

# Community Solar in Seattle

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**Renewable Energy Markets**

**Scaling Up Solar Power**

**October 22, 2010**

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- Serves 350,000 residential customers
  - A “carbon neutral” electric utility
  - Solar America City since 2008
  - Received Special Project Grant for Community Solar in 2010



# What is Community Solar?

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A single solar energy system that provides energy and/or financial benefit to multiple community members

Increases access to solar energy



# Community Solar Benefits

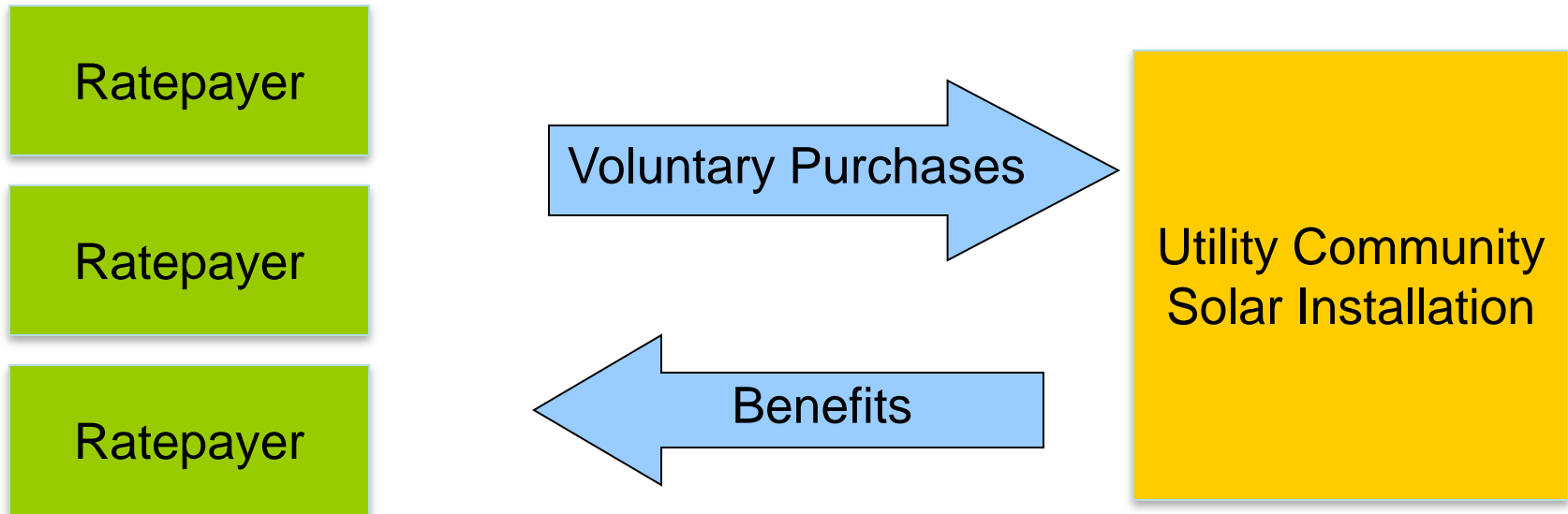
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- Optimal siting
- Increased economies of scale
- Increased participation opportunities
- Community pride
- *plus all the “regular” benefits of solar!*



# Utility Sponsored Model

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## Benefits

- Value of Energy
- Production Incentives
- RECs?

## Utility Handles

- Financing
- Maintenance
- Insurance
- Billing
- Taxes

# Utility Program Examples

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**Ellensburg**



**Sacramento Municipal Utility District**



**Florida Keys Electric Co-op**



**Seattle City Light – 2011**

# Why City Light is launching a program

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- Ongoing commitment to renewable energy and customer choice
- Awarded Solar America Cities Special Project grant for Community Solar!
- WA State Production Incentive program- expanded to include Community Solar!

# WA Production Incentive: SB 6658

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- Utility Tax Credit passed to participating customers – individual or community solar
- Three types of Community Solar
  1. Group-owned on local government site
  2. Utility-owned
  3. Company-owned on local government site
- Community solar production incentives are double those for individual solar
- Production Incentives end in 2020

*A participant of a CS project that uses WA-made modules and inverters could earn \$1.08/kWh!*

# Drivers of Program Design

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- Open to all SCL customers
- Revolving fund
- State Production Incentive Program
- ARRA grant
- Securities laws
- Interconnection/Metering
- Billing IT
- Site opportunities
- Customer demand



# First City Light Project

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- 30 to 60 kilowatts
- Hope to use Washington made parts
- 300 to 500 participants
- Open to customer enrollment in 2011

Installation, operations, and maintenance handled  
by Seattle City Light!

# Site Selection Criteria

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- Host partner (public space)
- Solar access
- Structural integrity & feasible interconnection
- Community visibility
- Security
- Ease of installation
- Readiness



**Welcoming to Everyone!**

# Customer Experience: Enrollment

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- Purchase a portion of the community solar array's energy output
- Sign up with Customer Agreement
- Minimum purchase: \$600 (1 portion)
- Aiming for: 1 portion is ~ 50-100 kWh/year (depends on installed cost per Watt)



# Customer Experience: Participation

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- Receive annual bill credit =  
Total CS Generation x Pro Rata Share x  
(Production Incentive + Value of energy)  
*SAMPLE:*  
*30,000 kWh x 1/500 x (\$1.08 + \$.07) = \$69/ yr*
- Aiming for return within 10 years
- Enrollment fees create revolving fund for future project construction

*Monetary benefits on customer's electric bill*

# The Fine Print

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- Only City Light customers are eligible
- Transferable within City Light territory
- Assign to another account if you move out of City Light territory
- City Light cannot guarantee state production incentive program
- Customer agreement ends June 2020

# Project Timeline

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- Site Selection: Fall 2010
- Installation: Winter - Spring 2011
- Enrollment: Spring - Summer 2011
- Enrollments Fund a Second Project
- Future Installations: 2011 – 2013...

