


# Solar Powering Your Community

## Addressing Soft Costs and Barriers



 Powered by  
**SunShot**  
U.S. Department of Energy



Powered by

**SunShot**

U.S. Department of Energy

## **Holly Wilson**

Meister Consultants Group

[holly.wilson@mc-group.com](mailto:holly.wilson@mc-group.com)

## **Autumn Proudlove**

NC Clean Energy Technology Center

[afproudl@ncsu.edu](mailto:afproudl@ncsu.edu)



# About the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership

The logo for ICMA, featuring the letters 'ICMA' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

*Leaders at the Core of Better Communities*



**American Planning Association**

*Making Great Communities Happen*



**NARC**

*Building Regional Communities*

*National Association of Regional Councils*



The **SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership (SolarOPs)** is a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) program designed to increase the use and integration of solar energy in communities across the US.

# About the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership

---

- Increase installed capacity of solar electricity in U.S. communities
- Streamline and standardize **permitting and interconnection processes**
- Improve **planning and zoning codes/regulations** for solar electric technologies
- Increase access to **solar financing options**

# Complimentary Services



Technical  
Resources



Regional  
Workshops



One to One  
Assistance



Strategy  
Session

# Complimentary Services



## Technical Resources

Helping Policymakers Understand Best Practices:

- Case Studies
- Fact Sheets
- How-to Guides
- Toolkits

[www.solaroutreach.org](http://www.solaroutreach.org)



One to One Assistance

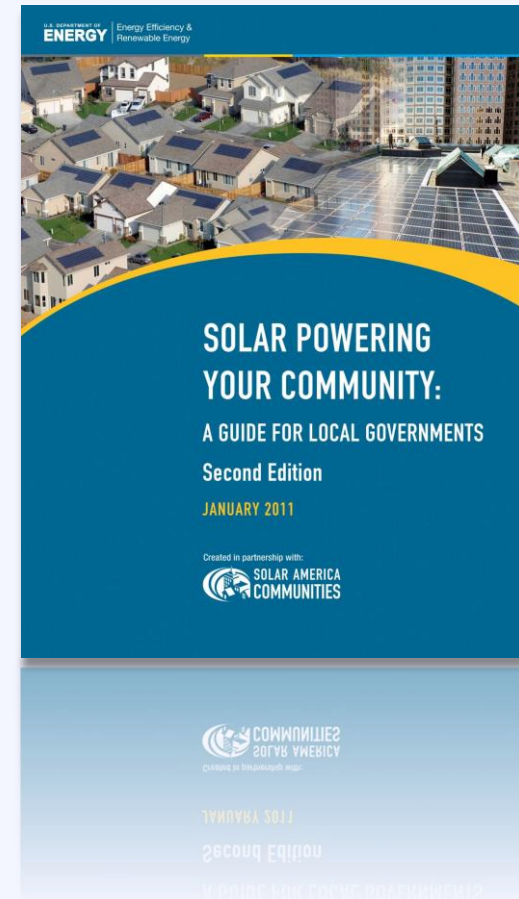
# Technical Resources

## Resource

## Solar Powering Your Community Guide

A comprehensive resource to assist local governments and stakeholders in building local solar markets.

[www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



# Complimentary Services

Quickly get up to speed on key solar policy issues:

- Solar 101
- Planning for Solar
- Implementing an Ordinance
- Streamlining Solar Permits
- Growing your Market



Regional Workshops



Strategy Session



# Complimentary Services



Technical  
Resources



Regional  
Workshops

Develop an  
implementation  
strategy for smart  
solar policy



Strategy  
Session

# Complimentary Services



Technical  
Resources



Regional  
Workshops



One to One  
Assistance

Receive customized  
technical support on  
implementation of  
smart solar policy

# After This Session

---

## Talk to Us!

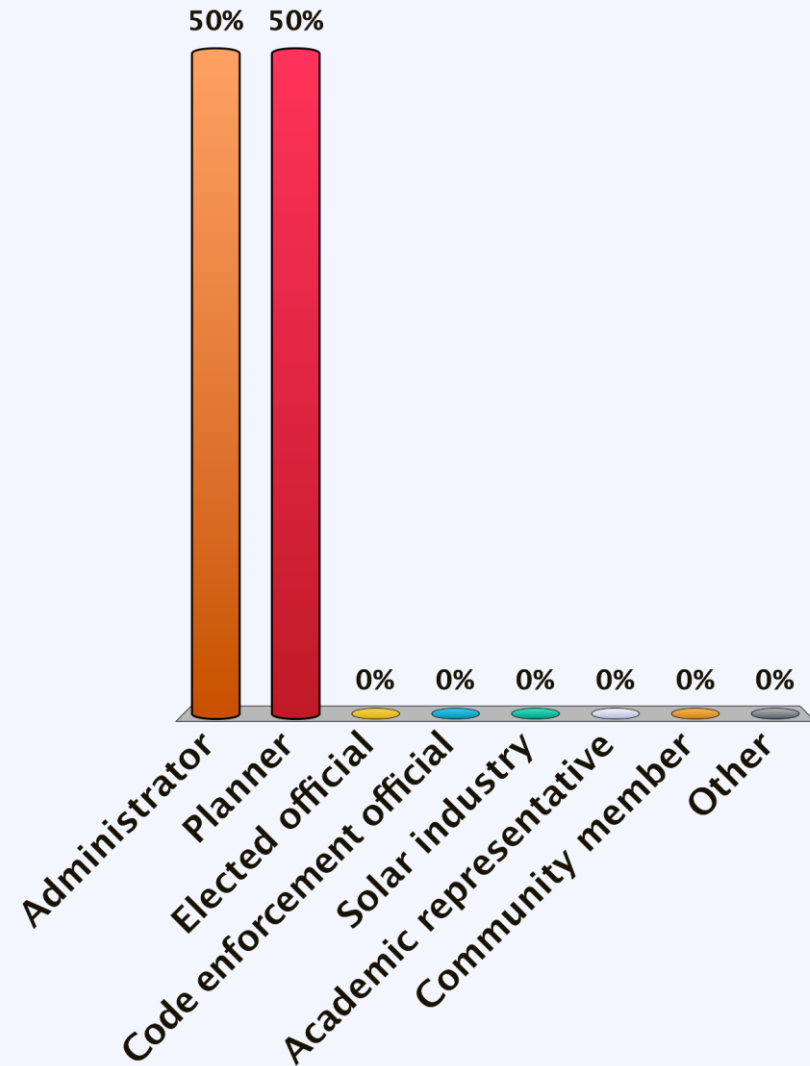
Sign up for a 20 minute  
consultation to learn more about  
our **free** services

See **Riana Ackley** to sign up.

We want to get to know you better

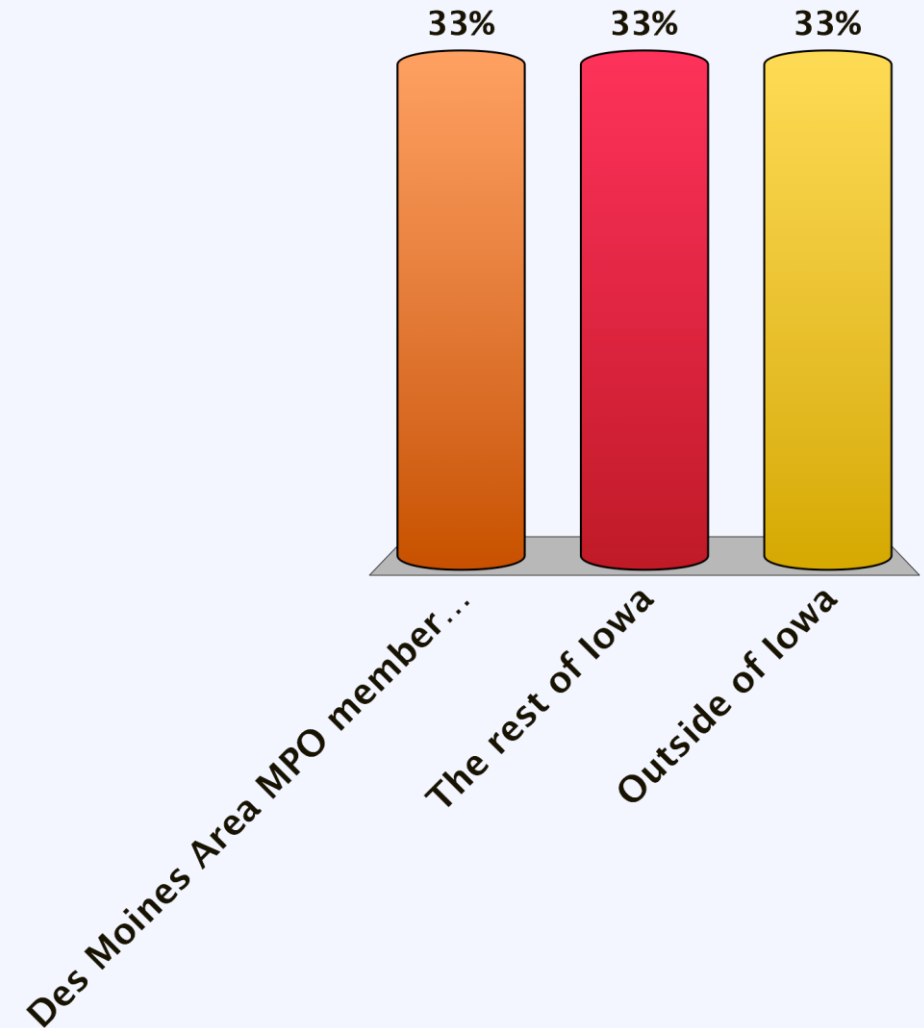
# Who are you?

