

# **SOLAR SUCCESSOR STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP #3: Solar Equity And Inclusion; Community Solar**

**April 28, 2021**



# **PRESIDING OFFICER: ABE SILVERMAN**

**GENERAL COUNSEL, NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**



# OPENING REMARKS: CRYSTAL PRUITT

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF CLEAN ENERGY EQUITY  
NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES



# WELCOME AND LOGISTICS: ARIANE BENREY

OFFICE OF POLICY AND PLANNING, NJBPU



# Meeting Logistics

- All attendees will be automatically muted and will be unmuted when called upon.
- Questions? Comments? Please use the **Q&A** function in Zoom.
- This meeting is being recorded. A copy of the recording and slides will be made available on the NJ Clean Energy Program website:  
<https://njcleanenergy.com/renewable-energy/program-updates-and-background-information/solar-proceedings>

# Agenda

- **5:00 p.m.** Meeting Start; Welcome and Introduction
- **5:10 p.m.** and **7:00 p.m.** Staff Presentation: New Jersey Solar 101
- **5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** and **7:20 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.** Stakeholder Comments and Discussion
- **8:30 p.m.** Meeting Close

# Stakeholder Engagement

- Upcoming Meetings:
  - Quarterly Public Meeting (April 30). See the Public Notice for details:  
[https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice\\_Quarterly%20Public%20Comment%20Meeting\\_April%2030\\_Solar.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice_Quarterly%20Public%20Comment%20Meeting_April%2030_Solar.pdf)
  - **NEW** Workshop #4 (May 3): Incentive Values Modeling and Recommendations
  - **DATE CHANGE** Workshop #5 (May 7): Review of Current Proposal and Program Transition
  - “Open door policy”: email [solar.transitions@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:solar.transitions@bpu.nj.gov)

# Stakeholder Engagement

- Written comments: **extended to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 27, 2021.**

Must be submitted electronically to the Board Secretary or via the Board's External Access Portal

See the Straw Proposal Notice for details:

[https://njcleanenergy.com/files/file/Solar%20Successor%20Program%20Notice%20and%20Straw%20Proposal\\_04-07-2021.pdf](https://njcleanenergy.com/files/file/Solar%20Successor%20Program%20Notice%20and%20Straw%20Proposal_04-07-2021.pdf)

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# POLL: SPEAKERS LIST



# NEW JERSEY SOLAR 101



# The Clean Energy Act of 2018

- Signed into law by Governor Murphy on May 23, 2018.
- Set in motion a comprehensive revision of NJ's solar incentive program known as the Solar Transition.
- Expanded New Jersey's Renewable Portfolio Standard:
  - 35% by 2025
  - 50% by 2030

# The 2019 Energy Master Plan

- New Jersey's Energy Master Plan was released on January 27, 2020.
- The EMP provides a pathway to achieve 100% clean energy 2050 (per Governors Murphy's Executive Order 28).
  - Modeling suggests an increase in solar capacity from approx. 3,500 MW today to 12,200 MW by 2030; 17,200 MW by 2035; and 32,000 MW by 2050.
- Established strategies to expand community solar in New Jersey.

