poll

Is building-integrated solar appropriate for your community?

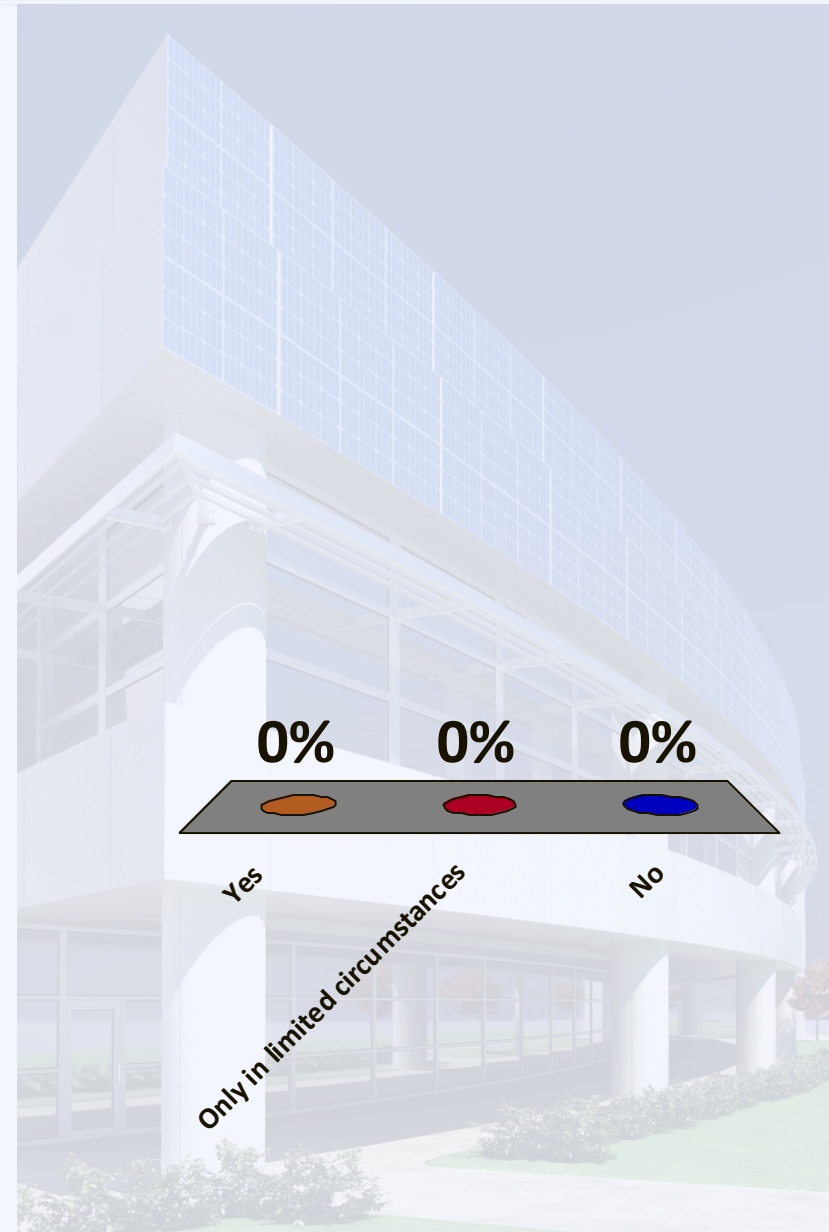


Visioning: Scales & Contexts

Poll

Is building-integrated solar appropriate for your community?

- A. Yes
- B. Only in limited circumstances
- C. No



Planning for Solar Development

Communitywide Comprehensive Plan

Neighborhood
Plans

Corridor Plans

Special District
Plans

Green
Infrastructure
Plans

Energy Plan

Climate Action
Plan

Technical Resources

Resource

Planning for Solar Energy

A guide for planners on determining and implementing local solar goals, objectives, policies, and actions

www.planning.org



Effective Local Solar Policy

Local Solar
Policy

Planning for
Solar

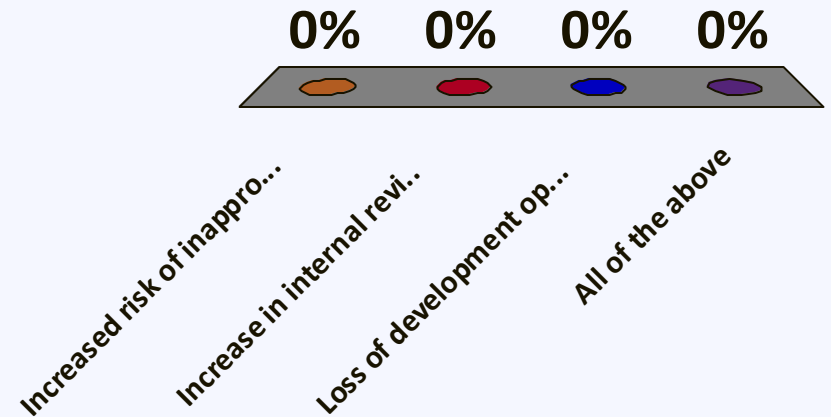
Solar in
Development
Regulation

Effective Solar
Permitting
Process

Solar Market
Development
Tools

What is the cost of convoluted regulations or “regulatory silence”?

- A. Increased risk of inappropriate development
- B. Increase in internal review costs
- C. Loss of development opportunities
- D. All of the above



Zoning Standards

Section	Topics to Address
Definitions	Define technologies & terms
Applicability	Primary vs. accessory use
Dimensional Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Height• Size• Setbacks• Lot coverage
Design Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Signage• Disconnect• Screening• Fencing

Zoning Standards: Small Solar

Typical Requirements:

- Permitted as accessory use
- Minimize visibility if feasible
- Requirements:
 - District height
 - Lot coverage
 - Setback



Zoning Standards: Large Solar

Typical Requirements:

- Allowed for primary use in limited locations
- Requirements:
 - Height limits
 - Lot coverage
 - Setback
 - Fencing and Enclosure

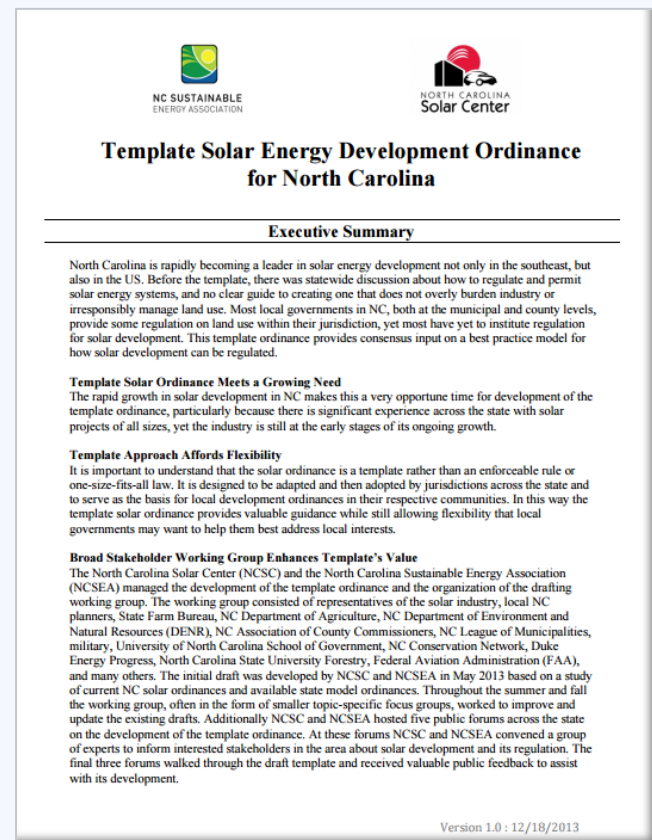


Zoning Standards: Model Ordinances

Resource

NC Clean Energy Technology Center &
NC Sustainable Energy Association

This Model Ordinance is specific to North Carolina and was developed through a collaborative stakeholder process.



Zoning Standards: NC Model Ordinance

Three Solar Energy Systems (SES):

- **Level 1 SES**
 - roof-mounted, ground-mounted up to 50% structure footprint (≤ 1 acre), mounted over parking area, or building-integrated
- **Level 2 SES**
 - Ground-mounted *not* meeting Level 1 and ≤ 0.5 acre for all zoning areas
 - Exceptions:
 - ≤ 10 acres for Commercial / Institutional
 - Any size for Industrial
- **Level 3 SES**
 - All systems not meeting Level 1 or 2 criteria

Zoning Standards: NC Model Ordinance

Three Solar Energy Systems (SES):

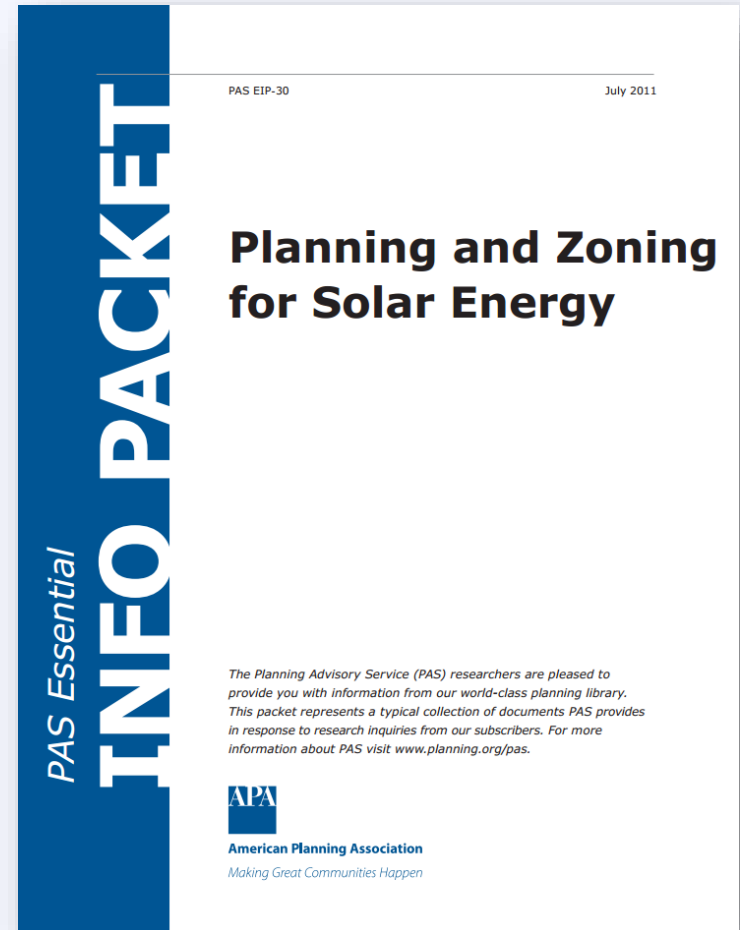
- **Level 1 SES**
 - Permitted Use
 - Not subject to screening requirements
 - Meet zoning district requirements for setbacks, height limits
- **Level 2 & 3 SES**
 - Development Standards (≤ 0.5 acres) or Special Use Permit
 - 20 foot height limitation (ground-mounted)
 - Site plan submitted to Zoning Administrator
 - Buffering and signage requirements
 - Decommissioning plan

Zoning Standards: Model Ordinances

Resource

American Planning Association

This Essential Info Packet provides example development regulations for solar.