- A. Administrator
- B. Planner
- C. Elected official
- D. Code enforcement official
- E. Solar industry
- F. Academic representative
- G. Community member
- H. Other



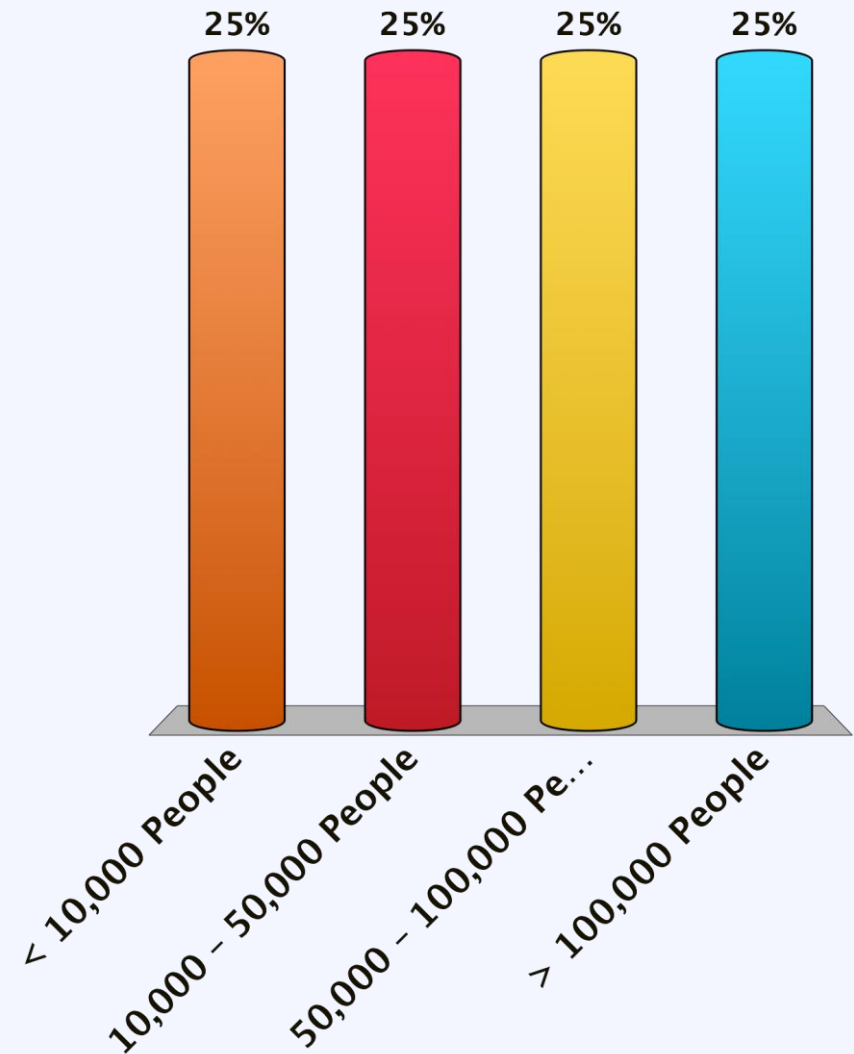
# Where are you coming from?

- A. Dubuque area
- B. The rest of Iowa
- C. Outside of Iowa



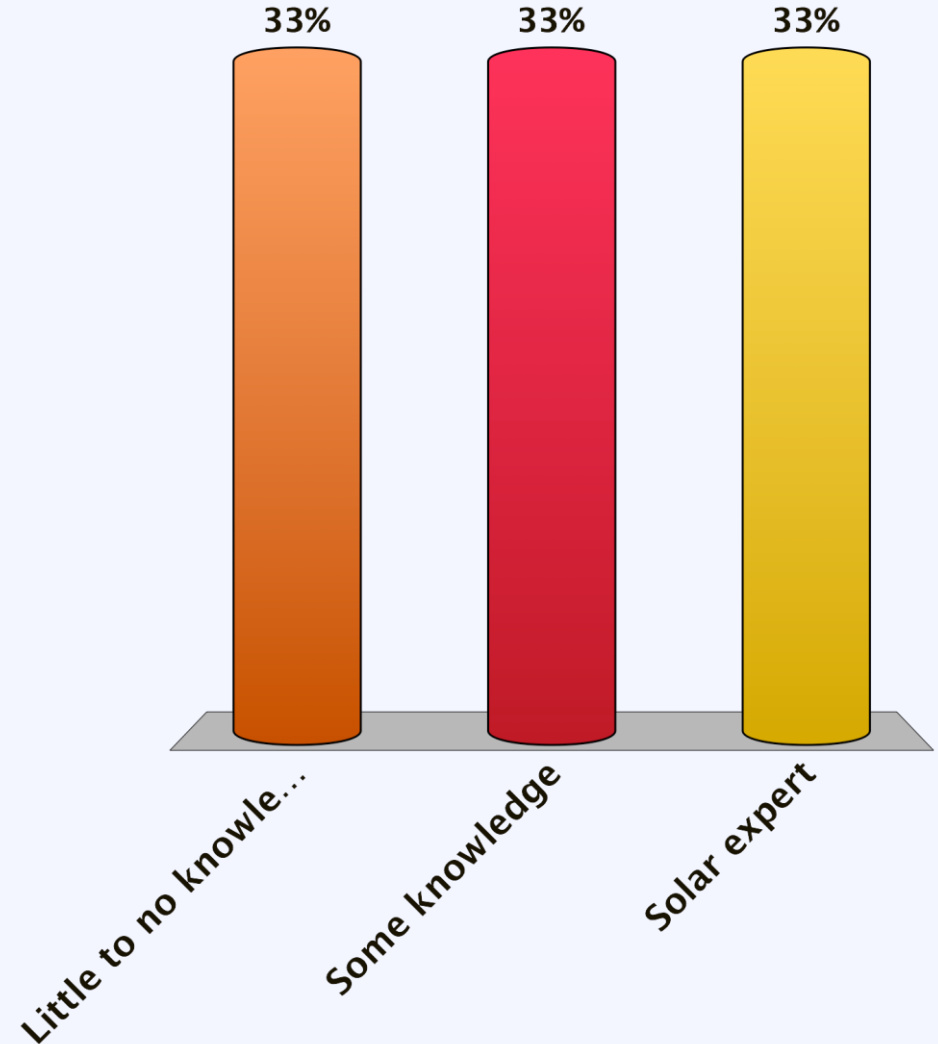
# What size is your community?