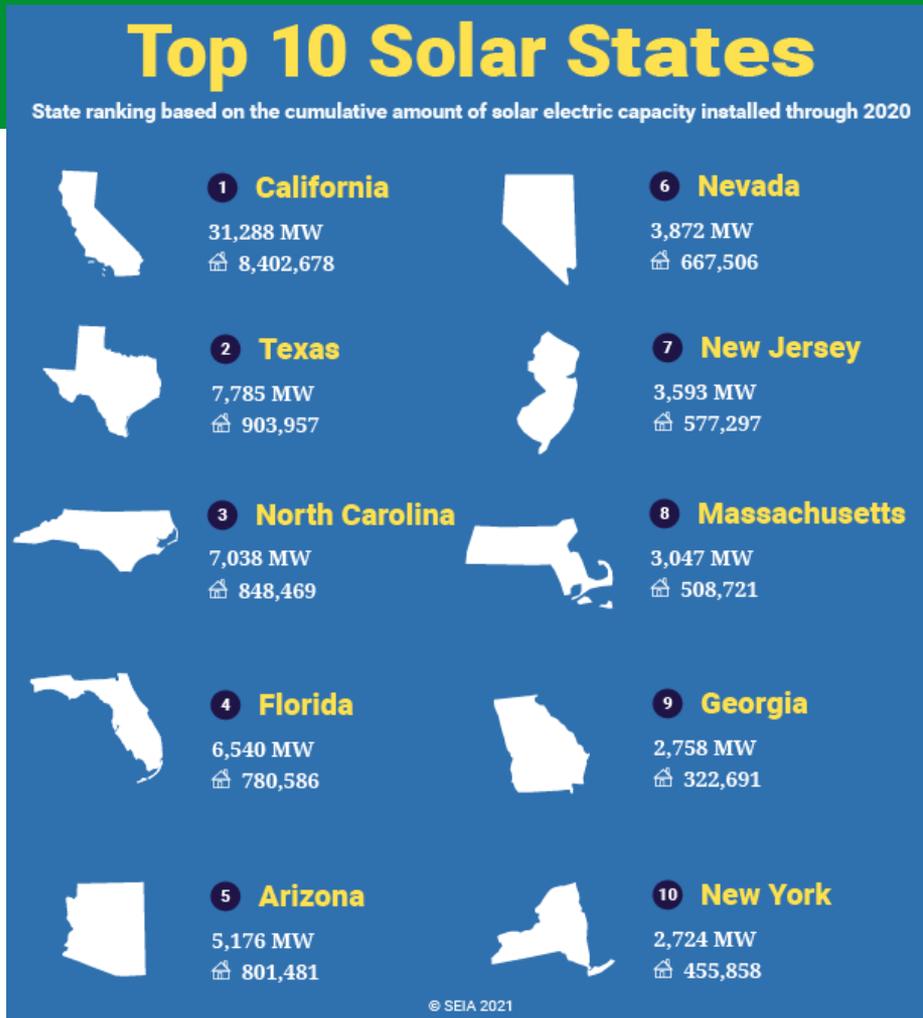
# NJ Solar

- New Jersey Solar Installations as of March 31, 2021:

Interconnection Type	Project Quantity	Installed Capacity (kW)
Behind the Meter	139,532	2,815,466
Grid Supply	184	735,994
Community Solar	4	9,084
<b>Total</b>	<b>139,720</b>	<b>3,560,544</b>

# NJ Solar

- 7<sup>th</sup> state in cumulative installed solar capacity.
- 1<sup>st</sup> state in installed solar capacity per square mile.



Equivalent of the number of homes supplied by solar energy.

All data is sourced from SEIA/Wood Mackenzie Power & Renewables Solar Market Insight® 2020 Year in Review Report. For more information, contact [research@seia.org](mailto:research@seia.org)