Zoning Standards: Model Ordinances

VANCE COUNTY, NC – ZONING ORDINANCES (Amended 2013)

- **Accessory use.** *Permitted:*
 - Must meet setbacks for the zoning category and height limits
- **Primary use ('Solar Farms').** *Conditional use minimum development requirements:*
 1. **Height:** 25' ground-mounted
 2. **Setback:** zoning district setback applies
 3. **Screening and Fencing:** Adequate to prevent trespassing
 4. **Lighting:** Shaded to reflect light away from streets, neighboring properties
 5. **Noise:** 50 decibels max if next to residential area
 6. **Power Transmission Lines:** Underground, to extent possible
 7. **Approved Solar Components:** UL listing
 8. **Compliance with Building and Electrical Codes:** building inspector checks
 9. **Utility Notification:** must demonstrate utility approves interconnection
 10. **Abandonment:** removed within 12 months of cessation of operations

Zoning Standards: Historic

Typical Requirements:

- Prevent permanent loss of “character defining” features
- Possible design requirements
 - Ground mounted
 - Flat roof with setback
 - Panels flush with roof
 - Blend color



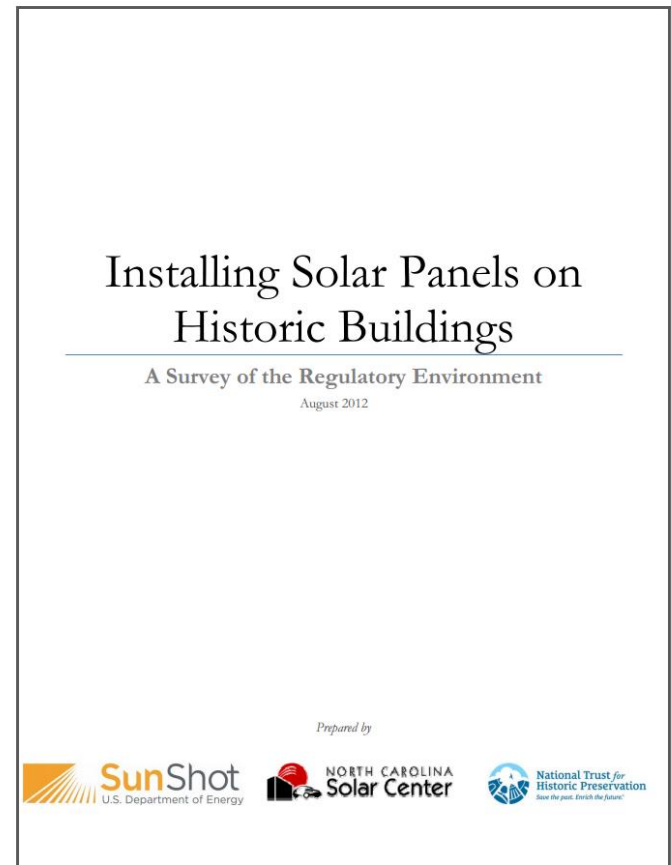
Solar installation on rear of building out of sight from public right of way
Heritage Hill Historic District of Grand Rapids, Michigan
(Source: Kimberly Kooles, NC Solar Center)

Zoning Standards: Historic

Resource

North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center

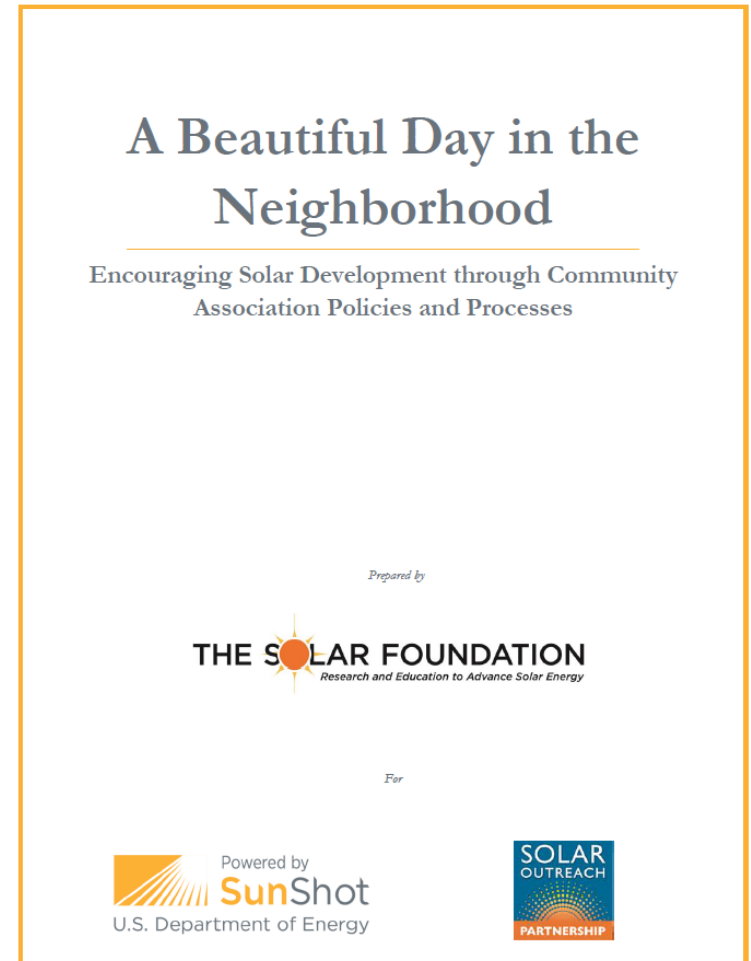
Provides sample design principles and example regulations incorporating historic preservation into sustainability and energy projects.



Private Rules on Residential Solar

Resource The Solar Foundation

Guide for HOAs on solar access law and simple recommendations for reducing barriers to solar in association-governed communities.



Solar in HOAs: Best Practices

- ✓ Provide clear, unambiguous design guidelines
- ✓ Post rules and requirements online
- ✓ Provide a list of all required documents
- ✓ Waive design rules that significantly increase cost or decrease performance
- ✓ Allow exceptions from tree removal rules for solar

Private Rules on Residential Solar

Resource

NC Clean Energy Technology Center

Model solar guidelines for HOAs

MODEL SOLAR GUIDELINES

A Resource for North Carolina Homeowners' Associations to Facilitate Solar Projects

SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS

PURPOSE OF GUIDELINES

Solar energy systems present a sustainable alternative to conventional energy technologies, with the potential to provide homeowners with a significant portion of their energy needs while safeguarding human health and environmental quality and enhancing property values and economic opportunities throughout the community. While [ASSOCIATION NAME] recognizes these benefits, it is important that these systems are installed in a manner that respects legitimate competing community interests. For purposes of these design guidelines, the phrase "solar energy system" includes both photovoltaic and solar heating and/or cooling technologies. For information on the benefits of solar, refer to the companion brochure *The Benefits of Going Solar: A Resource for North Carolina Homeowners' Associations* for additional information.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All solar energy systems require ARC (architectural review committee or similar reviewing group in a HOA) approval. The following documents must be included along with the required application or request form:

- Plans showing visibility of the system from areas open to common or public access (e.g., public streets, neighboring lots, or association properties or common areas);
- A drawing (with dimensions) showing the proposed location of the system and how the equipment will be mounted, as well as a description of any visible auxiliary equipment, and;
- Photographs or manufacturer literature for all proposed system components including specifications, color, materials, etc.

Following submission of these materials, the ARC will either approve, request additional materials, recommend changes, or deny the system design and location as proposed or, if feasible, determine an alternate location for the system. If the ARC fails to render a decision on the proposed system design and location within thirty (30) days after the submission of all required application materials, approval will be automatically granted.

SYSTEM DESIGN AND PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS

To the maximum extent possible, a roof-mounted solar energy system shall be installed so as to minimize its exposure when viewed from areas open to common or public access (e.g., public streets, neighboring lots, or association properties or common areas). Alternatively, the system may be ground- or pole-mounted, provided such a system does not extend above the fence line and is screened from view from areas open to common or public access.

Solar panels on front-facing or side-facing roof surfaces visible from areas open to common or public access must be mounted in the plane of the roof surface minimizing stand-off distance from roof. Panels in other locations may be angled to achieve optimum solar gain provided the top edge of the panel does not extend above the roof peak. All panels must be located entirely within a boundary defined by the roof eaves and peak. Visibility of the underside of the panels shall be minimized from areas open to common or public access.

Update Building Code

Solar Ready Construction:

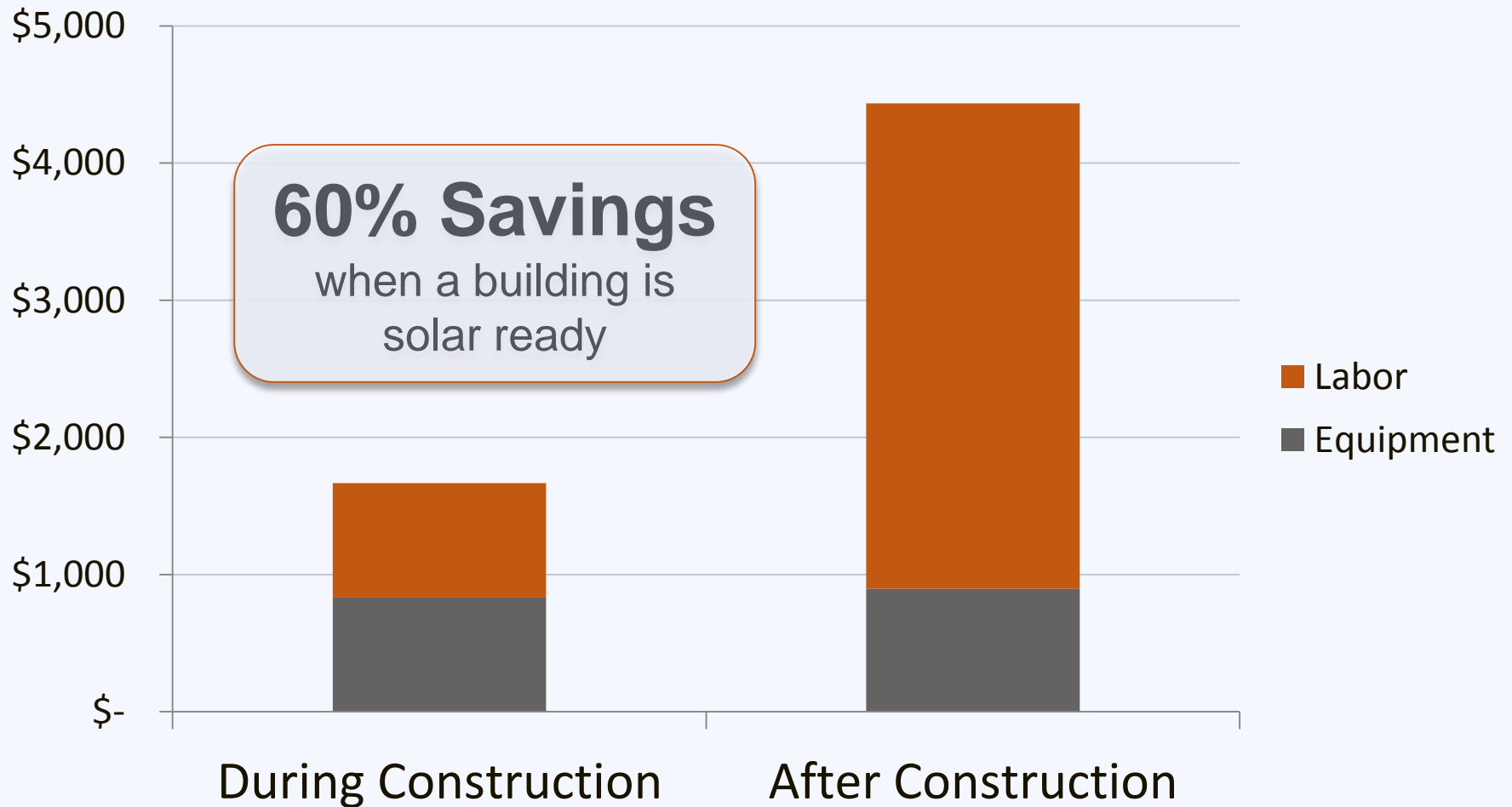
Preparing a building for solar at the outset can help make future solar installations easier and more cost effective.

Update Building Code

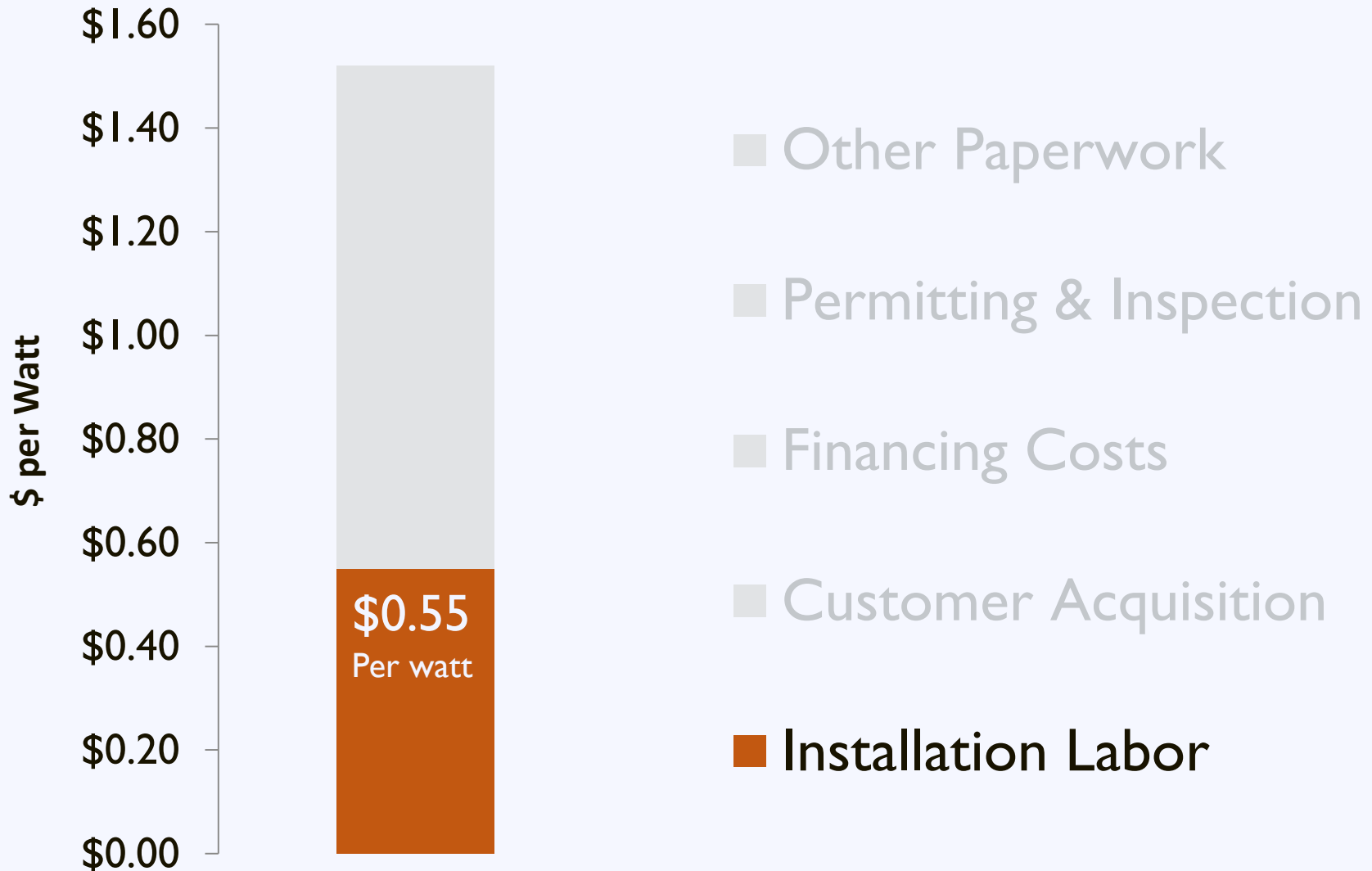
Require builders to:

- ✓ Minimize rooftop equipment
- ✓ Plan for structure orientation to avoid shading
- ✓ Install a roof that will support the load of a solar array
- ✓ Record roof specifications on drawings
- ✓ Plan for wiring and inverter placement

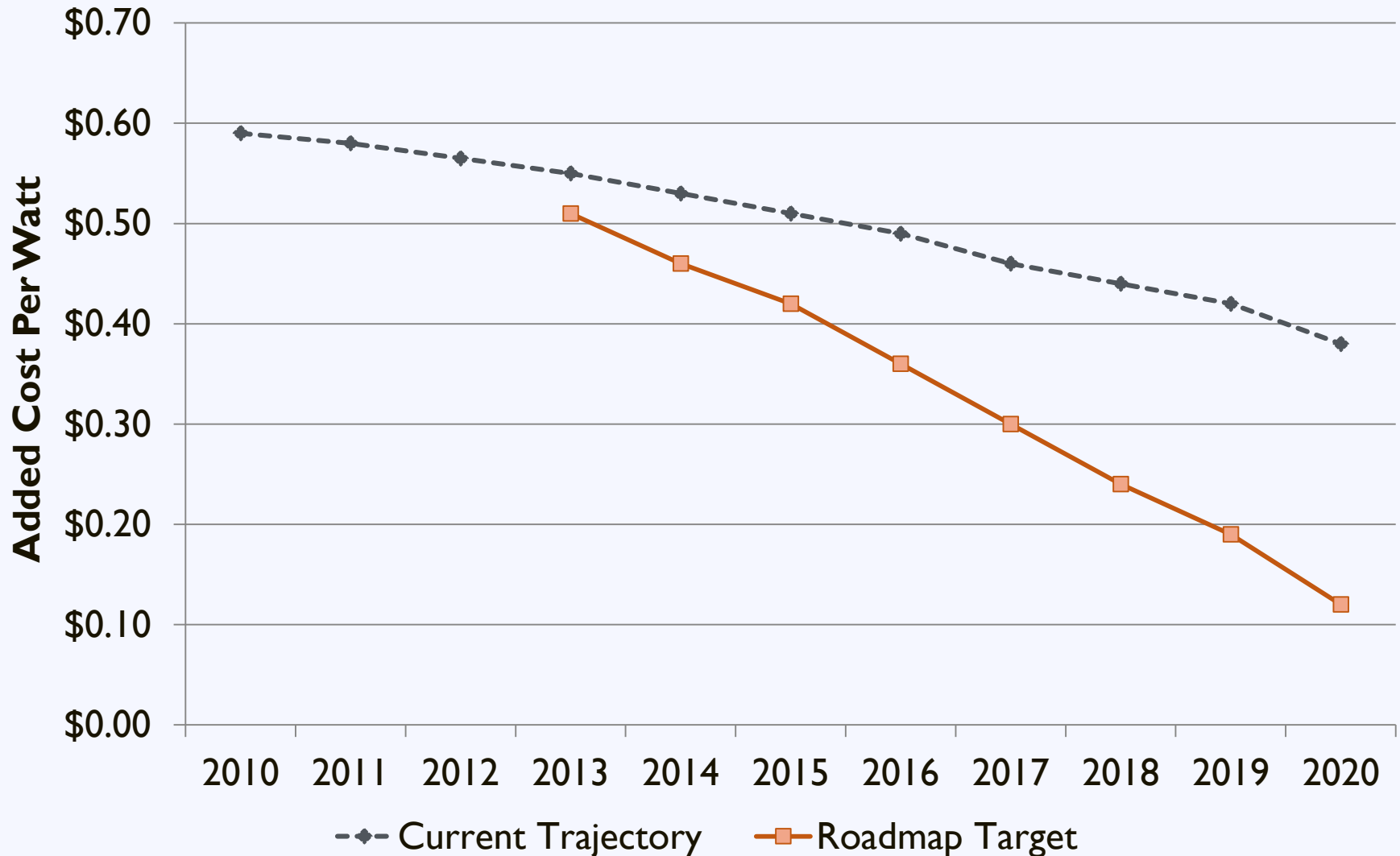
Update Building Code



Installation Soft Costs



Installation Labor Roadmap



Effective Local Solar Policy

Local Solar
Policy

Planning for
Solar

Solar in
Development
Regulation

Effective Solar
Permitting
Process

Solar Market
Development
Tools

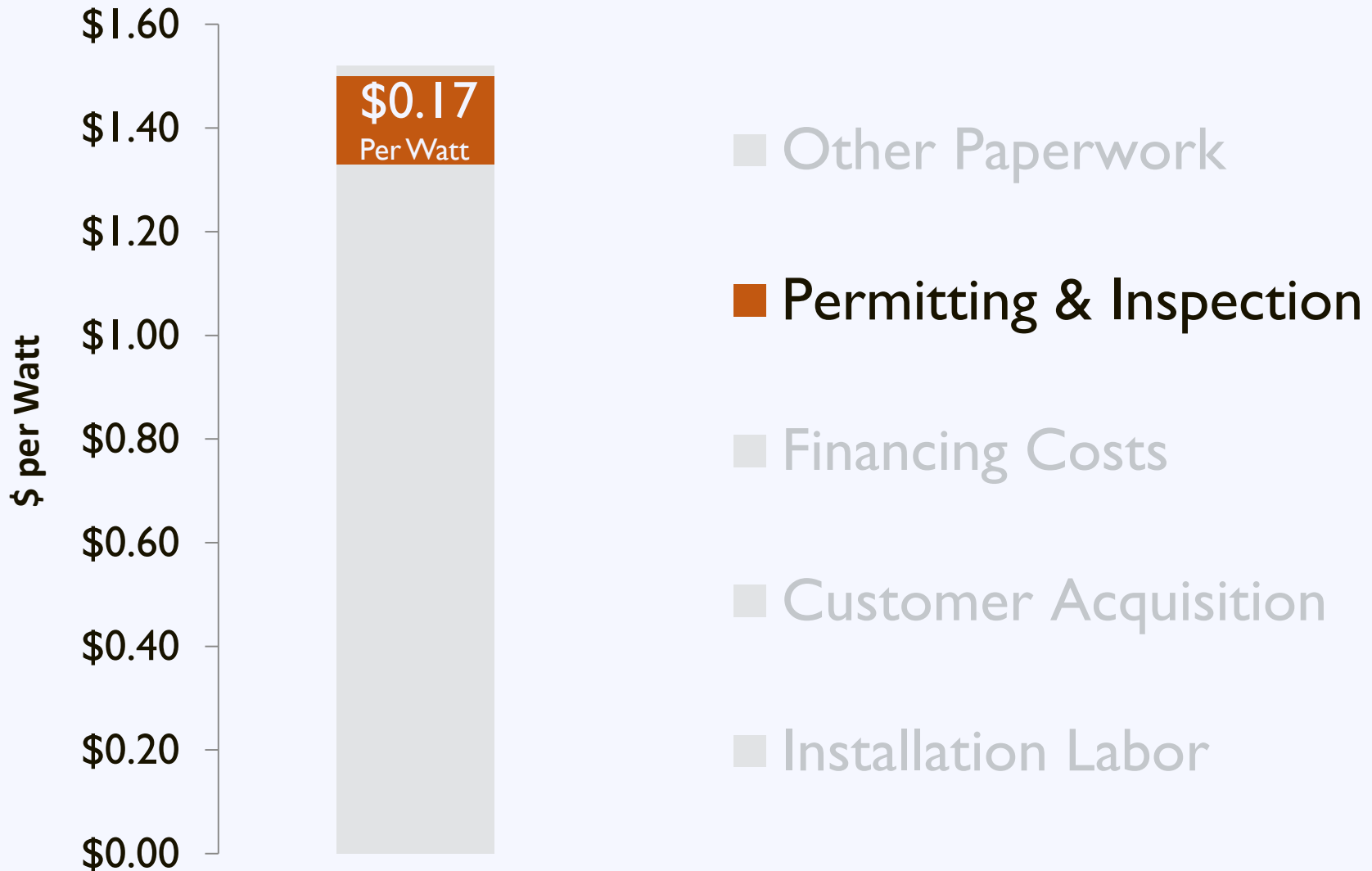
Challenge: Inconsistency

18,000+ local jurisdictions
with unique zoning and permitting requirements

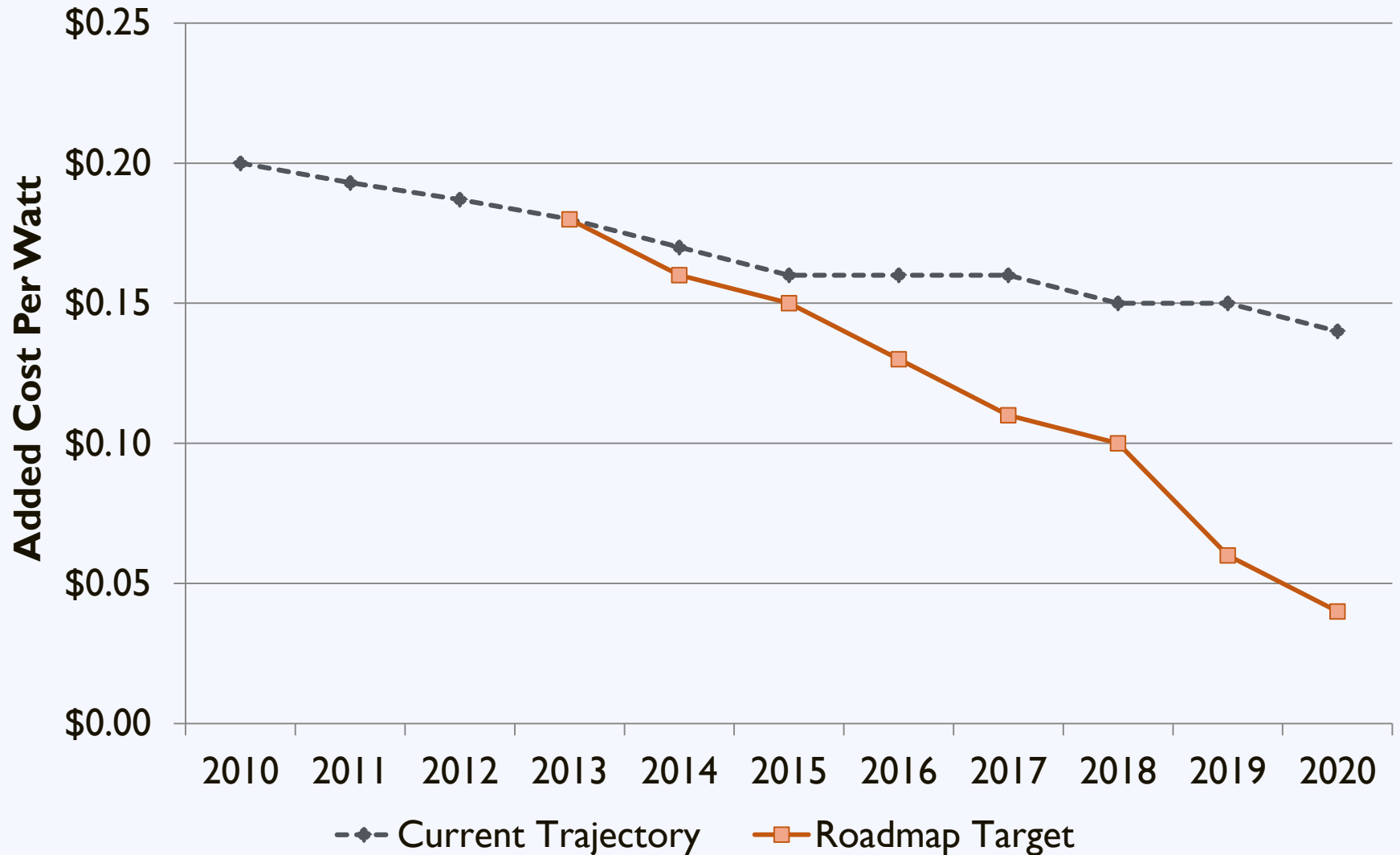
Consumer Challenges



Regulatory Barriers



Planning & Permitting Roadmap



Identifying Challenges

Solar Developer Perspective:

- Unclear or inconsistent requirements
- Lengthy application review process, even for small projects
- High or inconsistent fees
- Multiple inspections and long inspection appointment windows
- Lack of familiarity with solar

Added together, these cost a lot of time and money!