- A. < 10,000 People
- B. 10,000 – 50,000 People
- C. 50,000 – 100,000 People
- D. > 100,000 People



# How familiar are you with solar?

- A. Little to no knowledge
- B. Some knowledge
- C. Solar expert

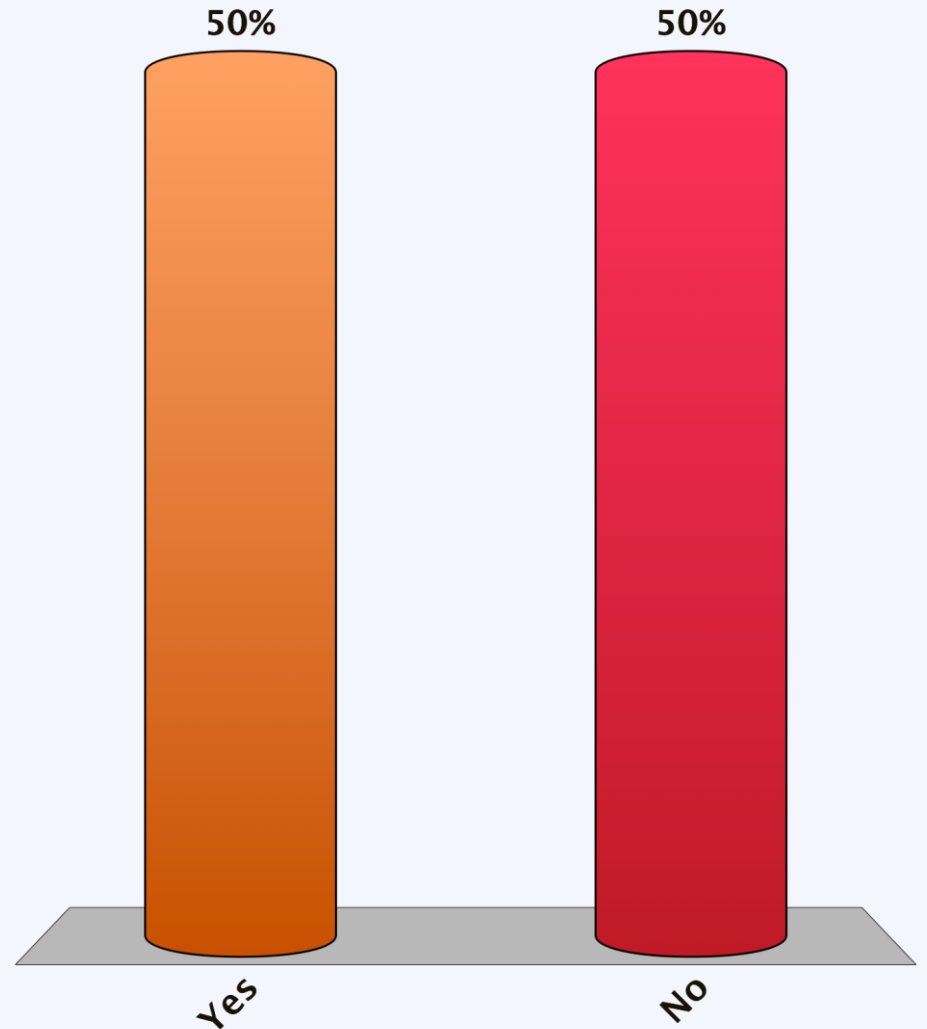




# Do you have solar on your home?

A. Yes

B. No



# Solar Development in the US

---

In 2013, the US solar industry installed

**131,000** new solar installations

*of which*

**94%** were residential projects

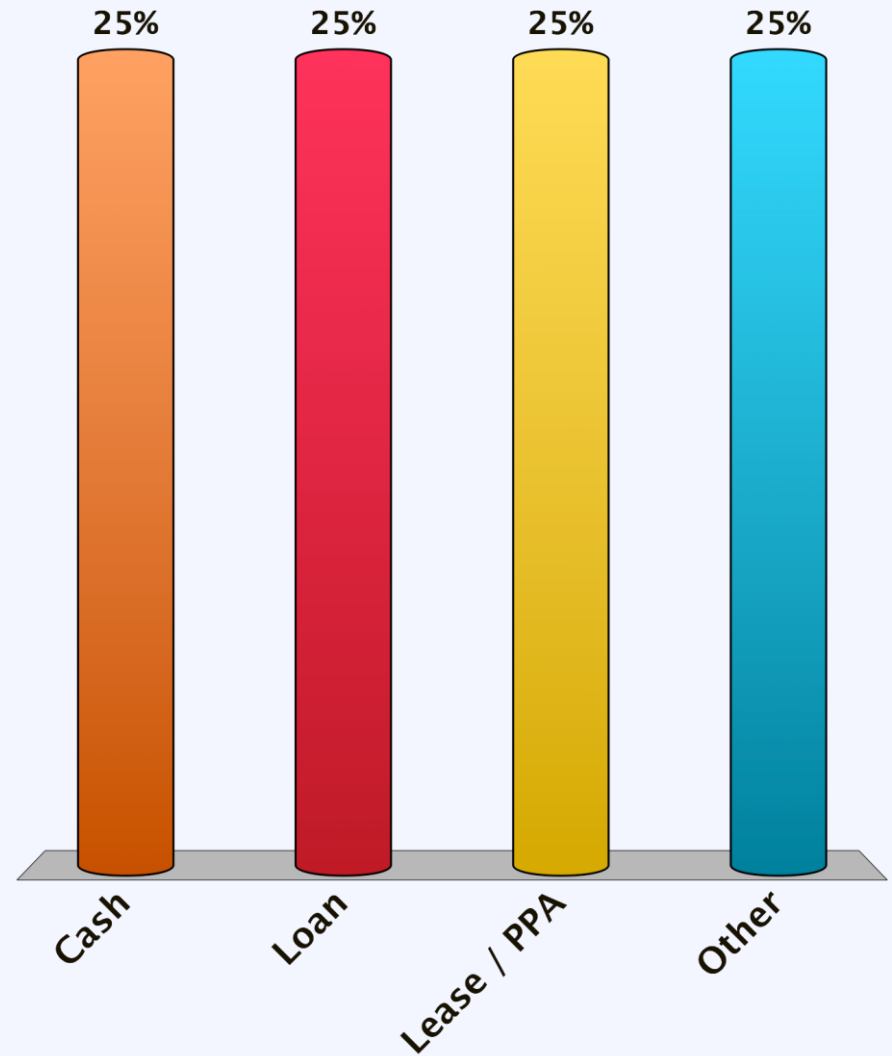
# If you do have solar on your home: How did you finance it?