# Net Metered Solar

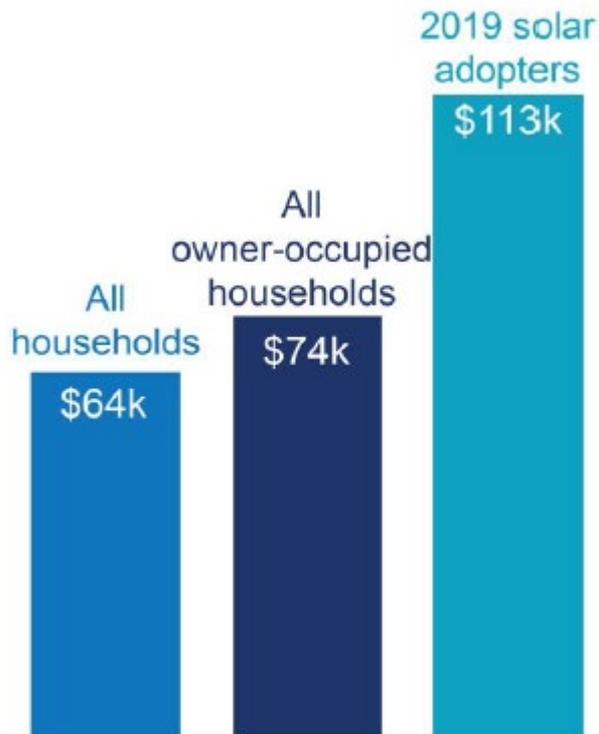
- Net metered solar installations:
  - Direct Owned: homeowner purchases solar panels (on average 5kW to 8kW), and receives full net metering benefits.
  - Third Part Owned: no upfront cost, homeowner receives a portion of the net metering benefits.



# Solar Equity and Access

NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

## Median Income



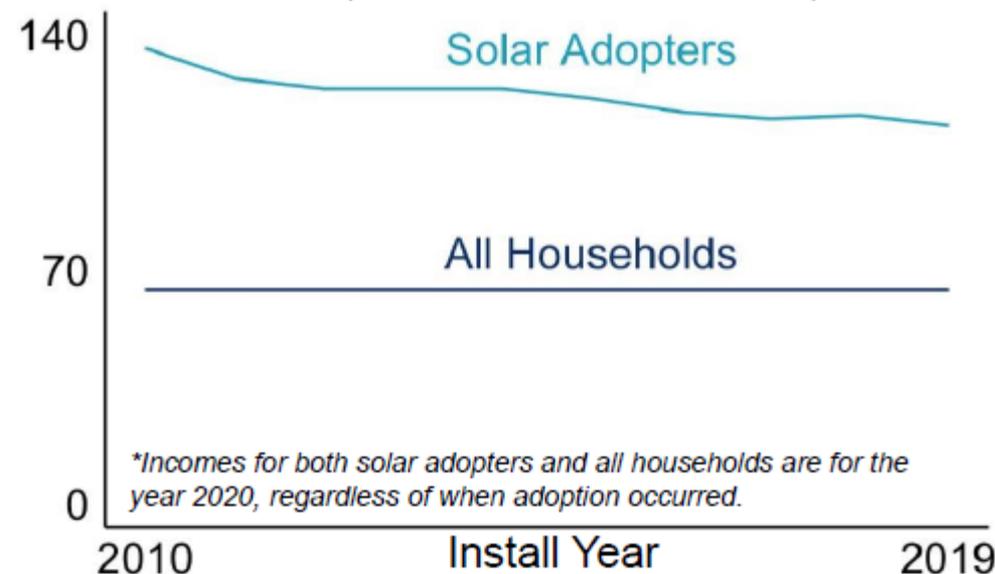
**Low- and Moderate-Income Adoption**  
While solar adoption skews toward high-income households, low- and moderate-income households are also adopting. In 2019, about 42% of adopters earned less than 120% of their area's median income. (120% is a threshold sometimes used to include both low and moderate income)

# Solar Equity and Access

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## Over time, solar adopters increasingly resemble the broader population