Identifying Challenges

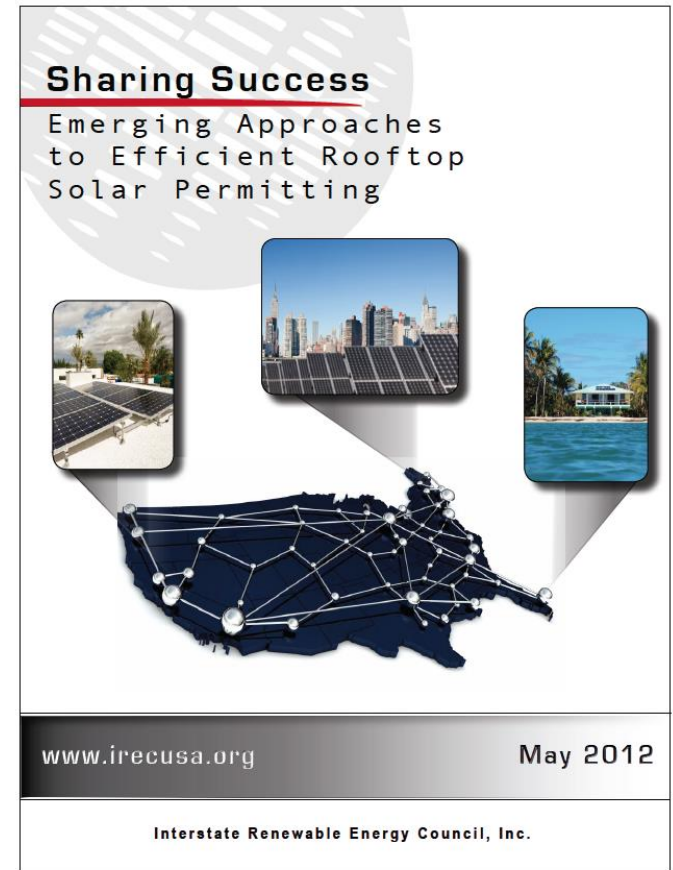
Local Government Perspective:

- Solar permitting is a small portion of everything else local governments do
- Many local governments are resource-constrained
- Inexperienced installers submit incomplete applications
- Installations do not match design drawings

Importance of balancing government needs and demands with encouraging solar energy and economic development

Implementing Improvements

- **Responsibility** for change should be shared between permitting authorities and the solar industry.
- Changes to permitting policies should **benefit both** local governments and solar installers (as well as their customers).



Expedited Permitting

Solar Permitting Best Practices:

- ✓ Post Requirements Online
- ✓ Implement an Expedited Permit Process
- ✓ Enable Online Permit Processing
- ✓ Ensure a Fast Turn Around Time

Expedited Permitting

Solar Permitting Best Practices:

- ✓ Collect Reasonable Permitting Fees
- ✓ No Community-Specific Licenses
- ✓ Narrow Inspection Appointment Windows
- ✓ Eliminate Excessive Inspections
- ✓ Train Permitting Staff in Solar

Permitting: Best Practices

Resource Interstate Renewable Energy Council

Outlines leading best practices in residential solar permitting and provides examples of implementation.

Simplifying the Solar Permitting Process Residential Solar Permitting Best Practices Explained

To aid communities in designing effective and efficient solar permitting processes, the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Inc. (IREC) and The Vote Solar Initiative have identified nine [Residential Solar Permitting Best Practices](#). This document provides additional context for these Best Practices and relevant resources to help communities implement them. For more detail on the examples of where the Best Practices listed below have been implemented as well as additional resources see [Sharing Success: Emerging Approaches to Efficient Rooftop Solar Permitting](#).

1. Post Requirements Online

What does this mean? The municipality should have a website that offers a one-stop location for residents, businesses and installers to get all necessary information on obtaining a solar permit in that municipality or region. In particular, the website should include a clear description of the requirements and process for getting a solar permit, including any necessary forms, and information on fees and inspections. The website could also contain checklists for the application and inspection requirements for solar.

Who is already doing it?

Solar One Stop (Pima County and City of Tucson, Arizona), solaronestopaz.org

San Jose, CA, www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=1505

Berkeley, CA, www.cityofberkeley.info/solarpermitguide

Why do it? Making these resources easily accessible to solar installers can reduce the number of questions that municipal staff have to answer and can improve the efficiency of the permitting process for all involved. In addition, it can help to increase the quality of applications submitted, which in turn decreases the time required for review. It also decreases the frustrating back-and-forth that installers and municipal staff may otherwise experience. Providing these resources can be particularly helpful for new installers or those that are new to that specific municipality. If a municipality has unique or unusual requirements, or has recently modified their process or requirements, the website is a good way for the municipality to identify these differences clearly to installers and residents.

Additional Resources

IREC Solar Permitting Checklists and Guidance Documents, www.irecausa.org/wp-content/uploads/permitting-handout6-1.pdf

IREC Inspection Checklist (coming soon)



Model Permitting Process

Resource Solar America Board for Codes & Standards

Expedited Permitting:

- Simplifies requirements for PV applications
- Facilitates efficient review of content
- Minimize need for detailed studies and unnecessary delays

Solar America Board for Codes and Standards
Collaborate • Contribute • Transform

ABOUT US | CODES & STANDARDS | CURRENT ISSUES

Codes & Standards

The Solar America Board for Codes and Standards (Solar ABCs) collaborates and enhances the practice of developing, implementing, and disseminating solar codes and standards. The Solar ABCs provides formal coordination in the planning and revision of separate, though interrelated, solar codes and standards. We also provide access for stakeholders to participate with members of standards making bodies through working groups and research activities to set national priorities on technical issues. The Solar ABCs is a centralized repository for collection and dissemination of documents, regulations, and technical materials related to solar codes and standards.

The Solar ABCs creates a centralized home to facilitate the PV market transformation.

- Creating a forum that fosters generating consensus "best practices" materials
- Answering code-related questions (technical or statutory in nature)
- Providing feedback on important related issues to DOE and government agencies.

Learn more about solar codes and standards development:

The below organizations all publish codes and standards for PV products and each organization has its own process to develop and publish standards.

- International Code Council
- International Electrotechnical Commission
- IEEE
- Underwriters Laboratories

I-I. Example Design Criteria:

- Size < 10-15 kW
- Code compliant
- Weight < 5 lb / sqft
- 4 strings or less

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Your Community and Next Steps

Effective Local Solar Policy

Local Solar Policy

Planning
Solar

Understanding solar financing
Expanding financing options
Addressing customer acquisition