A. Cash

B. Loan

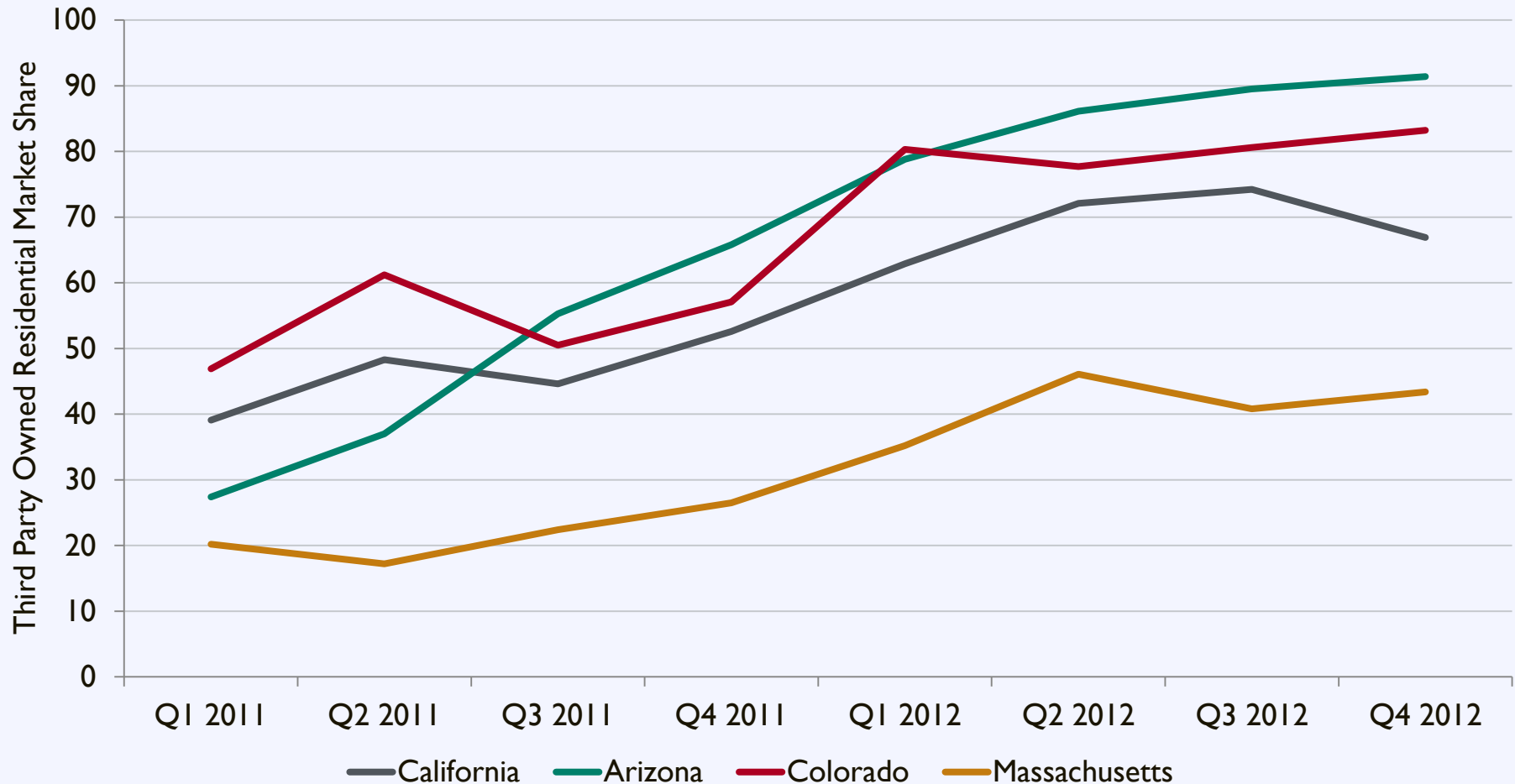
C. Lease / PPA

D. Other



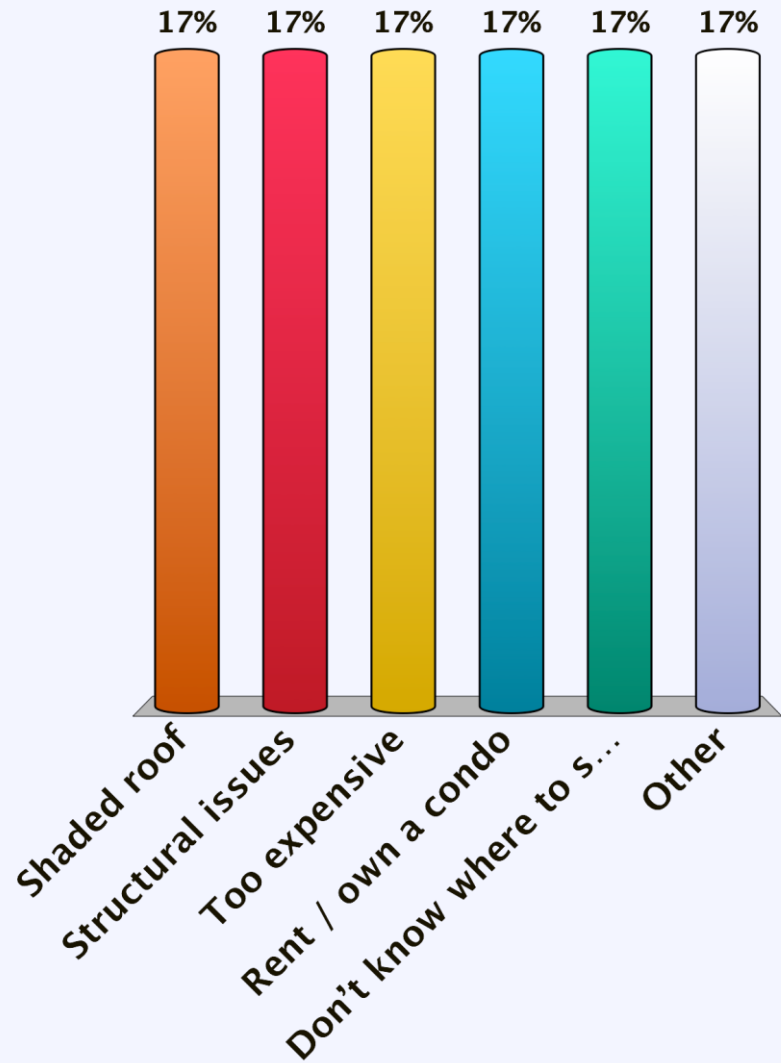
# Third Party Ownership

## Percentage of New Residential Installations Owned by Third Party in CA, AZ, CO, and MA



# If you don't have solar on your home: **Why not?**

- A. Shaded roof
- B. Structural issues
- C. Too expensive
- D. Rent / own a condo
- E. Don't know where to start
- F. Other

