Expanding Access to Solar & Increasing Job Opportunities
Creating Low-Income Solar from the Ground Up

- Essential Participants
- Process & Alignment
- Guiding Principles
- Program Details
- Ongoing Work
- Lessons Learned
Process & Alignment: Cross-Sector Collaboration

**Process Status Quo: Energy Legislation**

“Technical” knowledge valued over other expertise

Decision-making spheres, methods not aligned

Need to implement ethical governance practices

Lack of energy negotiation access

Policy sectors operate in silos

Funding inequities also limit who participates

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Not just about process

Process impacts policy outcomes
Process & Alignment: Cross-Sector Collaboration

Process Status Quo: Energy Legislation

“Technical” knowledge valued over other expertise
Decision-making spheres, methods not aligned
Need to implement ethical governance practices
Lack of energy negotiation access
Policy sectors operate in silos
Funding inequities also limit who participates

Key Process Remedies:

Consistent channels of input open, valued by all
Scenario planning and iterative discussion
Jemez Principles of Democratic Organizing
Co-negotiation: low-income solar energy policies
Collaboration across sectors, expertise areas
Funding and lateral support for capacity
## Policy Frameworks: Traditional Environmental vs. Justice

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<th>Frame 1</th>
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<td><strong>Coalition Building</strong></td>
<td>Like-minded groups</td>
<td>Community groups, cross-issue</td>
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<td>Building community resilience/assets</td>
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<td>Equal (Implementation of policy regardless of race or income)</td>
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Illinois Solar for All: The Principles
The Principles

Ensure access to solar for low-income residents across entire state. Creates job opportunities by bringing training to communities.

- Affordability & Accessibility
- Community Engagement
- Sustainable & Flexible
- Compatibility & Integration
The Principles

Beginning, middle, and end of program includes community input and evaluation.

Affordability & Accessibility

Community Engagement

Sustainable & Flexible

Compatibility & Integration
The Principles

Program can be flexible and adapt to successes or obstacles, recognizing new ideas and partnerships.
The Principles

Works in conjunction with other low-income or energy-related programs to increase access to all programs to support Illinois families.

- Affordability & Accessibility
- Community Engagement
- Sustainable & Flexible
- Compatibility & Integration
Illinois Solar for All: Program Details
Illinois Solar for All - Incentives

**Community Solar**
38%
Low-income residents
Anywhere in IL

**Rooftop Solar**
22%
Low-income residents
Anywhere in IL

**Public Facilities**
15%
Non-profits / public facilities that serve low-income communities

**Pilot Projects**
25%
Max $50M/project
Potential utility participation
Illinois Solar for All - Training Opportunities

Solar Training Pipeline

A Paid Job Interview

Tied to low-income rooftop solar incentives

Partnership with industry

Connect to existing training programs
Illinois Solar for All - Training Goals

Solar Training Pipeline Goals

- Environmental Justice goals
- Hiring goal: persons with a record & foster care alumni
- Geographic equity & various types of project training
Ongoing Work: Implementation
Implementation: Ongoing Work

Framework
Supporting Regulatory Agencies
Making it Real
Community of Partnerships
Lessons Learned
#realtalk
No assumptions. Start where people are.
Be creative, patient, and focused.
Learning is needed in every direction.
Keep looking for ideas.
The politics will challenge you.
Stay together. Always.
Thank you.

Questions?

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