Effective Solar
Permitting
Process

Solar Market
Development
Tools

The Solar Equation

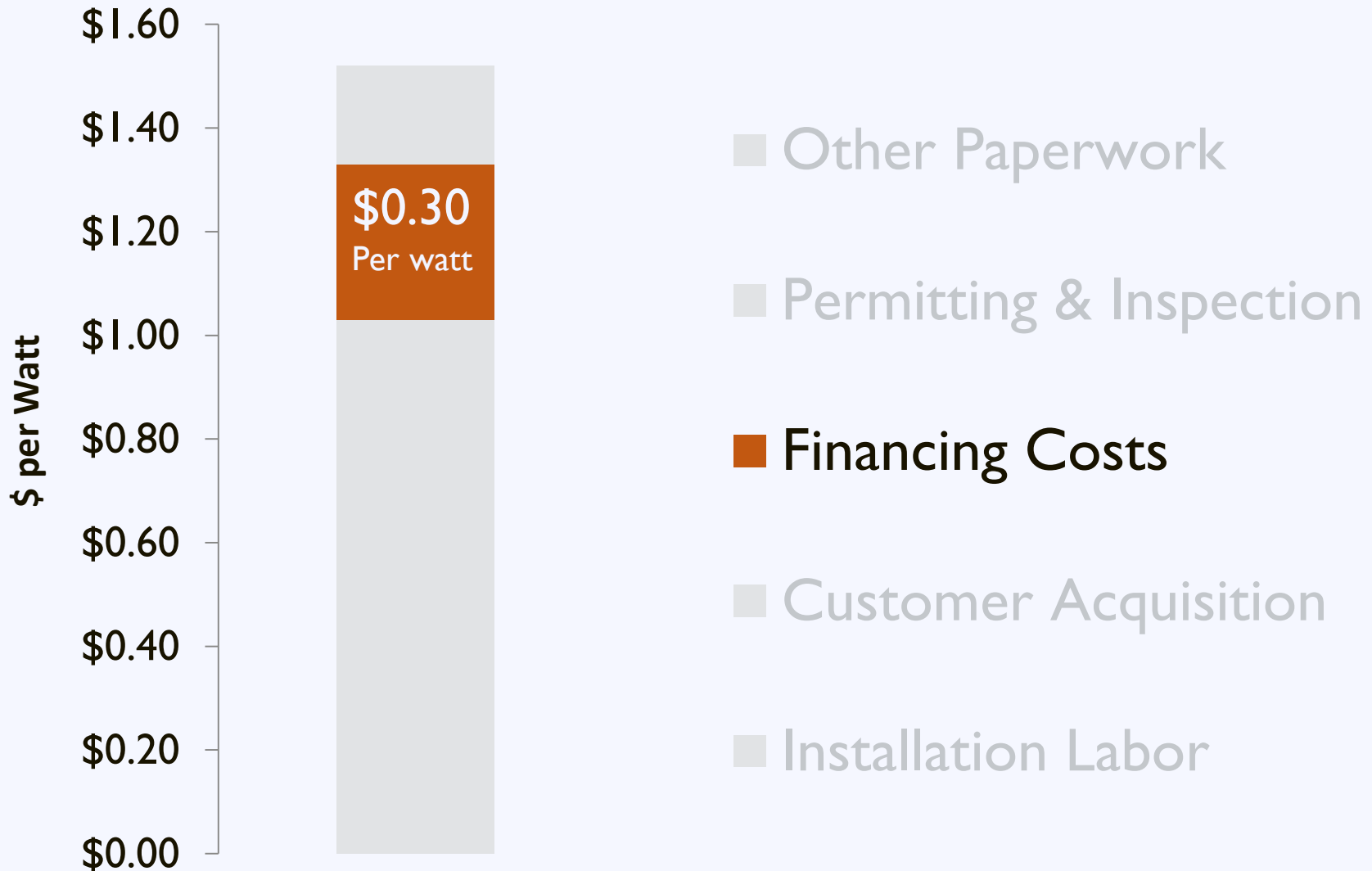
Cost

- + Installed Cost
- + Maintenance
- Direct Incentive

Benefit

- + Avoided Energy Cost
- + Excess Generation
- + Performance Incentive

Financing Costs



Ownership Options for Solar

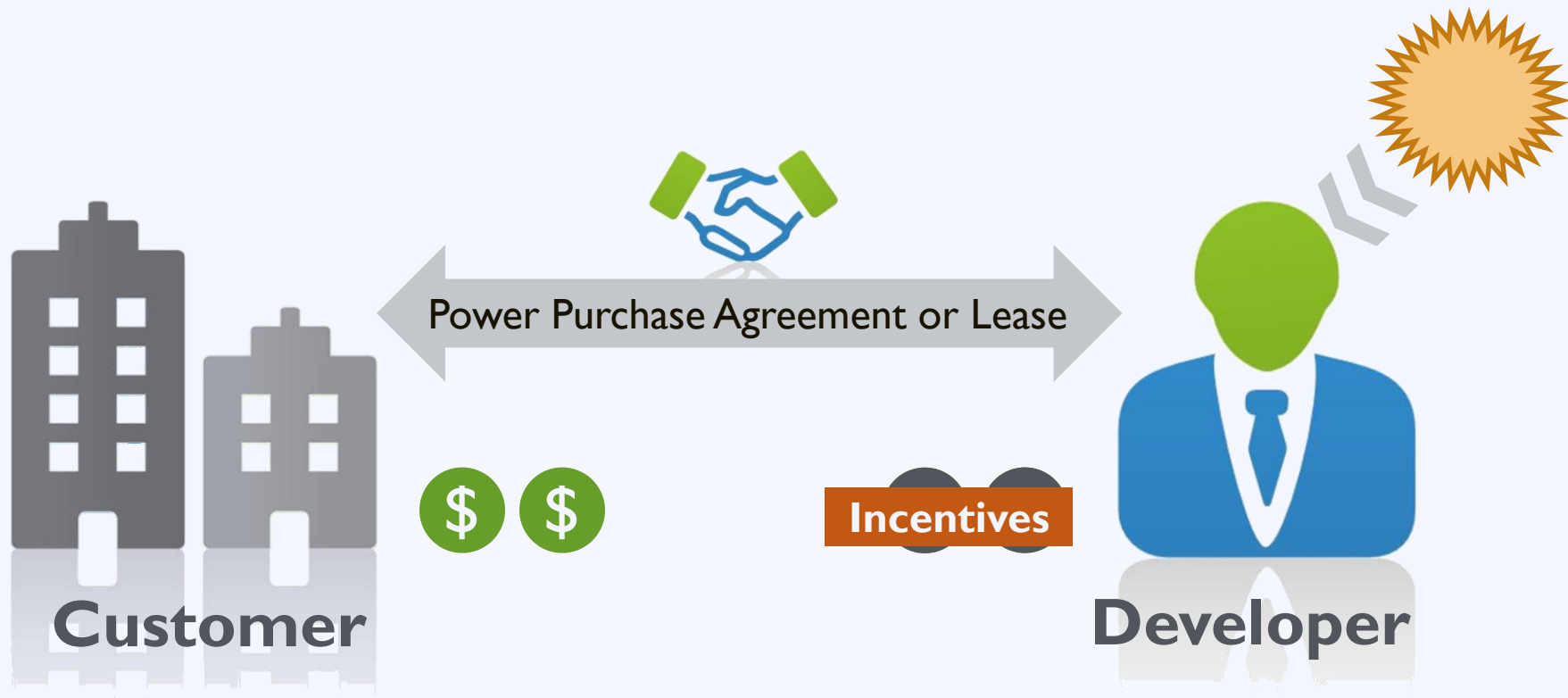
Direct
Ownership

Third-Party
Ownership

Direct Ownership



Third Party Ownership



Third Party Ownership

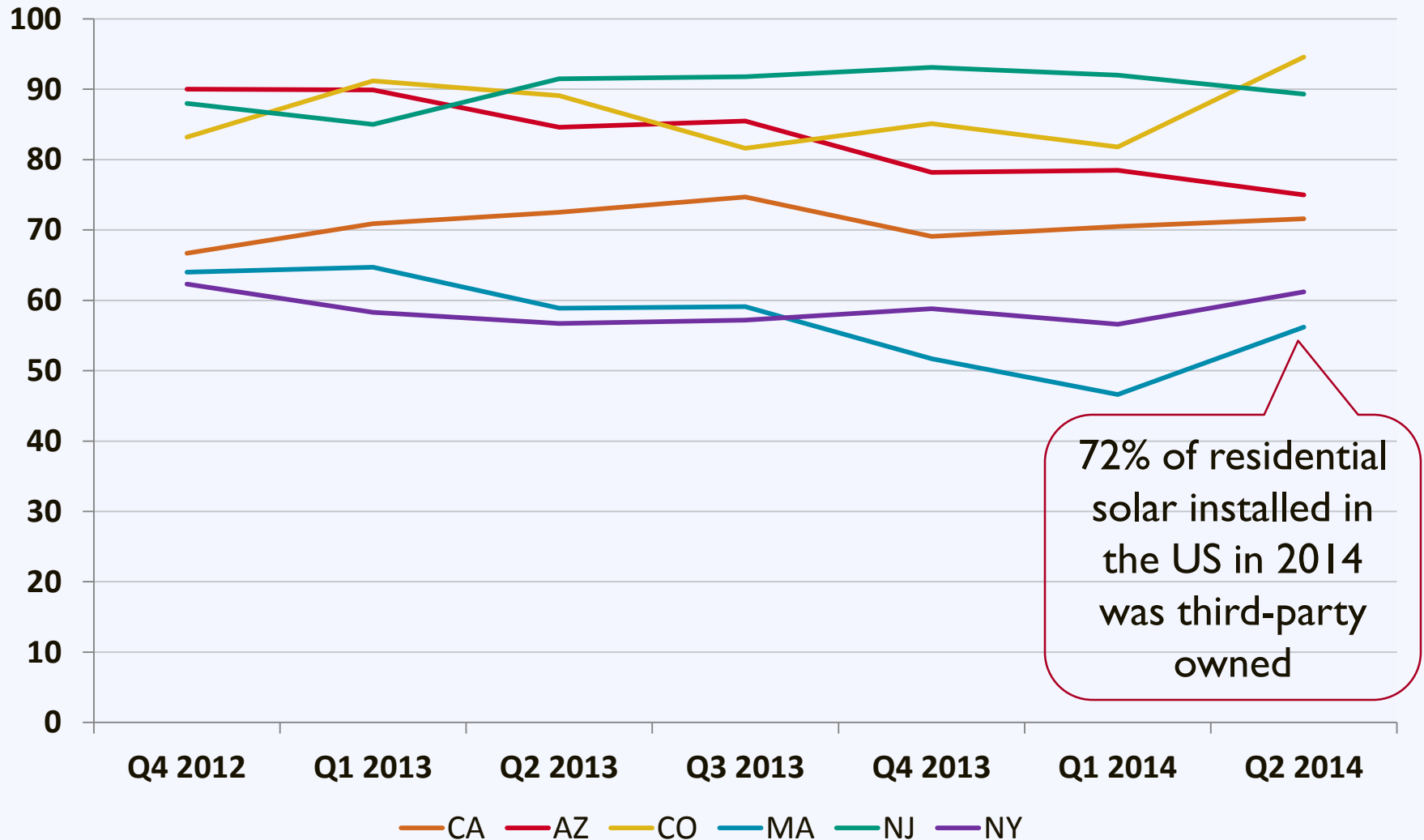
Benefits

- No upfront cost
- No O&M costs
- Low risk
- Predictable payments

Drawbacks

- Investor needs higher ROI
- PPAs not currently available in North Carolina

Third Party Ownership



72% of residential solar installed in the US in 2014 was third-party owned

Ownership Options for Solar

Direct
Ownership

Third-Party
Ownership

Expand direct ownership
options by engaging local
leaders

Engage Local Lenders

Fewer than **5%**

of the

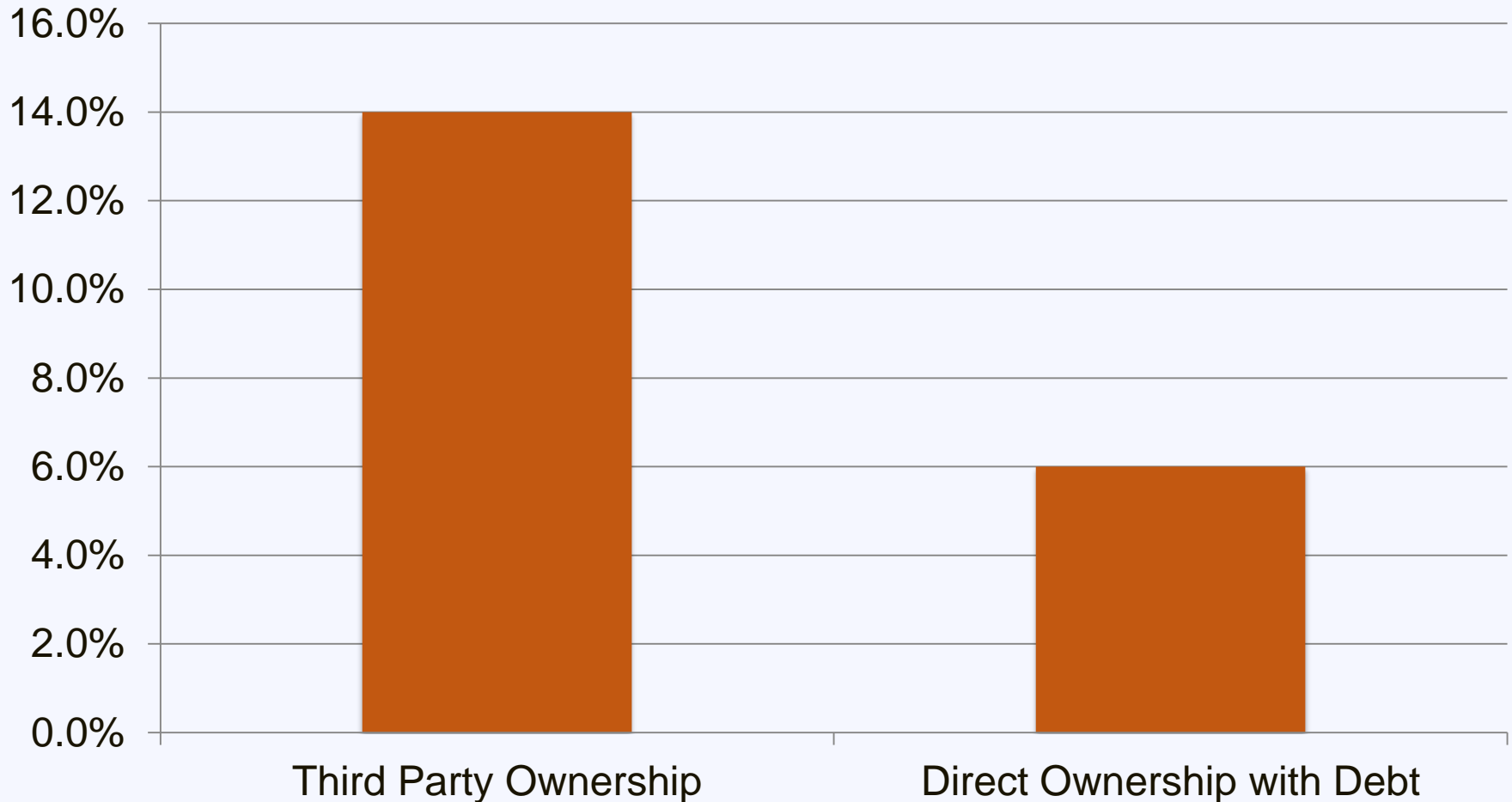
6,500 banks in the US

are

actively financing solar PV projects

Third Party Ownership: Cost

Weighted Average Cost of Capital

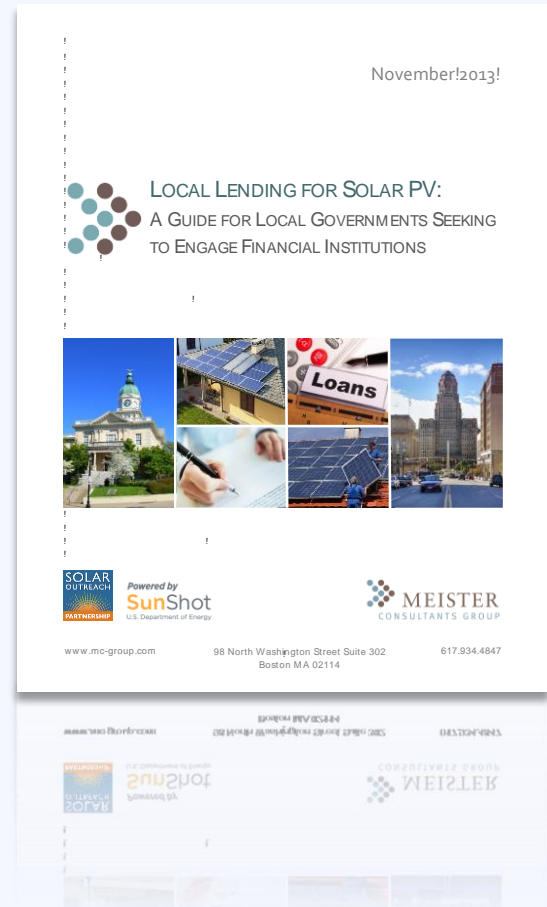


Engage Local Lenders: Resources

Resource Local Lending for Solar PV

A guide for local governments seeking to engage financial institutions

www.solaroutreach.org



Community Shared Solar



Community solar projects provide renters and homeowners without a feasible project the opportunity to invest in solar

Community Shared Solar

Program Models:

- Utility Model
- Special Purpose Entity Model
- Nonprofit Model



Community Shared Solar

Benefits

- Accessible for everyone
- Economies of scale

Drawbacks

- Administrative challenge
- Tax credit issues
- Securities compliance

Community Solar: North Carolina

- Policy Barriers:
 - Net metering limited to a single site; no “aggregate/virtual net metering”
 - No third-party PPAs

- Opportunities:
 - Work with local utility to develop community solar program (“utility model”)
 - Special-purpose entity model- sell power to utility

Customer Acquisition



Customer Acquisition

5% of homeowners that request a quote choose to install solar.