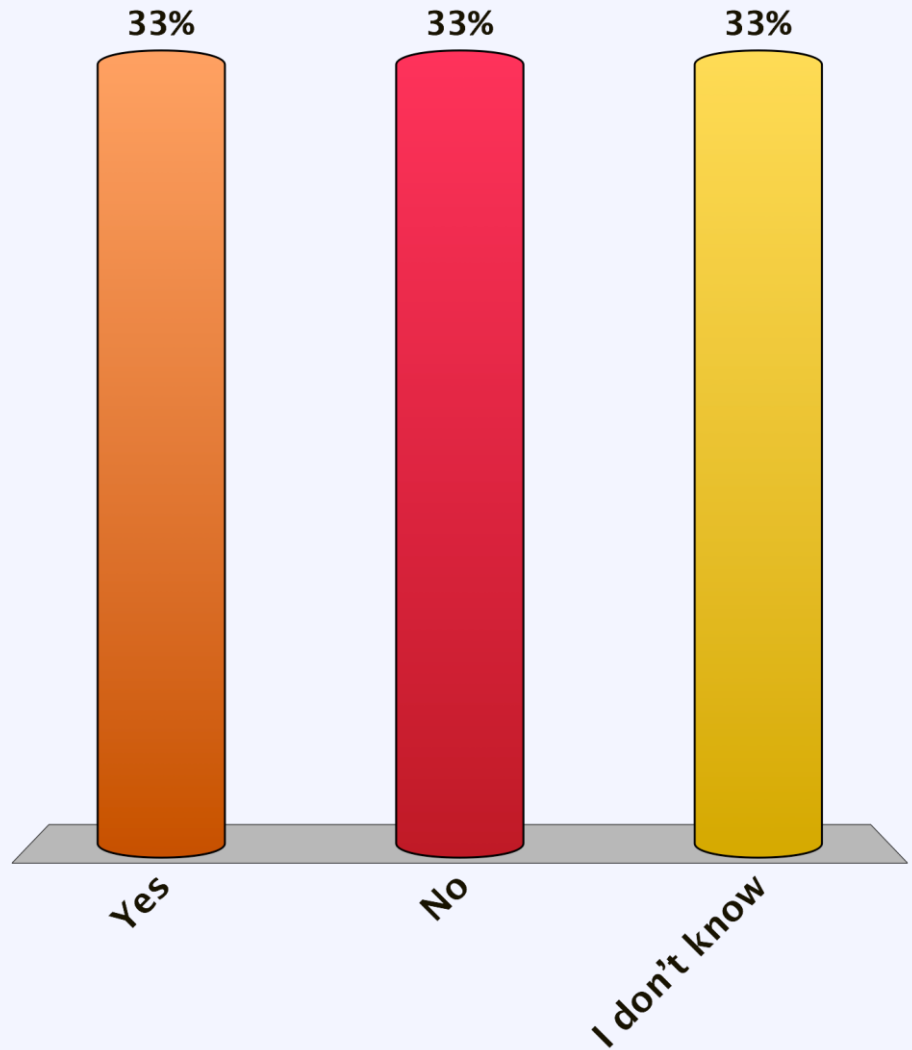


# Does your local government have solar on public properties?

A. Yes

B. No

C. I don't know



# Agenda

---

10:20 – 10:50 Putting Solar Energy on the Local Policy Agenda

10:50 – 11:20 State of the Local Solar Market

11:20 – 11:50 Federal, State, and Utility Policy Drivers

11:50 – 12:15 *Break & Lunch*

12:15 – 12:45 Planning for Solar: Getting Solar Ready

12:45 – 01:20 Solar Market Development Tools

01:20 – 01:30 *Break*

01:30 – 02:30 Solar in Iowa: A Local Perspective

02:30 – 02:50 Developing Solar Policy for Your Community

02:50 – 03:00 Next Steps

# Agenda

---

**10:20 – 10:50**      **Putting Solar Energy on the Local Policy Agenda**

10:50 – 11:20      State of the Local Solar Market

11:20 – 11:50      Federal, State, and Utility Policy Drivers

11:50 – 12:15      *Break & Lunch*

12:15 – 12:45      Planning for Solar: Getting Solar Ready

12:45 – 01:20      Solar Market Development Tools

01:20 – 01:30      *Break*

01:30 – 02:30      Solar in Iowa: A Local Perspective

02:30 – 02:50      Developing Solar Policy for Your Community

02:50 – 03:00      Next Steps



# Solar Technologies



**Solar Photovoltaic (PV)**



**Solar Hot Water**



**Concentrated Solar Power**

# Solar Technologies



**Solar Photovoltaic (PV)**

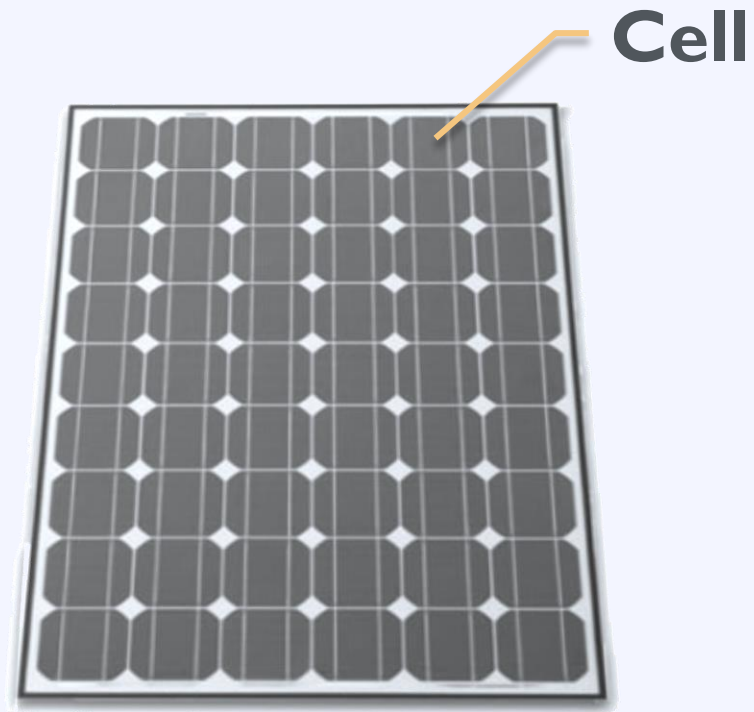


**Solar Hot Water**



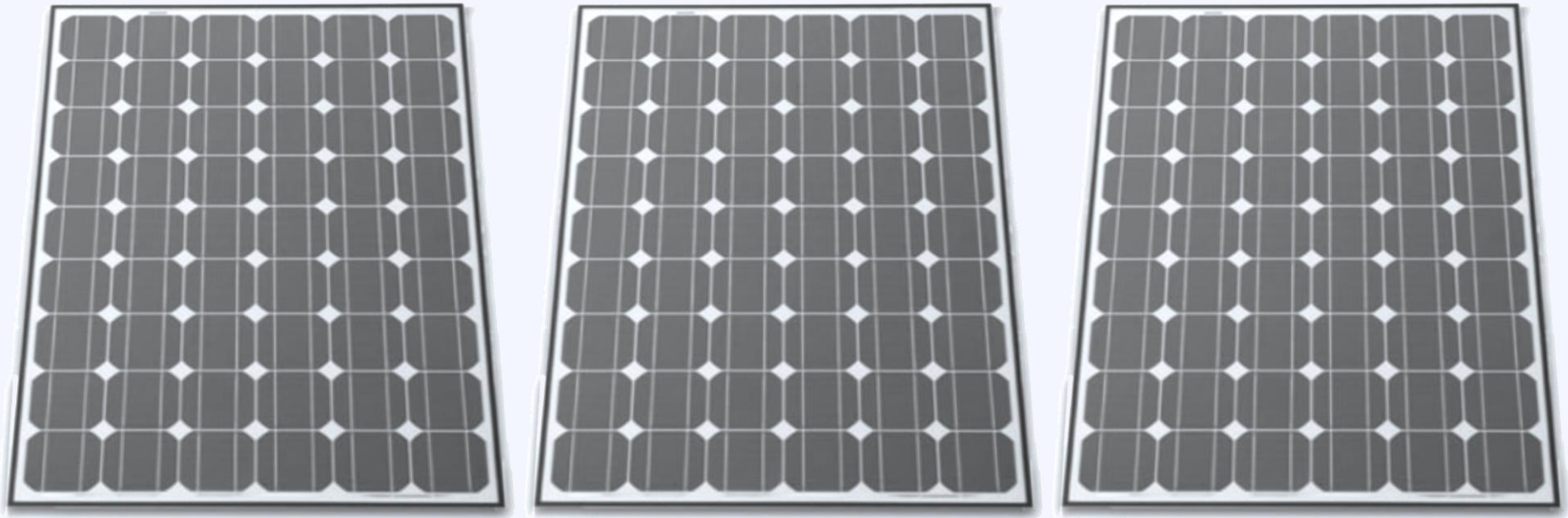
**Concentrated Solar Power**

# Some Basic Terminology



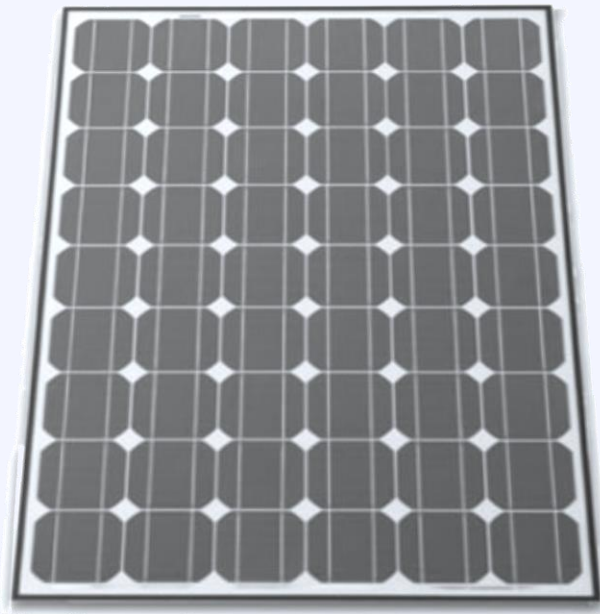
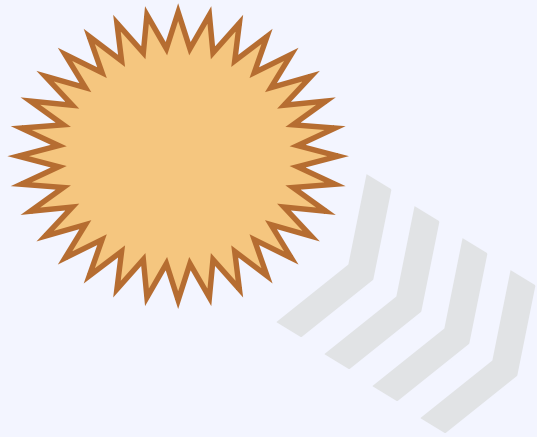
**Panel / Module**