### Median Income (circa 2020\*, thousand \$)



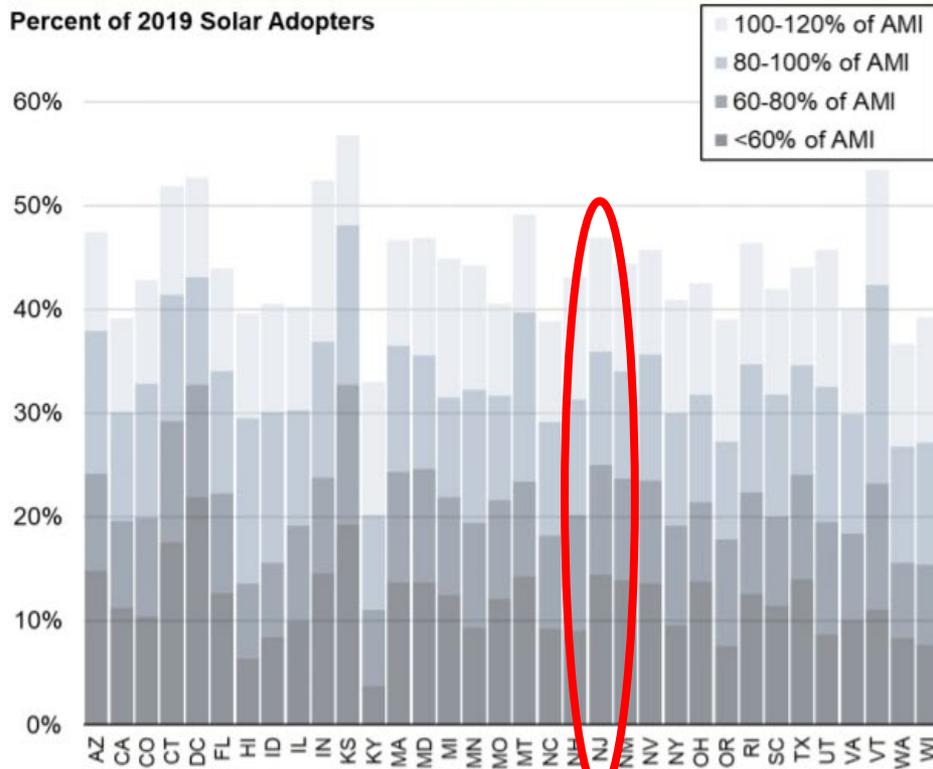
- The difference in income between solar adopters and the broader population fell from \$72k/year in 2010 to \$49k/year in 2019, at the median
- Solar adopters have become more reflective of the broader population in terms of education levels, race, and occupation
- These trends reflect the effects of falling solar prices and the emergence of policies and business models that support broader adoption, among other factors

# Solar Equity and Access

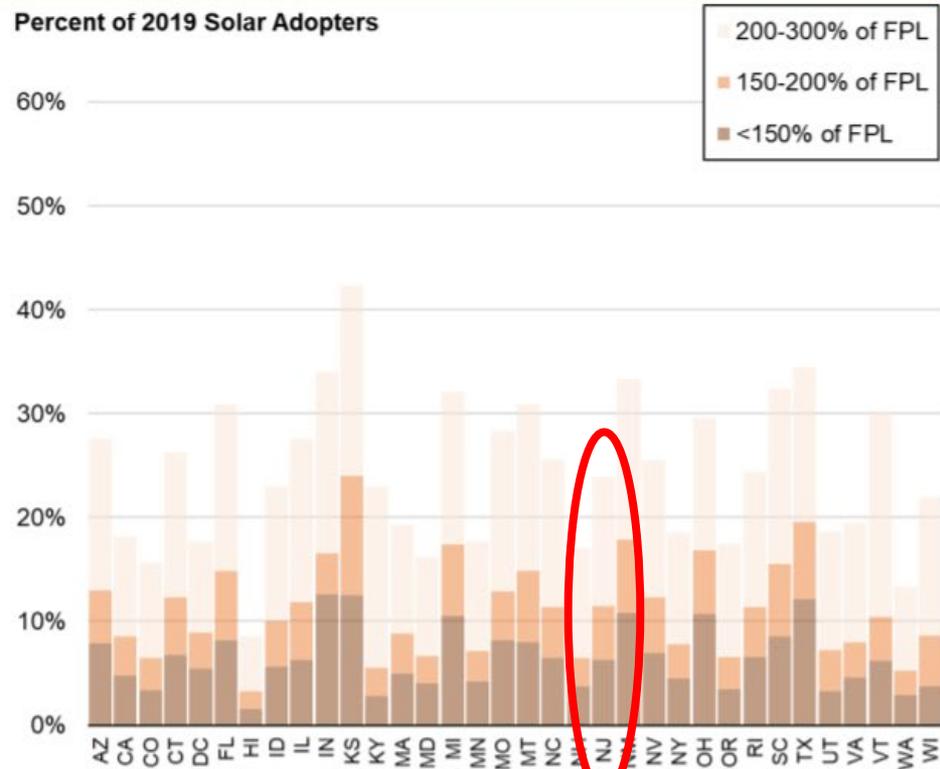
NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