Customer Acquisition

Barriers

- High upfront cost
- Complexity
- Customer inertia



Online Solar Marketplaces

- Address customer acquisition barriers by providing information quickly and easily, saving both customers and installers time and money
- Match interested customers with vetted local installers
- Allow residential customers to obtain solar quotes from multiple companies
- Can include financing options such as loans
- Often provide additional information and guidance

Online Solar Marketplaces



COMPARE SOLAR PRICES ONLINE & SAVE

energysage.com/nccleantech



pureenergies.com/us



Geostellar.com

The Solarize Program

Group purchasing for residential solar PV



The Solarize Program

Barriers

High upfront cost



Solutions

Group purchase

Complexity



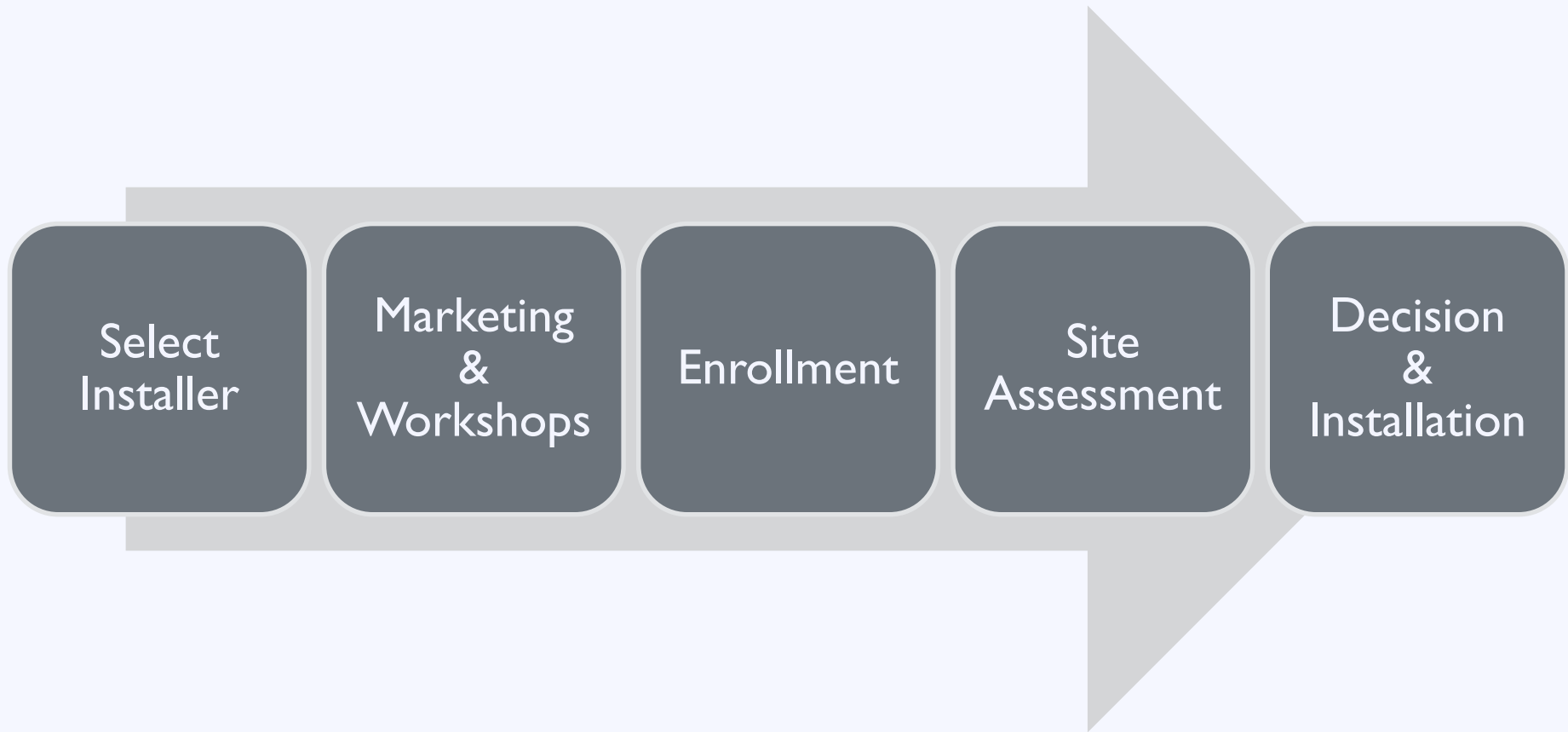
Community outreach

Customer inertia



Limited-time offer

Solarize: Process



Solarize: Lasting Impact

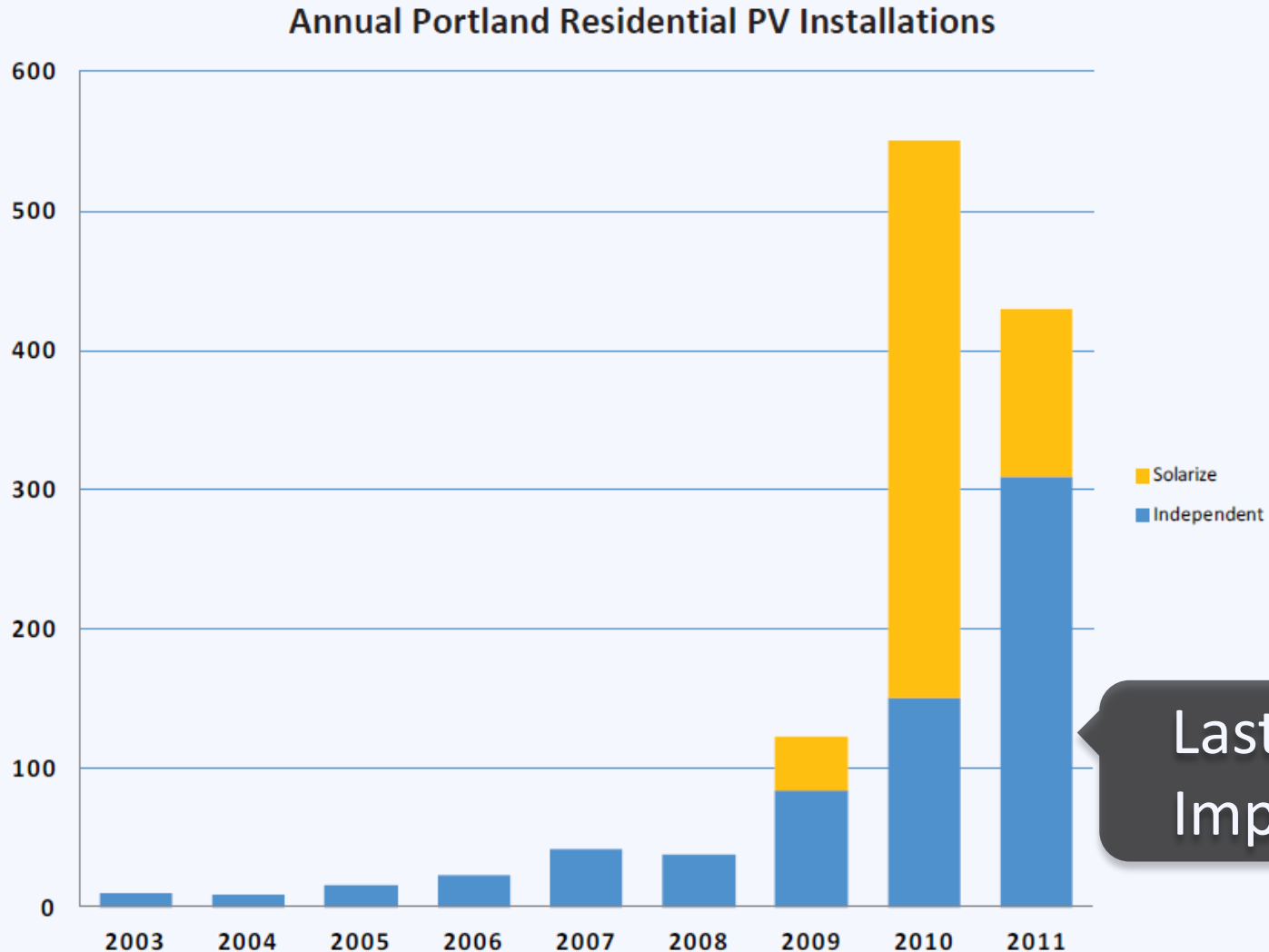
A household is

0.78% more likely to adopt solar

for

each additional installation in their zip code

Solarize: Lasting Impact



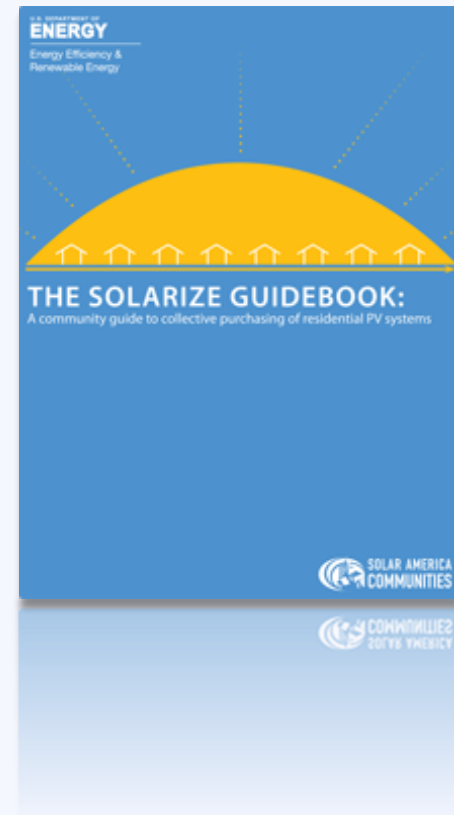
Lasting Impact

Solarize: Resources

Resource The Solarize Guidebook

A roadmap for project planners and solar advocates who want to create their own successful Solarize campaigns.

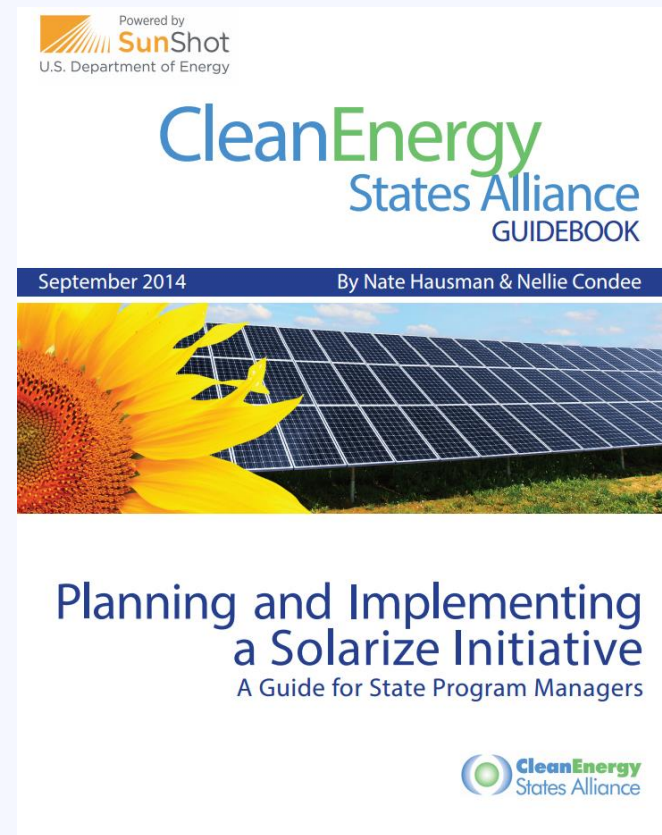
www.nrel.gov



Solarize: Resources

Resource Planning and Implementing a Solarize Initiative

Presents two successful state-driven Solarize programs (Solarize Mass and Solarize Connecticut) to provide best practices to stakeholders interested in replicating these successes.



Agenda

- 10:20 – 10:50 Putting Solar Energy on the Local Policy Agenda
- 10:50 – 11:20 State of the Local Solar Market
- 11:20 – 11:50 Federal, State, and Utility Policy Drivers
- 11:50 – 12:15 *Break and Grab Lunch*
- 12:15 – 12:50 Planning for Solar: Getting Solar Ready
- 12:50 – 1:25 Solar Market Development Tools
- 1:25 – 1:35** *Break*
- 1:35 – 2:20 Local Speakers
- 2:20 – 3:00 Developing and Solar Policy Implementation Plan for

Your Community and Next Steps

Agenda

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Your Community and Next Steps

Local Speaker

Community Solar Services

Nelson Mullins[®]
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP

Larry Ostema

Solar Powering Our Community



Mission Statement

Mission Statement – The City Council reaffirmed its mission statement (December 2009).

"We are a 21st Century City of Innovation focusing on environmental, cultural and economic sustainability."