# Some Basic Terminology



**Array**

# Some Basic Terminology



**Production**  
*Kilowatt-hour (kWh)*

**Capacity / Power**  
*kilowatt (kW)*

# Some Basic Terminology



**Residence**  
5 kW



**Factory**  
1 MW+



**Office**  
50 – 500 kW



**Utility**  
2 MW+

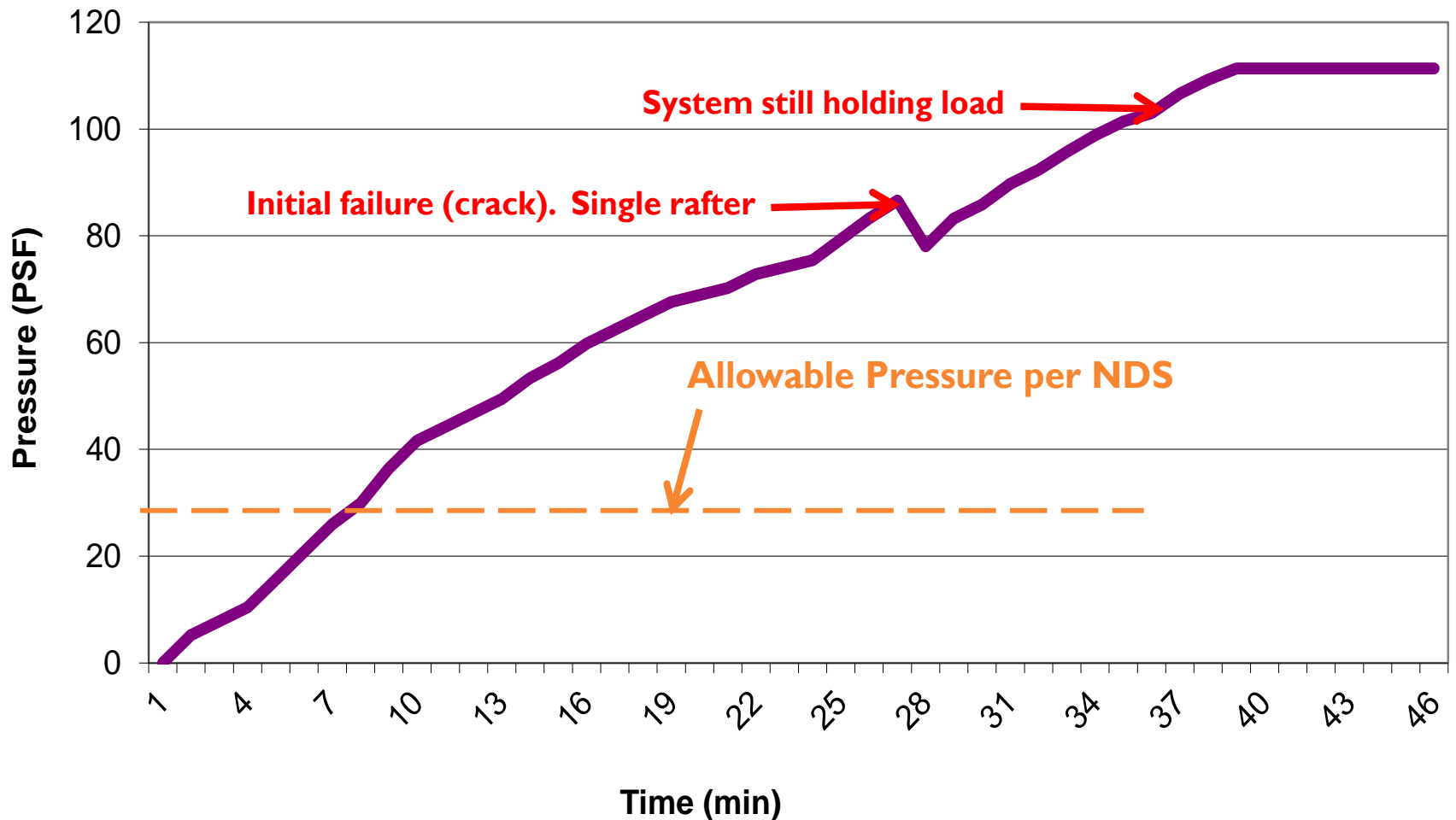
# What About Snow?

- Snow can temporarily shut down your solar array energy production; however, there is **little sun in the winter to miss out on.**
  - December, January and February is only about 5% of yearly sun
- Safest to let the snow **melt naturally**, or use a roof rake with a squeegee.



# Rooftop Structural Integrity

Results for (2x8)@14' span





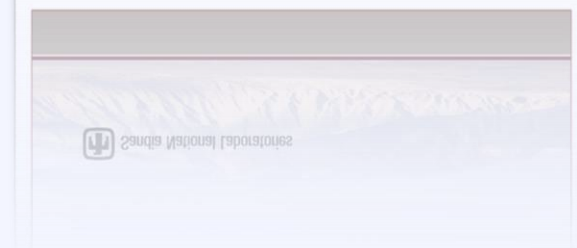
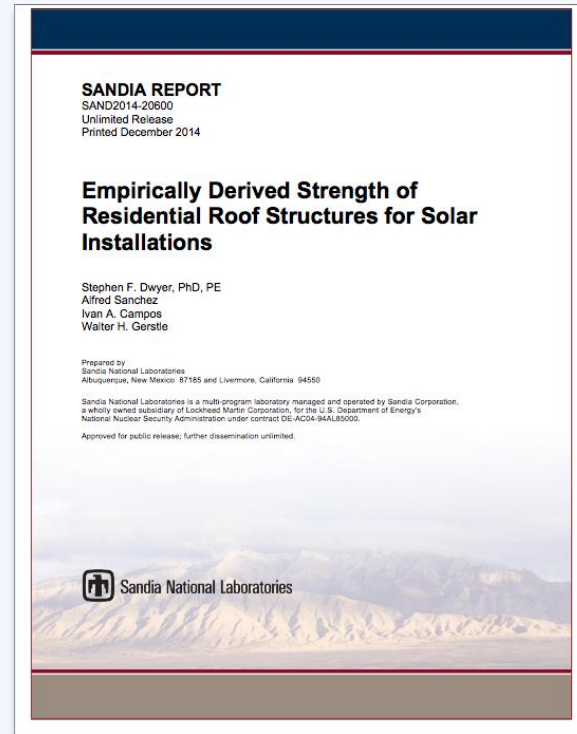
# Rooftop Structural Integrity

Resource

Sandia National Laboratories

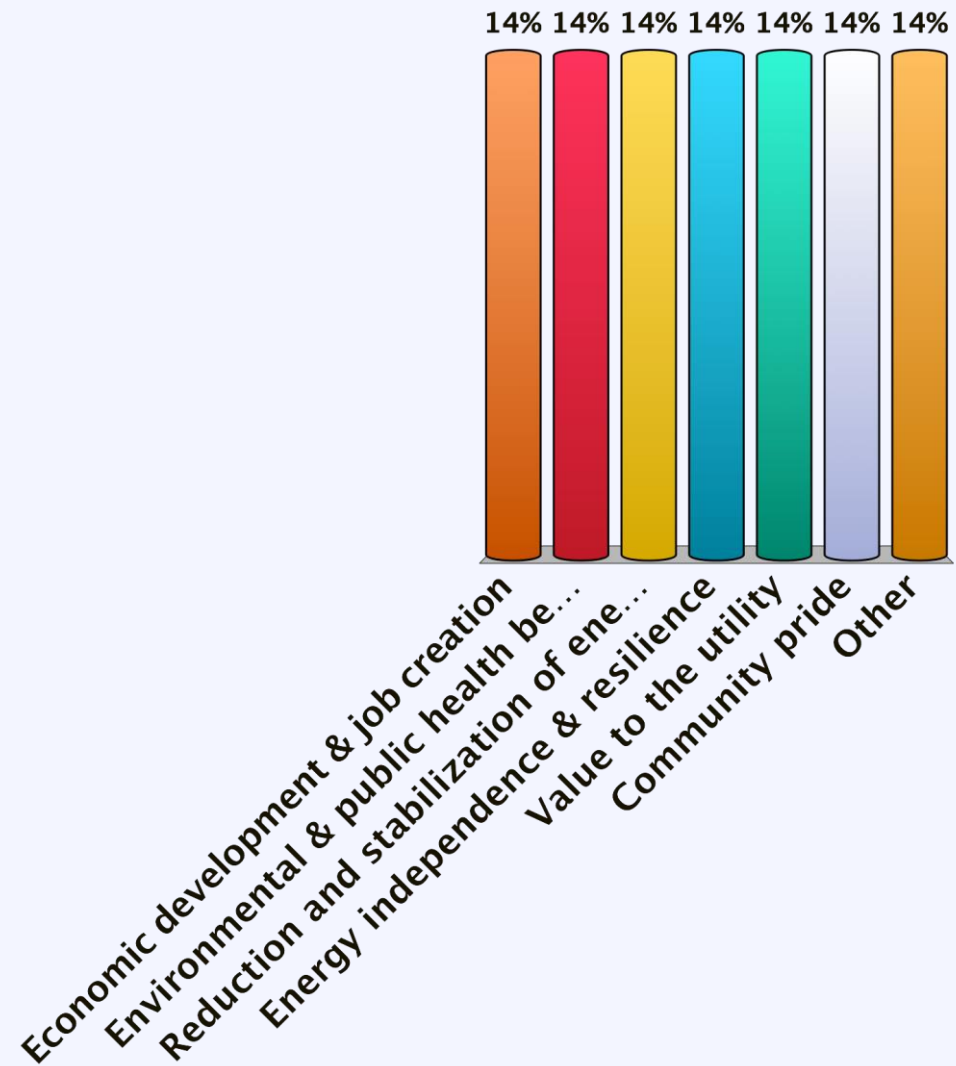
A comprehensive review of the strength of residential roof structures for solar installations

