

BPU-TestimonyCommunitySolar2018July

Nothing was said at the stakeholders meeting, at least in the morning sessions when I was present, about the MECHANICS of achieving Community Solar.

In states that have instituted the concept, the CAPITAL is generally raised by a SUBSCRIPTION process: homeowners, renters, businesses, school systems, churches, other public institutions, manufacturers, etc. purchase SHARES, typically costing \$10,000 each (roughly a third what it would cost a homeowner for home-roof panels) -- which go to purchasing and building the solar arrays and other infrastructure. The benefits are reaped gradually, over many years, by lower electricity costs.

I suggest that it is probably unreasonable to expect many lower-income people to be able to afford such an investment. Elderly people may not expect to live long enough to make a return on their investment. Nor people who might expect to relocate, although the contract might be tied to the property: transferable to succeeding owners of the building.

So I suggest also that your RFP protocol include the requirement of the results of a PROSPECTIVE MARKET RESEARCH SURVEY in the proposed communities: to assure interest in making the necessary investments.

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