We conserve and protect our environmental resources through best practices and cutting edge conservation and stewardship, land use, infrastructure and building technologies.

We welcome growth and diversity through policies and programs that will protect, preserve and enhance Raleigh's existing neighborhoods, natural amenities, rich history, and cultural and human resources for future generations.

We lead to develop an improved neighborhood quality of life and standard of living for all our citizens.

We work with our universities, colleges, citizens and regional partners to promote emerging technologies, create new job opportunities and cultivate local businesses and entrepreneurs.

We recruit and train a 21st Century staff with the knowledge and skill sets to carry out this mission, through transparent civic engagement and providing the very best customer service to our current citizens in the most efficient and cost-effective manner."

"We are a 21st Century City of Innovation focusing on environmental, cultural and economic sustainability."

"We work with our universities, colleges, citizens and regional partners to promote emerging technologies, create new job opportunities and cultivate local businesses and entrepreneurs."

Raleigh's Commitment to Sustainability

Environmental
Advisory Board

Green House
Gas Inventory

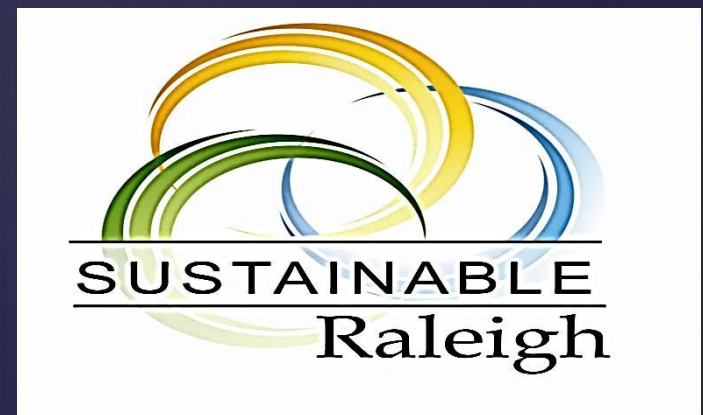
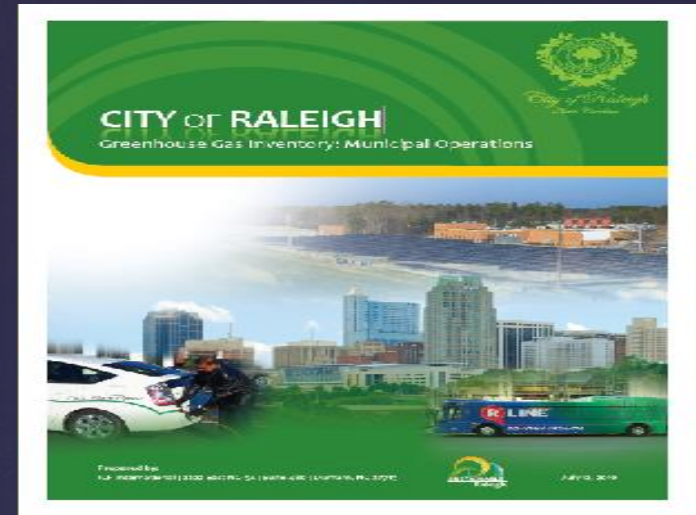


US Mayors
Climate
Protection
Agreement

Office of
Sustainability

Background

- Studied sources of GHG
 - electricity, fuels, solid waste treatment
 - wastewater treatment,
 - refrigeration and AC
 - and horses
- Largest source was production/consumption of electricity
- 151,000 Metric tons of CO₂



Renewable Energy Technology to Date

Solar PV

Solar
Thermal

Geothermal



Methane Gas
Recovery

Biofuels

Solar Thermal



Solar Thermal

Fire Stations

- 5 Fire Stations
- Not utilized at much as anticipated
- Saving \$300-\$500 a year

City of Raleigh Municipal Building

- Been installed since 1985

Buffalo Road Aquatics Center

- help reduce the cost of heating of the pool



Biofuels



© María Llorens

Neuse River Water Treatment Plant

Background:

- Started in April 2010 just to determine how much seed oil could be harvested
- 27.4 acres of sunflowers were planted
- Only 28 man hours were accrued by the City's staff for the planting, spraying and harvesting
- Seed delivered to a plant in Virginia to be crushed

Results:

1,074 Bushels which equates to **29,700** pounds of sunflower seed
After crushing and conversion **1,258** gallons of sunflower seed biodiesel fuel. This equals **46** gallons of biofuel per acre.

Next Steps:

- Grant from NC Biofuels Center to crush on site
- Expand the acreage of the crop

Solar PV Projects



City Owned



Annie Louise
Wilkerson
Nature
Preserve
- 3 kW



Wilders Grove
Solid Waste
Services
- 75 kW



Brentwood
Operations Facility
- 30 kW

TOTALS

- 108 kW
- Producing 118,800 kWh's Annually
- Offsetting 82 Metric Tons of CO₂.

3rd Party Contractual Agreements



EM Johnson
Water Treatment
Plant

- 250 kW



Neuse River Waste
Water Treatment
Plant

- 1300 kW = 1.3 MW



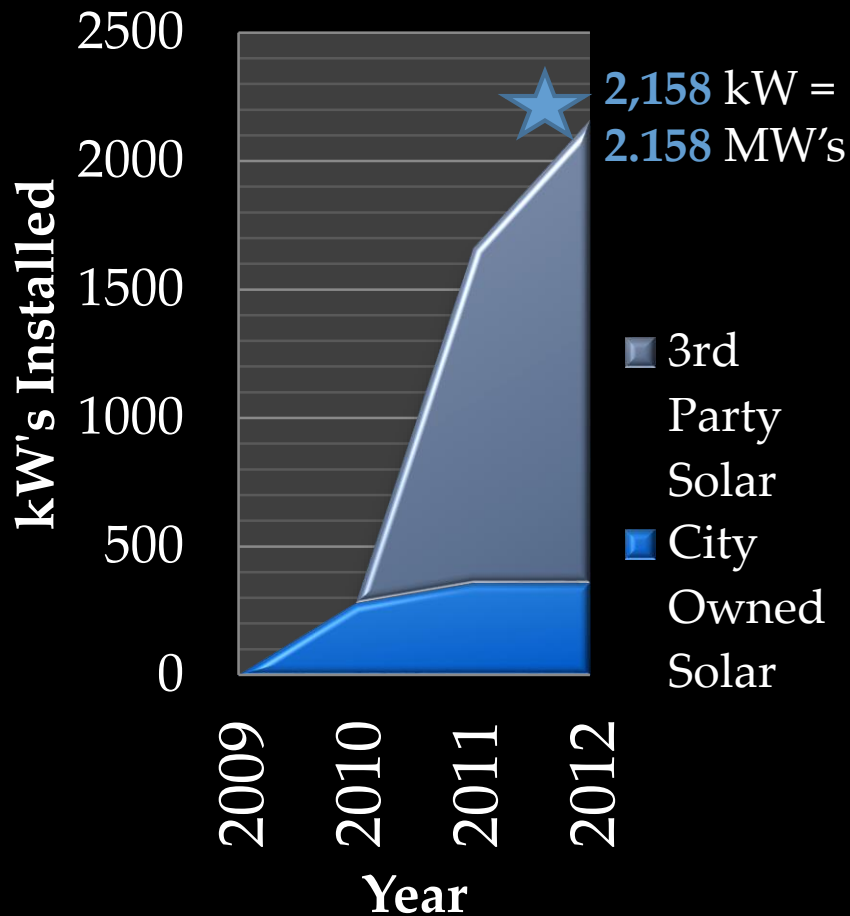
Raleigh
Convention
Center

- 500 kW

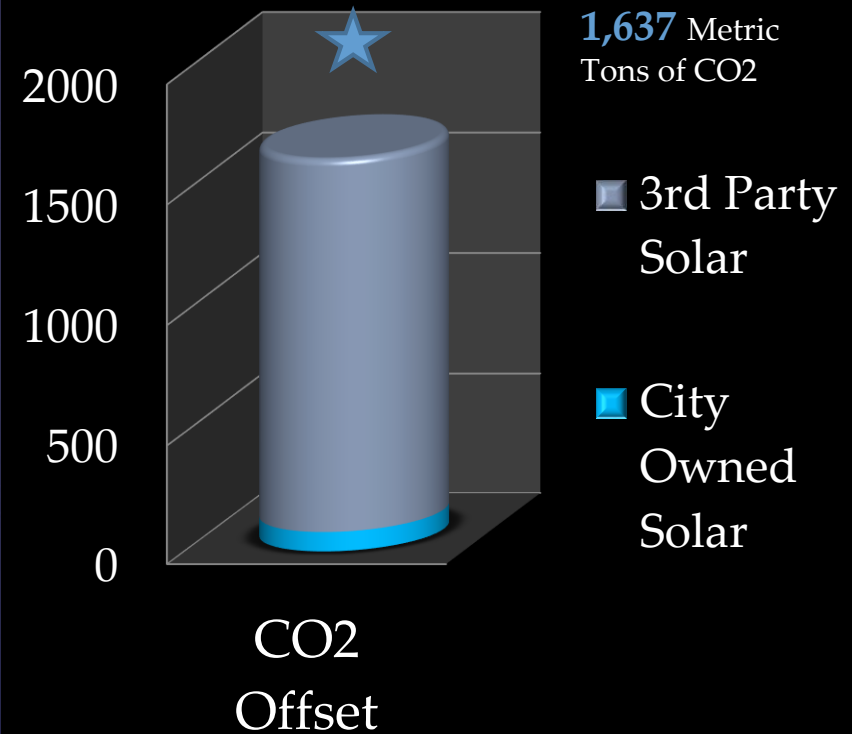
TOTALS

- 2,050 kW's = 2.05 MW
- Produces 2,255,000 kWh's Annually
- Offsetting 1,555 Metric Tons of CO2 Annually

Total Amount of Solar PV Installed



Total Amount of CO2 Offset From Solar PV



Other Solar Projects

Solar LED Lighting



- Marsh Creek Operations Center
- Campbell University Parking
- Raleigh Convention Center Amphitheater
- Brentwood Road Operations Center
- Wilkerson Park

Solar EV Charging Station



- Pilot Project
- Test ability of Solar PV to charge an electric vehicle
- City only purchased battery technology
- 2 charging stations both equipped with 120 and 240 volt chargers

Big Belly Solar Trash Cans



- 20 dual stations 3 single stations and expecting at least 10 more
- Pilot Project
- Initial projections of \$38,000 (for just the 20) in annual savings

Solar Bus Stations



- 3kw
- 3 bus charging stations
- Power the lights and signs for bus stop

Benefits

- lease of underutilized property
- increased public awareness of renewable energy technology
- opportunity to receive private sector benefits for the public sector
- revenue stream for City owned facilities offsetting operational costs
- potential long term revenue stream through 3rd party agreements
- future regulatory resources related to CO2 emissions
- economic development tool encouraging new business opportunities



Lessons Learned

Property Considerations

- ⌘ Current Survey
- ⌘ Encumbrances? Title Exceptions and previous leases
- ⌘ Any debt load, current financing on the property
 - ⌘ Solar Investors typically request a Subordination, Non-disturbance and Attornment (SNDA)

Relevance of the Lease

- ⌘ Leasable part of a city-owned facility?
- ⌘ Or is it a separate property?

Zoning & Surrounding Property Ownership

- ⌘ Relevant for issues regarding **shading** of the solar array
- ⌘ Be sure you have the appropriate approvals

Tax Credit Requirements

- ⌘ The Utility typically requires an actual operation of 20 years in order to receive credits

Legal Documents

⌘ Lease

- ⌘ Terms – Annual or deferred

- ⌘ **Options to Purchase** – The City has the option to purchase system after 7, 10, 15 years

⌘ License (the right to install)

⌘ SNDA (recorded after the above are signed)

⌘ Tri-party agreement



NC SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY ASSOCIATION



NORTH CAROLINA
Solar Center





Questions?