<http://www.sandia.gov/>

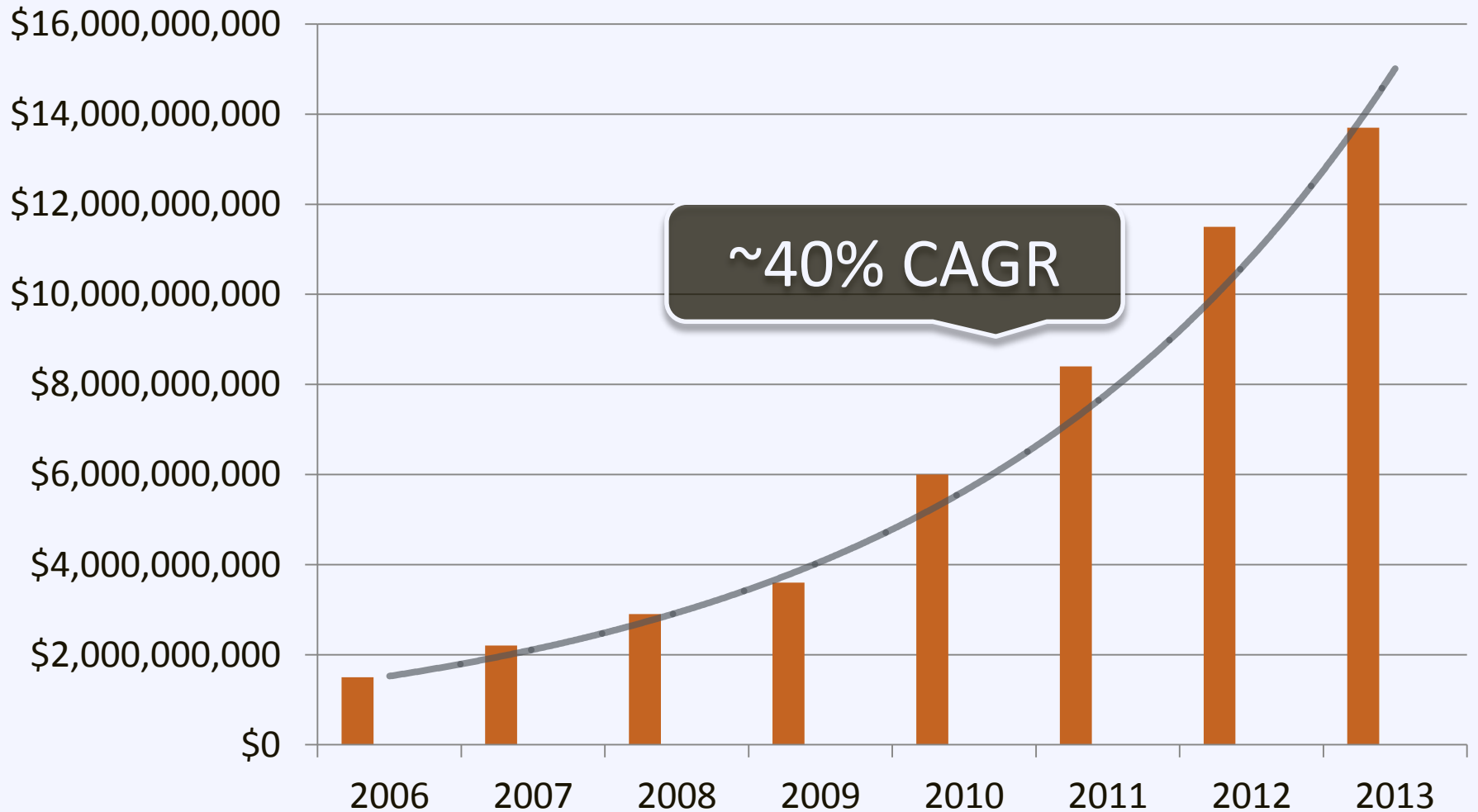


# What are the top 3 benefits solar can bring to your community?

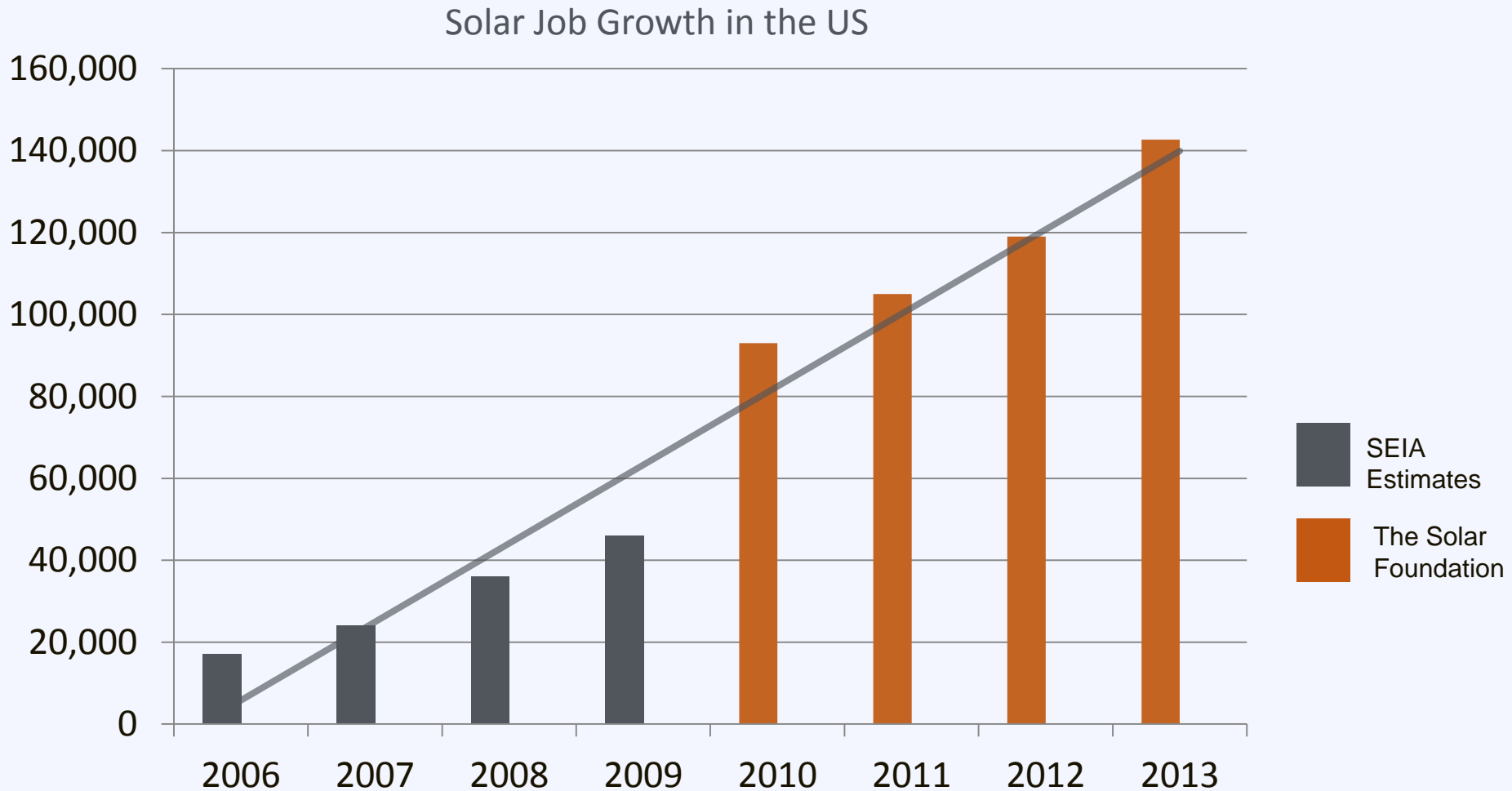
- A. Economic development & job creation
- B. Environmental & public health benefits
- C. Reduction and stabilization of energy costs
- D. Energy independence & resilience
- E. Value to the utility
- F. Community pride
- G. Other



