#### SUSTAINABLE SOLAR EDUCATION PROJECT

# Using Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Funds for Low-Income Solar

January 16, 2018





# Housekeeping



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# **Sustainable Solar Education Project**

A project to provide information to state and municipal officials on strategies to ensure distributed solar

- Remains consumer friendly
- Benefits low- and moderateincome households



The project is managed by the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) and is funded through the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office.





### Sustainable Solar Education Project Resources

The project offers a variety of free resources on solar equitability and consumer protection:

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Community Solar for Low- and Moderate-Income Consumers	sustainable-solar		
Thursday, June 1, 1-2 pm ET Because community solar can be made accessible to renters and can include famible terms, it holds promise for spreading the benefits of solar to low- and moderate-income (LM) consumers. In this webinat, Kelly Roache, Senior Program Manager at Solatos and David Miller Senior Vice President 4 Aloine Bank.	CleanEnergy States Alliance		

- Guides
- Webinars
  - Monthly e-newsletter
  - In-person workshops

www.cesa.org/projects/sustainable-solar



# Panelists

- Jason Edens, Director, Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL)
- Nate Hausman, Project Director, Clean Energy States Alliance (moderator)





# The Power to make a difference RREAL

**Rural Renewable Energy Alliance** 

#### Solar Assistance within Energy Assistance



#### RREAL's service model has integrated solar into LIHEAP since 2000!



# Nearly 1000 LIHEAP integrated solar projects!



# The First LIHEAP-Integrated Community Solar Array inUS!



## **Benefits of LIHEAP integration:**

- 1) Low-income customer acquisition
- 2) Income Verification
- 3) Public-private partnership
- 4) Utility relationships already exist
- 5) Mission and service alignment
- 6) National infrastructure
- 7) Scalable, replicable, iterative



## **Community Solar for Community Action Case Study:**

- Partnership with the Leech Lake Nation
- 200 kW 100% low-income subscribers
  - All subscribers LIHEAP qualified
  - Asset owned by tribal LIHEAP service provider
- Funding from state dollars
- Subscriptions annually transferable
- Subscriptions sized by low-income household's energy burden
  - LIHEAP service partially delivered through VNMCs, prioritizing homes with electric heat \$25,000 per year additional value delivered to low-income families

## **Funding Opportunities for solar within LIHEAP**

- Assurance 16
  - EAP-WX Transfer Mechanism
- Social Impact Bonding
- Conservation Improvement
  Program
- Contributed Income

# LINITS!

Community Solar for Community Action: A New National Model of Energy Assistance



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#### **Precedents and Current Initiatives**

- California 2009: 1500 homes rec'd rooftop solar with LIHEAP \$
  - MN 2010: Identified 350 households to receive residential solar projects through LIHEAP service provider
  - NY proposing all LIHEAP recipients receive CS subscriptions



## **Energy Assistance Today**



#### **Energy Assistance Tomorrow**





The future of energy assistance will include Solar!

# **Upcoming Webinars**



**Follow-Up Discussion: Using Federal Low-Income Energy Assistance Programs for Solar** (for state & municipal officials only) Tuesday, January 25, 1-2pm ET

#### **Financing Solar Projects for Public and Affordable Housing** Thursday, February 15, 1-2pm ET

#### **Solar+Storage for Public and Affordable Housing** Thursday, February 22, 1-2pm ET

Read more and register at <u>www.cesa.org/webinars</u>

# **Contact Information**

#### SUSTAINABLE SOLAR EDUCATION PROJECT

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