Rob Pinder

Executive Director,
NextClimate

Project Lead,
Solarize Carrboro
rob.pinder@solarizenc.org

Organized by



In collaboration with
Town of Carrboro
NC Clean Tech Center
SolarOps

**What are the
barriers to
more solar
installations?**

COST

COMPLEXITY

CONSUMER INERTIA

What we did

Sent out a request for proposals

Required three elements:

- Turn-key solution

- Tiered pricing

- Enrollment deadline

After extensive vetting, we selected



Outreach approach: word of mouth

Make it easy to share

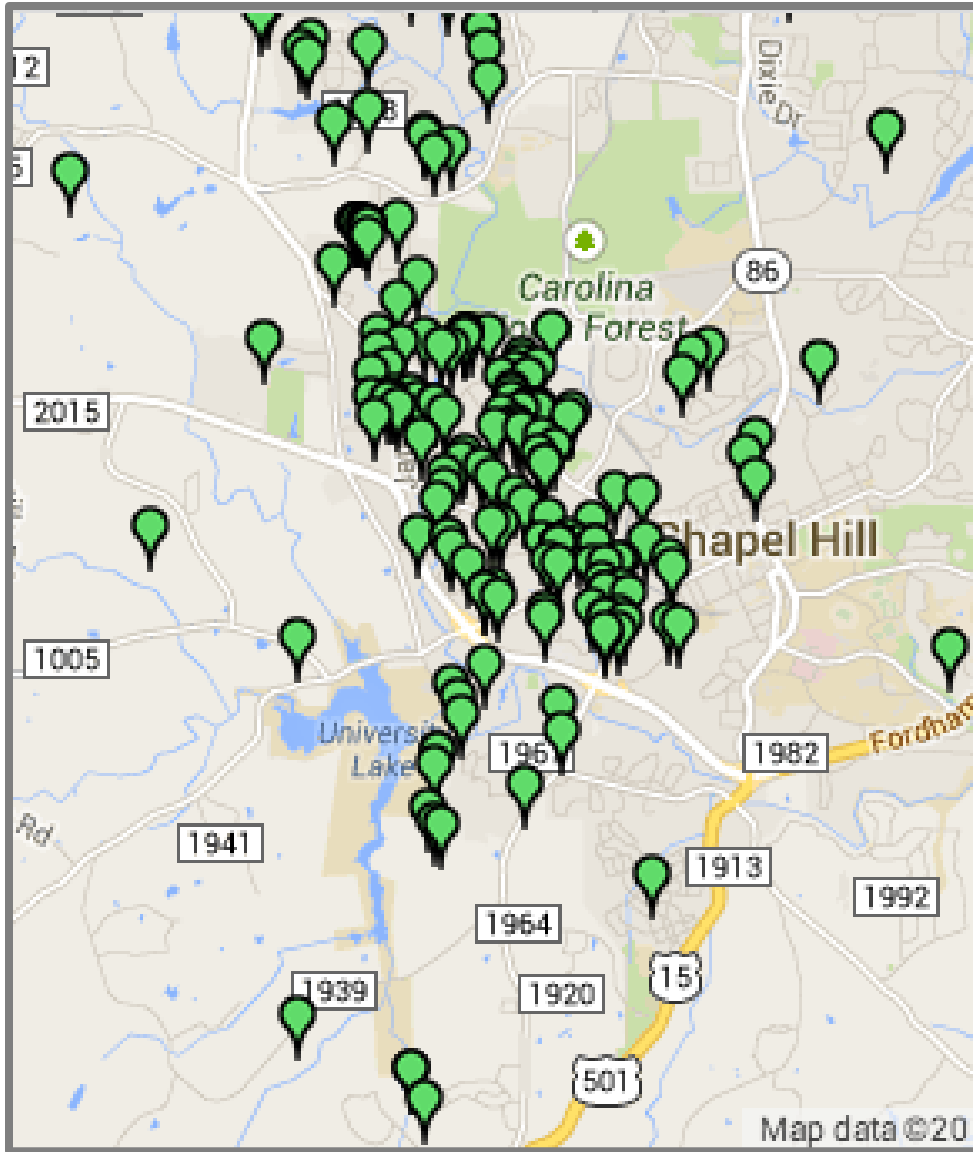
Personalized emails to neighbors

Social media

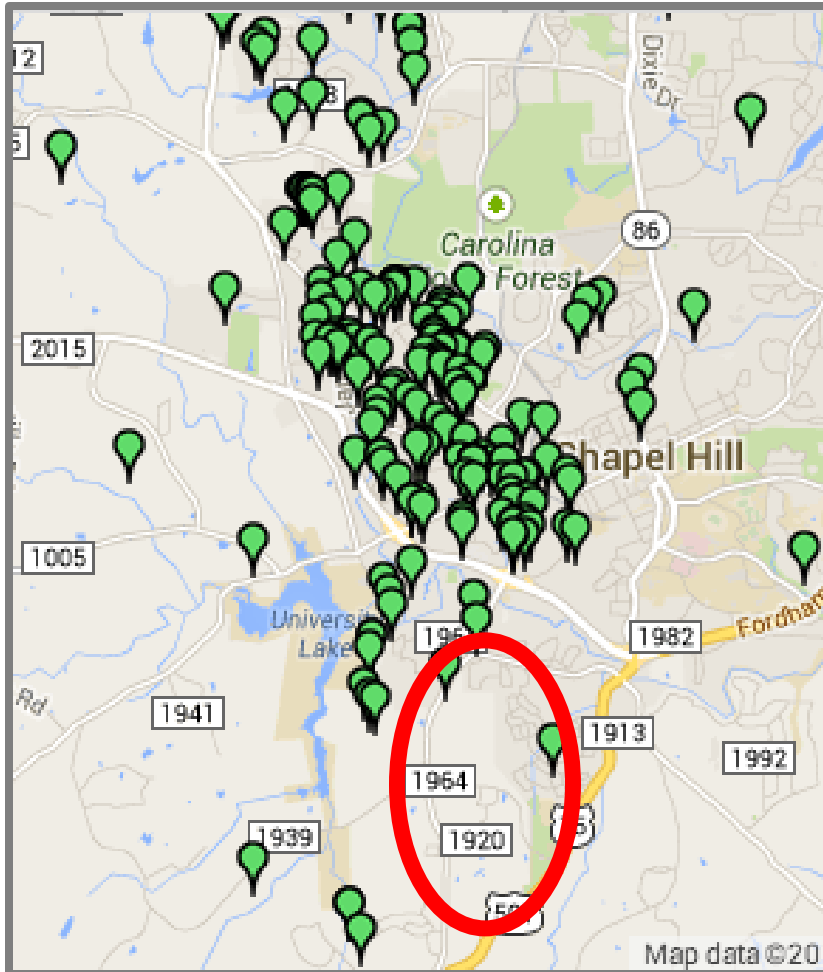
Make it worth talking about

Exceed expectations

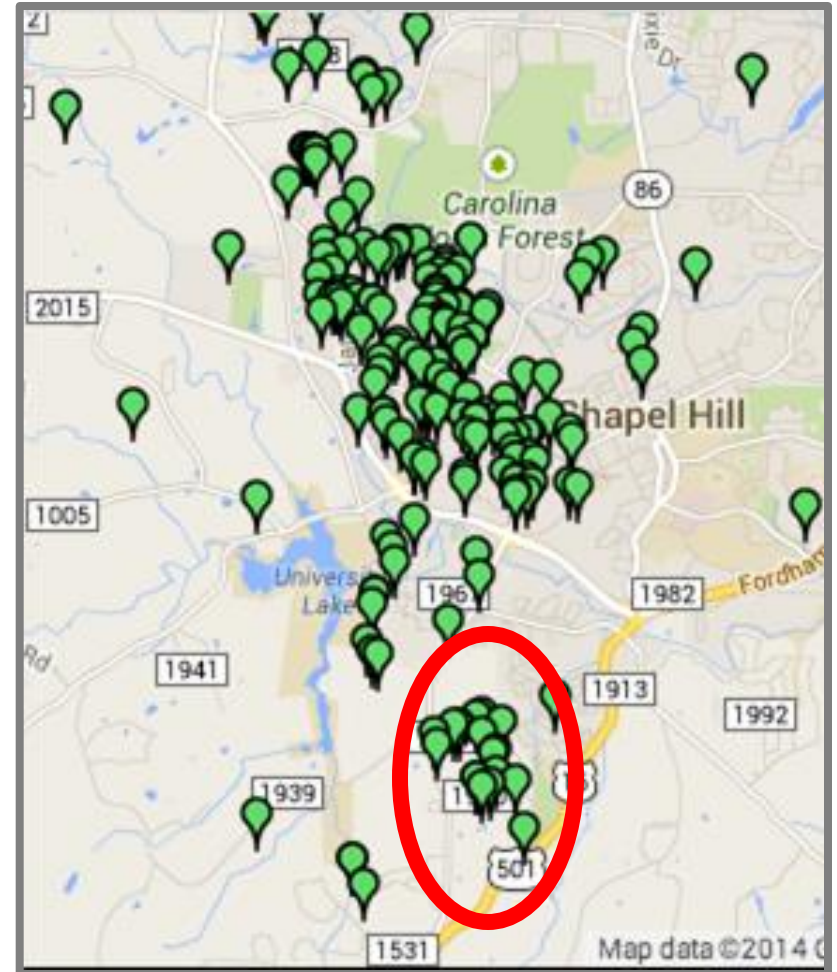
Through April 18



Through April 18



Through April 21



Outreach approach: earned media

Is it news?

Remarkable idea

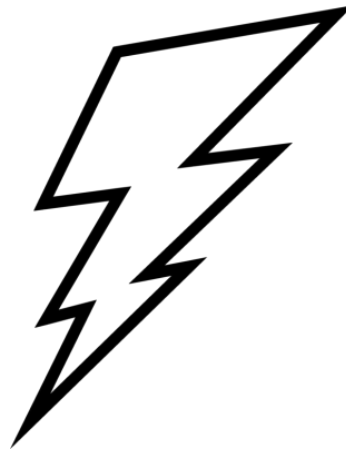
Support of municipal government

Success of North Carolina Solarize programs

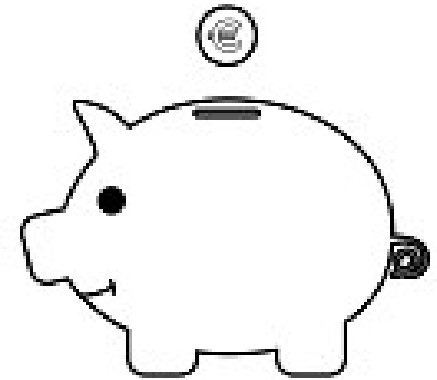
425
homes



2.3 MW
capacity



\$ 8.5 M
investment



Source: Sally Robertson, *NC WARN*

A portion of proceeds support
community solar initiatives



Agenda

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
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| 1:35 – 2:20 | Local Speakers |
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Your Community and Next Steps

Activity: Solar in Your Community

1. Recognize successes
2. Identify opportunities
3. Select strategies & best practices
4. Outline implementation plan
5. Discuss barriers to implementation

Activity: Solar in Your Community

Part I: Take 5 minutes to complete the questions in the *Developing Effective Solar Policies in Your Community* handout.



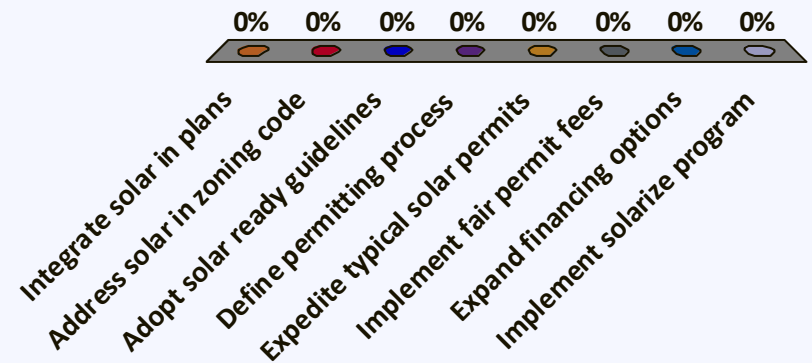
Activity: Solar in Your Community

Part 2: Spend the next 10 minutes discussing your responses to **Questions 8 – 12** with the others at your table. Discuss strategies for overcoming potential obstacles to implementation.



Which “best practice” did you select to pursue first?

- A. Integrate solar in plans
- B. Address solar in zoning code
- C. Adopt solar ready guidelines
- D. Define permitting process
- E. Expedite typical solar permits
- F. Implement fair permit fees
- G. Expand financing options
- H. Implement solarize program



How difficult will it be to implement this policy/program?

1. Very easy 0%
2. Somewhat easy
3. Moderate
4. Somewhat difficult
5. Very difficult

■ Very easy ■ Somewhat easy ■ Moderate
■ Somewhat difficult ■ Very difficult

Discussion

What obstacles stand in the way of implementation?

Discussion

What are possible strategies to overcome those obstacles?

Agenda

8:50 – 9:20	Putting Solar Energy on the Local Policy Agenda
9:20 – 9:50	State of the Local Solar Market
9:50 – 10:20	Federal, State, and Utility Policy Drivers
10:20 – 10:40	<i>Break</i>
10:40 – 11:10	Planning for Solar: Getting Solar Ready
11:10 – 11:45	Solar Market Development Tools
11:45 – 11:55	<i>Break</i>
11:55 – 12:30	Local Speakers
12:30 – 12:50	Developing a Solar Policy Plan for Your Community
12:50 – 1:00	Next Steps
1:00 – 2:00	Lunch & Networking

Activity: Next Steps

What do you pledge to do when you leave today's workshop? [Orange Card]



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SunShot

U.S. Department of Energy

Ben Inskeep

Energy Policy Analyst

ben_inskeep@ncsu.edu

Kate Daniel

Energy Policy Analyst

kdaniel2@ncsu.edu



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TECHNOLOGY CENTER