



Energy Programs Office

Finding Pennsylvania's Solar Future Strategy Support Guide & Next Steps

David Althoff Jr
Project Investigator
November 15th Stakeholder Meeting
Messiah College



Strategy Support Guide

- Strategy Support and Implementation
 - The strategies in Pennsylvania's Solar Future Plan are broadly divided into those that enable solar by removing technical or market barriers and those that create direct incentives
 - Some of these strategies have begun implementation since this project began, continued support and implementation of the strategies may be required
 - The support plans described for each strategy in the guide intend to highlight how strategy support can continue towards and lead to solar growth
 - This is a Working Document/DRAFT

Strategy Support Guide

- Implementation, Education, and Transition
 - Implementation
 - Implementation requires understanding of the purpose of the strategy, the current status, (accomplishments, and the actions yet to occur)
 - Education
 - Education involves working with consumers, the solar industry, policy makers, advocates and supporting entities (i.e. technical, financial, etc.) to align goals for solar growth in PA, and to discuss the portfolio of options for delivering solar goods and services
 - Transition
 - Development of actions, involvement of Key Stakeholders that results in the achievement of the purpose/accomplishment of the goal

Strategy Support Guide

- Strategy Support Plans

- ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARDS (AEPS) – STRATEGY 1
- ACCESS TO CAPITAL – STRATEGY 2 & 3
- CARBON PRICING – STRATEGY 4
- ADDRESSING SITING AND LAND USE – STRATEGY 5
- TAX INCENTIVES – STRATEGY 6 & 7
- LONG-TERM CONTRACTS – STRATEGY 8
- UTILITY OWNERSHIP – STRATEGY 9
- GRID MODERNIZATION – STRATEGY 10
- VIRTUAL NET METERING – STRATEGY 11
- COMMUNITY SOLAR – STRATEGY 12
- ALTERNATIVE RATEMAKING– STRATEGY 13
- PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) – STRATEGY 14
- ADDRESSING INTERCONNECTION ISSUES – STRATEGY 15

Strategy Support Guide

ACCESS TO CAPITAL – STRATEGY 2 & 3

STRATEGIES:	<i>Increase access to capital by expanding availability of solar lending products to both residential and commercial projects to enable solar ownership.</i>	
	<i>Provide loan guarantees to lower interest rates and provide an incentive to deploy solar generation.</i>	
CURRENT STATUS:	Various financing programs in Pennsylvania may support solar. One program is the PennSEF performance contracting program. Commercial PACE was recently enabled by the PA Legislature and upon implementation may provide long-term access to capital for solar. Some private solar developers offer residential loans to customers.	
IMPLEMENTATION:	ACTION ITEMS:	
Additional financing programs supporting solar can be created through actions of the legislature, municipalities, counties, authorities, utilities, sustainable energy funds, community development funds, or private lenders can also support solar projects through financial assistance programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile a menu-of-options regarding potential state and local government solar financing programs • Educate state and local government entities on solar financing programs for government and private entities and the economic benefits of solar deployment • Conduct outreach to lending institutions on financial products for solar deployment 	
POTENTIAL KEY STAKEHOLDERS:	Department of Community and Economic Development, PA Treasury, Commonwealth Financing Authority, lending institutions, solar contractors and project managers, county and municipal governments	

Strategy Support Guide

ADDRESSING SITING AND LAND USE – STRATEGY 5

STRATEGY:	<i>Support the creation and adoption of uniform policies to streamline siting and land-use considerations while encouraging conservation.</i>	
CURRENT STATUS:	Various ordinances have been adopted that impact energy generation siting decisions. State programs to incentivize development currently exist, though may not specifically target solar development (e.g. Keystone Opportunity Zones and brownfields).	
IMPLEMENTATION:	ACTION ITEMS:	
Implementation for this strategy involves coordination between the local government and diverse state agencies. This process would need to be led by an administrative agency, or an outside organization that convenes stakeholder agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify best practices for solar zoning, model ordinances, and permitting procedures. • Research best practices for siting solar on brownfields, abandoned mine lands (AML), and other contaminated lands • Utilize AML database to identify potentially suitable development sites • Create a clearinghouse for best practices and related resources • Develop informational materials for farmers to promote the merits of solar generation • Distribute existing information materials, such as NREL’s InSPIRE guidebook. 	
POTENTIAL KEY STAKEHOLDERS:	Department of Conservation of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Community and Economic Development, DEP’s Environmental Cleanup Program & AML Program, local governments, environmental and land preservations groups, land owners, and other resource agencies involved in land-use issues.	

Next Steps

- The Project Team will engage further with stakeholders regarding the issues and action items identified
 - May include individual meetings with stakeholders
 - Webinars for larger groups, or other events if necessary
 - Alternate listing, tracking of actions and successes
- Engagement begins with Today's in-person stakeholder meeting
 - Continue discussion, identify and develop action items, further refine strategies with the Project team
- Check our Progress
 - In-person stakeholder meeting
 - Save the Date! March 8th 2019
- The Project Team will focus on the highest priority implementation issues for the remainder of the project term
- Identify and discuss how to continue support and encourage follow-on after the project term ends June 30, 2019

Questions?