## LMI Share of Solar Adopters by State

Percent of 2019 Solar Adopters



Percent of 2019 Solar Adopters



Source: Residential Solar-Adopter Income and Demographic Trends: 2021 Update  
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, April 2021

# The Solar Transition

- New Jersey's Solar Transition consists of:
  - ✓ Closure of the existing solar incentive program;
  - ✓ Development and implementation of a new Successor Program; and
  - ✓ Establishment of a permanent community solar program.
- The aim of the Transition is to develop an incentive program that supports a robust solar market while being conscious of costs to ratepayers.

# Community Solar Policy Priorities

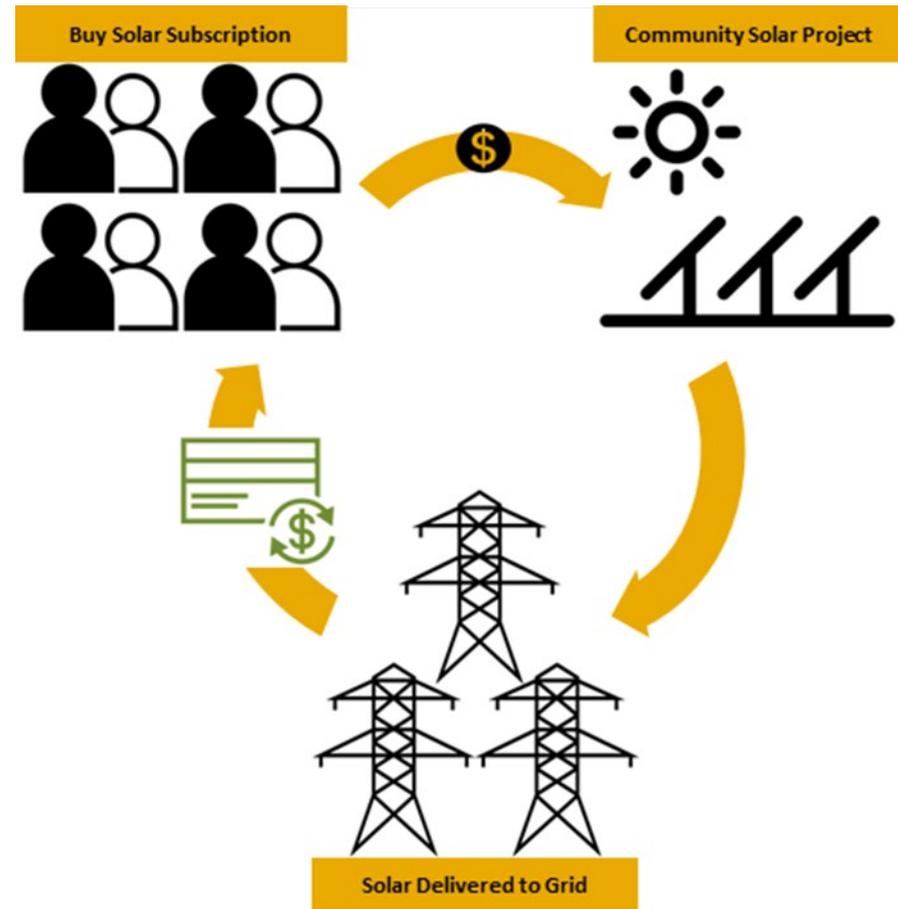
- Ensure that all customers, regardless of income level, have access to the benefits of solar.
- Enable electric utility customers to participate in a solar generation facility that can be remotely accessed from their residence or place of business.
- Provide bill savings to New Jersey electric customers, particularly low- and moderate-income households.

