



# Benefits of solar energy for municipalities

Why are local solar projects important?

Many are using local solar projects to achieve broader community benefits and align with other priorities. These include saving money, creating local jobs, expanding renewables access to low-income residents, and advancing local resilience. Generating wind and solar is increasingly more competitive or cheaper than other forms of energy.

How can local governments benefit from a community solar project?

Local governments can donate underutilized publicly-owned land or roof space or lease it at a discount to community solar developers. Local governments could condition the lease or donation of such real estate to ensure that LMI households in the surrounding areas can benefit from the project.

What is solar power in your community?

Solar Power in Your Community serves as a guidebook to assist local government officials and stakeholders in increasing local access to and deployment of solar photovoltaics (PV). This 2022 edition highlights new technologies and strategies to maximize the benefits of solar to all communities.

Why do local governments need solar energy?

Local governments are uniquely positioned to remove many of the barriers to widespread solar adoption and make solar energy more affordable and accessible for their residents and businesses, as well as for local universities and government buildings.

What are the environmental benefits of solar?

Outline the environmental benefits of solar, especially the carbon emission reductions, for more environmentally conscious local interests. Where energy resilience is a concern, highlight how solar plus storage can improve resilience (see Section 1.6).

What are the benefits of distributed solar?

However, as stated in SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments, "distributed solar also provides many benefits to the grid, which can include deferring the need for investment in new capacity, creating local jobs, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and generating energy at the local level" (SolSmart 2021).

This report and webinar were produced through CESA's Sustainable Solar Education Project, which provides information and educational resources to help states and municipalities ensure that distributed solar electricity remains consumer friendly and benefits low- and moderate-income households. This project is funded through the U.S ...

Municipalities that choose to switch to solar energy can access numerous tax benefits, providing significant



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financial incentives for implementing solar projects. Federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC): Municipalities investing in solar energy systems can take advantage of the Federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC), which provides a tax credit equal ...

Solar energy is sustainable, renewable, and plentiful. As the cost of using solar to produce electricity goes down each year, many Americans are increasingly switching to solar. Now, there are over a million solar installations across the country. Below are additional benefits of switching to solar electricity.

Local solar businesses stand ready to help municipalities and policy-makers explore the many economic and environmental benefits of solar energy. With so many new and enhanced opportunities available, there has never been a better time ...

By supporting local solar energy, municipalities can also assist low and moderate-income communities. Solar development brings jobs to the community, and by supporting solar energy, municipalities can help deliver the benefits of solar directly to its citizens who may be unable to install solar on their own roofs. Because low

It has been much more difficult for LMI households and businesses to access solar financing. If states and municipalities wish to provide the benefits of solar+storage to LMI communities at scale, and move markets beyond demonstration projects supported by government grants, it will be important to support new financing mechanisms that can ...

Land use may sound like an odd environmental benefit of solar energy, especially if you picture sprawling solar farms covering desert landscapes, but a 2022 study by the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) found that the land required for all of the solar, wind, and transmission infrastructure to decarbonize the US power sector by 2035 adds up ...

This slide deck provides an overview of community solar. It introduces community solar programs and their benefits, explains different ownership models, and ends with the best practices to ...

From reducing carbon emissions to lowering energy costs, solar street lights are becoming the go-to choice for municipalities, businesses, and homeowners. In this article, we will explore the top ten benefits of solar street lights and how they can brighten your nights while contributing to a sustainable future.

Introduction: Solar street lighting has become an increasingly popular option for municipalities and local governments around the world. With the cost of solar technology continuing to drop and ...

**ATTENTION:** Local governments are now eligible for the 30% Federal Tax Credit (ITC) direct pay! Ease of installation, long-lasting equipment, and lack of moving parts make solar power a clear winner over other energy sources. Plus, building an array sends a powerful message to constituents and voters that their community is actively investing in the future.



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Another advantage of solar energy that strengthens every other point on this list is the long, warrantied lifespan of today's solar panels. Modern solar panels typically have a 25-year manufacturer's performance guarantee that ensures the panels maintain a certain level of output - typically 85% - throughout their warrantied life. That ...

Solar panels are becoming more common on houses and businesses, but now farmers are taking advantage of the benefits of solar. Rooftop solar panels are becoming a popular addition to businesses ...

Bringing the Benefits of Solar Energy to Low-Income Consumers: A Guide for States & Municipalities is one of six program guides produced by the Clean Energy States ... provide information and educational resources to help states and municipalities ensure that distributed solar electricity remains consumer friendly and its benefits are acces-

For the average homeowner, powering 100% of your home with solar energy is equivalent to removing the emissions created by driving 19,316 miles per year in a typical car--a tremendous environmental benefit.. About 60% of the electricity that power plants generate in the U.S. comes from fossil fuels like coal and natural gas--but extracting and burning fossil fuels ...

To help state and municipal energy agencies support the development of solar+storage in LMI communities, CESA has published a new report, Solar+Storage for Low- and Moderate-Income Communities: A Guide for States and Municipalities. While several previous reports have explained the economic and power resiliency benefits of solar+storage, this ...

Community Energy, Inc.'s 20-year track record of delivering renewable energy projects to precise specifications demonstrates our commitment to transparency and ability to serve as a forthcoming partner for communities looking to decarbonize their energy infrastructure and drive a ...

In most cases, the benefits of solar panels outweigh the drawbacks. But solar energy isn't for everyone! We compiled a comprehensive list to help you understand the pros and cons of solar energy in 2024. ... However, many states and municipalities offer property tax exemptions for solar installations, so you won't have to worry about ...

Or it could be a community solar program, which allows residents to subscribe to a shared solar project within the community. These kinds of projects visibly demonstrate a local government's dedication to climate action. The clean electricity they provide to municipal facilities and residents can reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions.

Find out about the various advantages of solar street lighting and explore why it's becoming the preferred choice for many cities and municipalities. 1. Energy Efficiency. One of the most significant advantages of



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solar street lighting is its exceptional energy efficiency.

Community solar is a rapidly growing model of solar development in the United States. Community solar provides households, businesses, and other energy users the opportunity to subscribe to a solar array in their community and allows for more equitable access to the benefits of clean energy, especially for households and businesses that cannot host a solar system on ...

**Additional Customer Benefits:** Assess and quantify supplementary benefits of community solar, such as potential resilience benefits to both the subscriber and the utility through the incorporation of battery energy storage systems into community solar projects. **Additional Information .** Explore the Municipal Utility Community Solar Workbook.

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