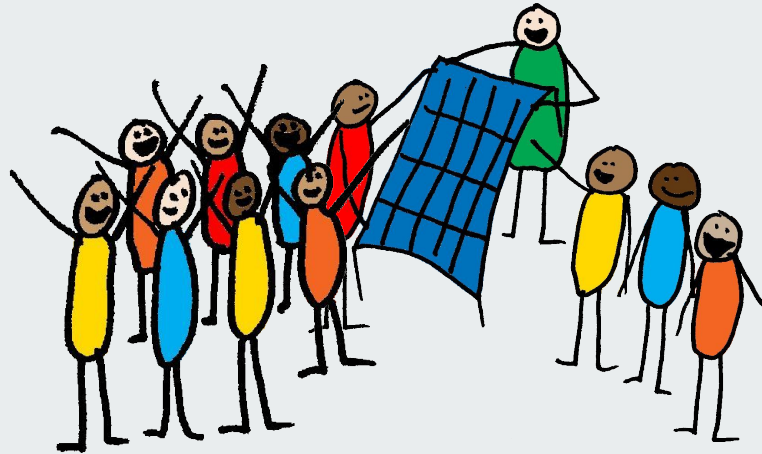

Models for Community Ownership and Solar Equity



Benefits of community ownership



Communities can own their own solar along with the jobs, the savings, and the wealth that come along with it.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Community-owned,
Income-producing
assets

Energy awareness,
education, and a
voice in energy
decisions

Decreased greenhouse
gas emissions and
community energy burden

New Green Jobs and
Businesses



INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS

Lower monthly
energy costs

Community
Energy Co-op
Membership

Customer-friendly
terms

Solar option for
renters,
nonprofits,
municipalities
and small businesses



Extractive Solar

Solar developers can pay the site owner a small lease fee and take most of the economic value of a solar project out of the community.

Non-extractive solar starts with the community - how do they want to meet their energy needs, do they want solar, if yes - where, how big, for whom?

When communities own solar they decide how much of the economic value to invest in increased energy savings, good jobs, more control over their energy future, energy independence, and/or resilience when catastrophe strikes.



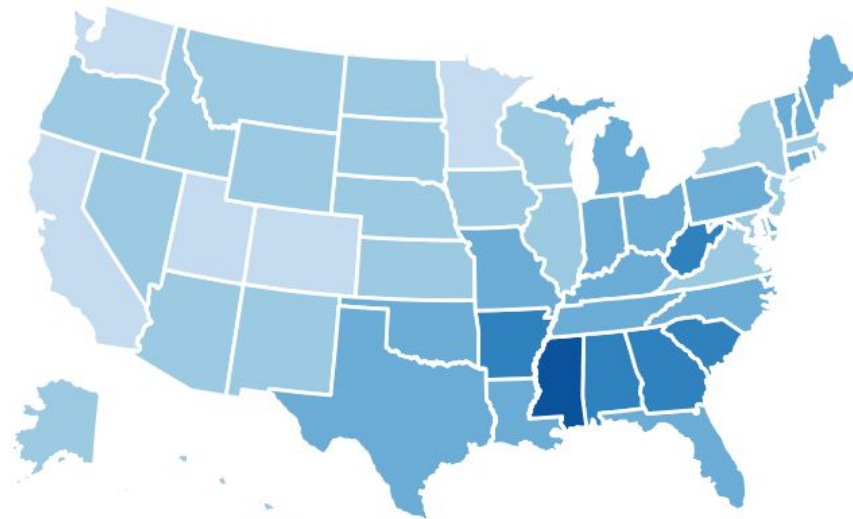
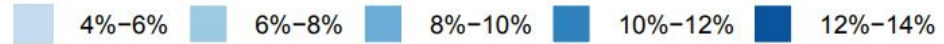
Low Income Energy Burden (% of Income)

Low-income households pay 8.6% of their income on energy, three times higher than for non-low-income households.

Energy burden can be as high as 30%.

Of all U.S. households, 44%, or about 50 million, are defined as **low-income**.

Low-Income Energy Burden (% of Income)





The Problem

Life itself has been extracted from low income and people of color communities for generations, sentenced to indentured servitude as if fences and policed gates had penned us in. We can't access healthy food, credit, transportation, education, safe places to live and raise our children, good jobs, and home ownership. Violence is a daily experience. Our children are conscripted into the drug/prison/war machine. The most polluting industries are located in our communities. The air is not fit to breathe. We are sick and can't get medical care. The public dollars collected in taxes and utility payments do not serve our communities. It's time for a reckoning.

A Solution

Energy cooperatives can provides low income and people of color communities access to solar ownership and all the benefits of ownership - jobs, energy savings, wealth, economic and political power. Renters and people with limited resources can share a community solar array - each receiving a share of the power generated without needing a rooftop of their own. Energy cooperatives can brings access to one of the largest industries in the US, so we can bring economic and political power back to our communities. This is what justice looks like.

MLK: I will never adjust myself to economic conditions that take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few.



Community Benefits for low income communities

- Create access to renewables and secure energy savings → ● Reduce energy burden
- Increase resilience and energy independence → ● Save lives in an emergency
- Build community wealth; Create jobs and businesses → ● Create pathways out of poverty
- Reduce carbon pollution and air pollution → ● Reduce health hazards and climate emergencies
- Decide where in our backyard → ● A seat at the table with experts that work for you



Solar Project Models bringing value to communities

- Residential or Commercial
- Single Owner or Community Shared Solar Array
- Rooftop, Groundmount, Canopy, Dual Use Systems on Ag Land
- Solar plus Battery Storage, Energy Efficiency, and/or Electrification
- Aggregations of Solar on homes, nonprofits, houses of worship, schools, businesses and municipal buildings



WHAT IS COMMUNITY SOLAR?



A group of households share a solar array and receive their share of the power as credits on their electric bill.

SAVING MONEY WITH COMMUNITY SOLAR



The Green
Energy
Justice Co-op

Electric Company
Bill Adjustment \$-65.40

Solar
Subscription \$55.59

Your Savings **\$-9.81**



Solar panels are installed in your community to produce energy.



You sign the participant agreement and join your the Green Energy Justice Cooperative.



You pay a monthly solar subscription.



You pay a **discounted** electric bill and save money.

Solar Finance Models for Community Ownership

You pay with ...

- Cash plus
- Debt plus
- Incentives plus
- Residential,
Commercial or
Investment Tax Credits





Ownership Matters

To everyone..... and especially to low income and people of color communities where the stakes are higher and the predatory sales practices are more prevalent.

\$27B in Green House Gas Reduction Funding and new IRA Financing support coming to make Community Ownership of Solar more accessible to all. Let's work together to get our projects in queue!

Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment

Clean Energy Extension

Clean Energy Home

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Past Projects

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