# Community Solar: What is it?

- A large solar array that is virtually divided among multiple participants (“subscribers”) by means of a credit on their utility bill.
- Is generally remotely located, as opposed to being located on the subscriber’s own roof.
- Enables access to solar energy for those who haven’t been able to “go solar” in the past, including renters and households, institutions, or businesses where the roof isn’t appropriate for solar installation, or solar is cost-prohibitive.

# Community Solar Bill Credits

- Statewide annual average electric bill: \$2,049.92
- Statewide monthly average electric bill: \$170.83
- Community solar bill savings: vary depending on contract. On average 10% - 20% of the bill credit value.
- Community solar does not cover the entire electric bill.



# The Clean Energy Act of 2018

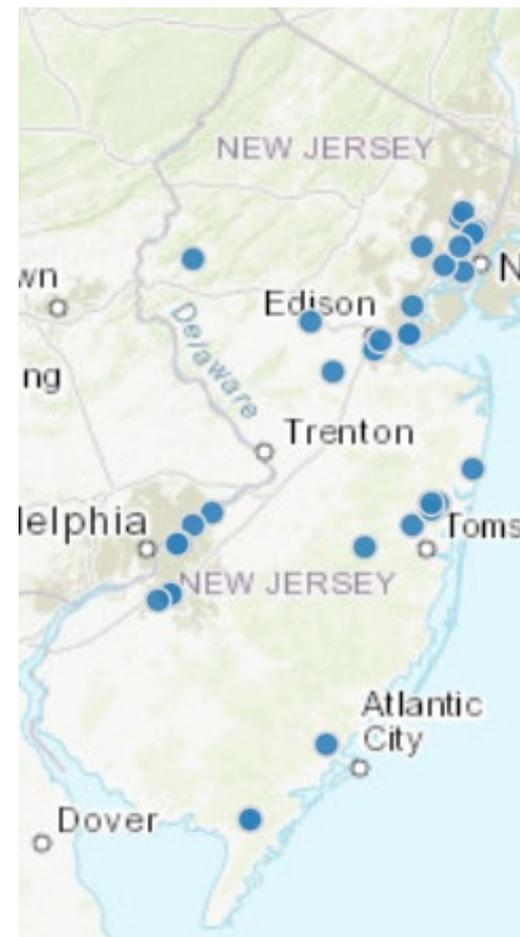
- The Clean Energy Act laid the framework for community solar in New Jersey:
  - ✓ The Board first established a three-year Community Solar Energy Pilot Program in January 2019.
  - ✓ The CEA mandates that the Board establish a Community Solar Permanent Program within 3 years (i.e. by February 2022).

# Program Year 1 Awards

NJCleanEnergy.com/COMMUNITYSOLAR

## 45 applications selected (approx. 78 MWdc)

- All 45 applications are LMI projects
  - LMI project = at least 51% capacity reserved for LMI subscribers.
  - At least 39.8 MWdc will be carved out for LMI subscribers, representing approx. 8,000 LMI households
- 31 projects located on rooftops
- 14 projects located on landfills, parking canopies, combined rooftops and parking canopy, a brownfield, and a former sand and gravel pit



Map Credit: NJDEP

# PY1 Awards: LMI (cont'd)

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## Summary of LMI Projects and Subscribers (2)

State Community Solar Capacity for LMI Customers



Based on the most recently available data, 21.6 MW of community solar serving LMI customers are in operation, and 155.6 MW are planned. This LMI capacity will benefit over 40,000 LMI households, once in operation.



# QUESTION & ANSWER



# **STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION**



# NEXT STEPS



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# MEETING CLOSE