# Solar Economic Growth



# Solar Job Growth



# Economic Development in Iowa

---

*In 2013 the industry invested*

**\$18 million**

*in solar development in Iowa*

# Economic Development in Iowa

---

*There are currently*

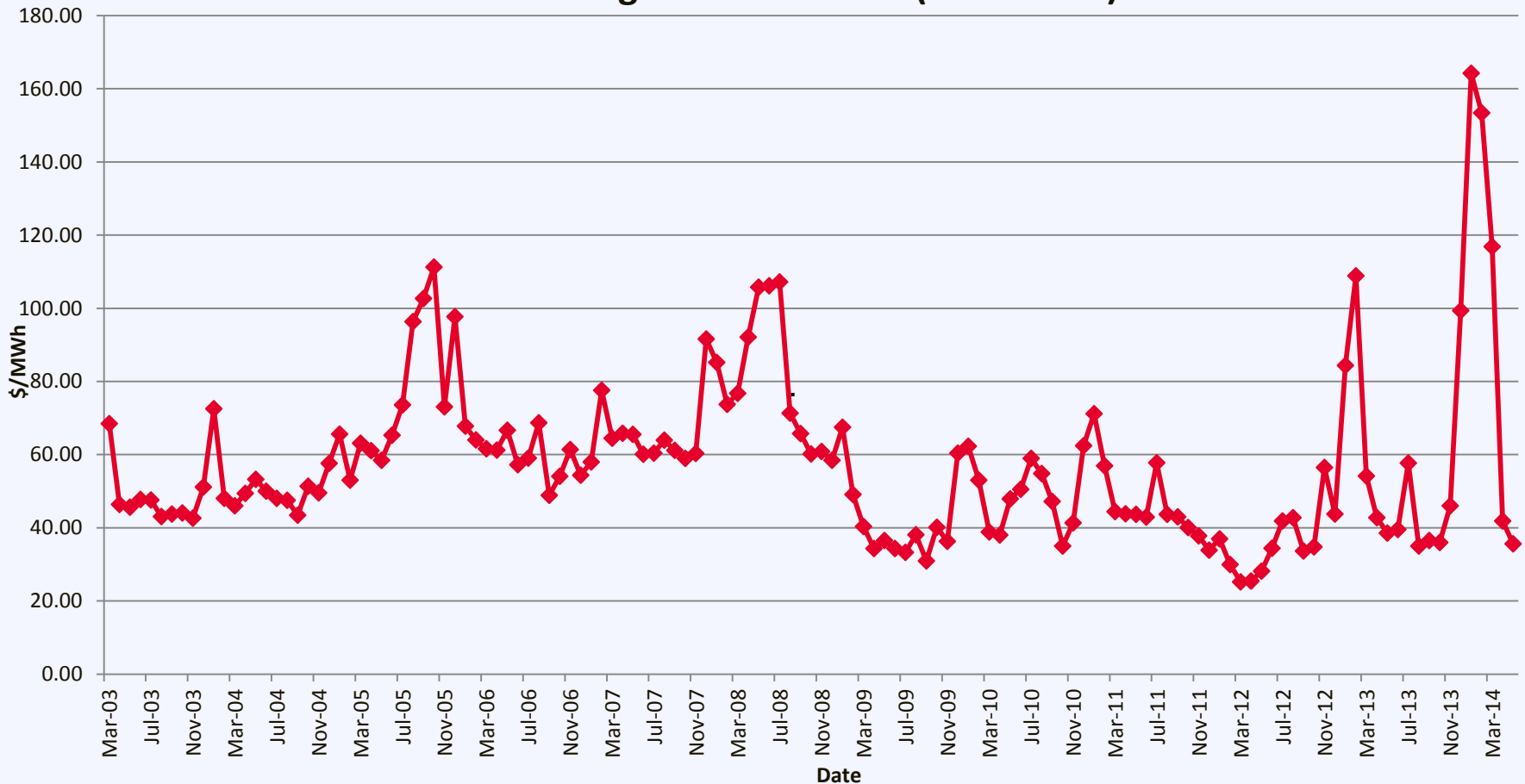
**34 solar companies**

*that employ*

**680 people**

# Benefit: Stabilize Energy Prices

## Historical Avg Real-Time LMP (NEMABOS)



# Benefits: Valuable to Electric Grid

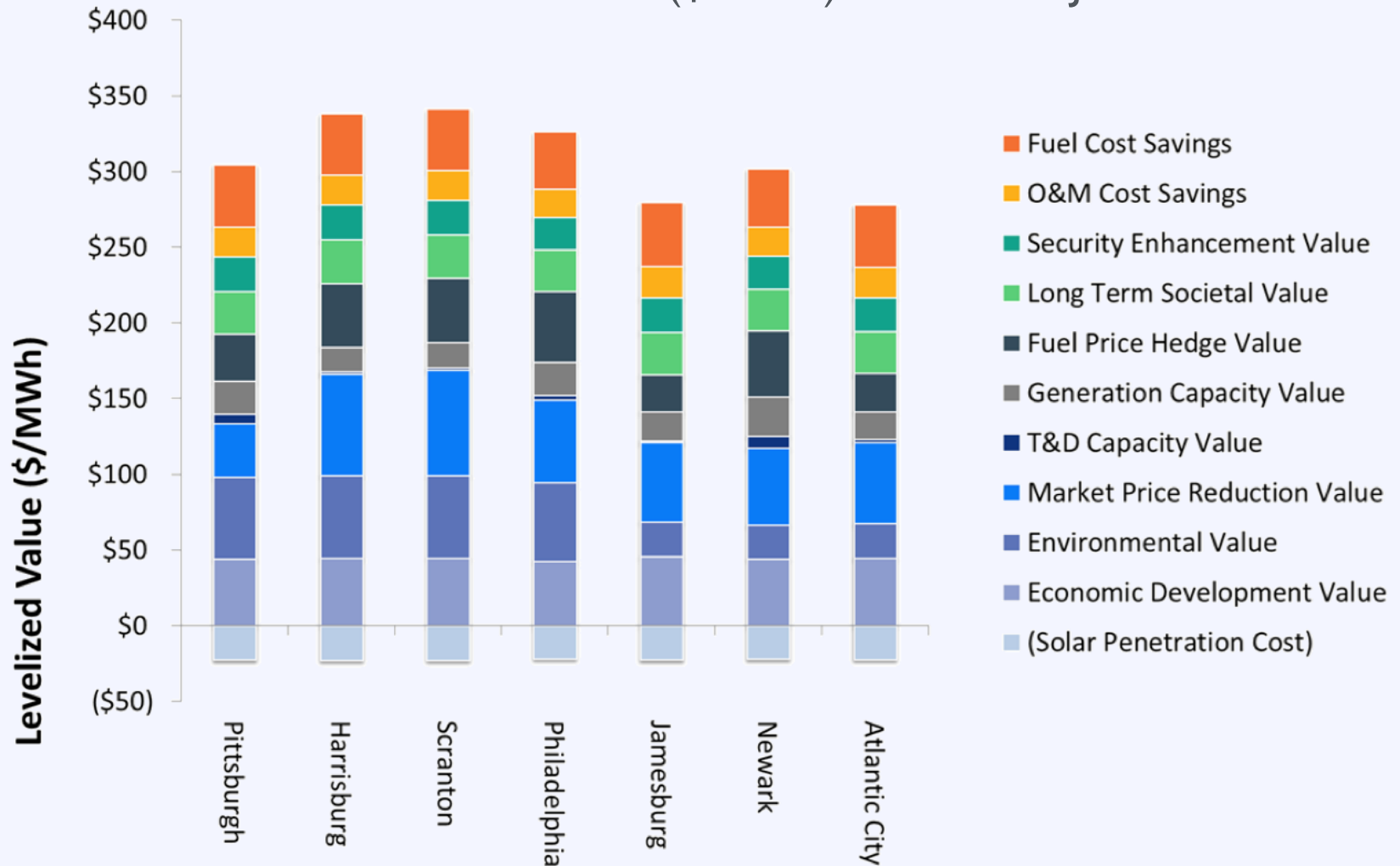
- Avoided Energy Purchases
- Avoided T&D Line Losses
- Avoided Capacity Purchases
- Avoided T&D Investments
- Fossil Fuel Price Impacts
- Backup Power





# Value to Community & Utility

Levelized Value of Solar (\$/MWh) in PA and NJ



# Agenda

---

10:20 – 10:50 Putting Solar Energy on the Local Policy Agenda

**10:50 – 11:20 State of the Local Solar Market**

11:20 – 11:50 Federal, State, and Utility Policy Drivers

11:50 – 12:15 *Break & Lunch*

12:15 – 12:45 Planning for Solar: Getting Solar Ready

12:45 – 01:20 Solar Market Development Tools

01:20 – 01:30 *Break*

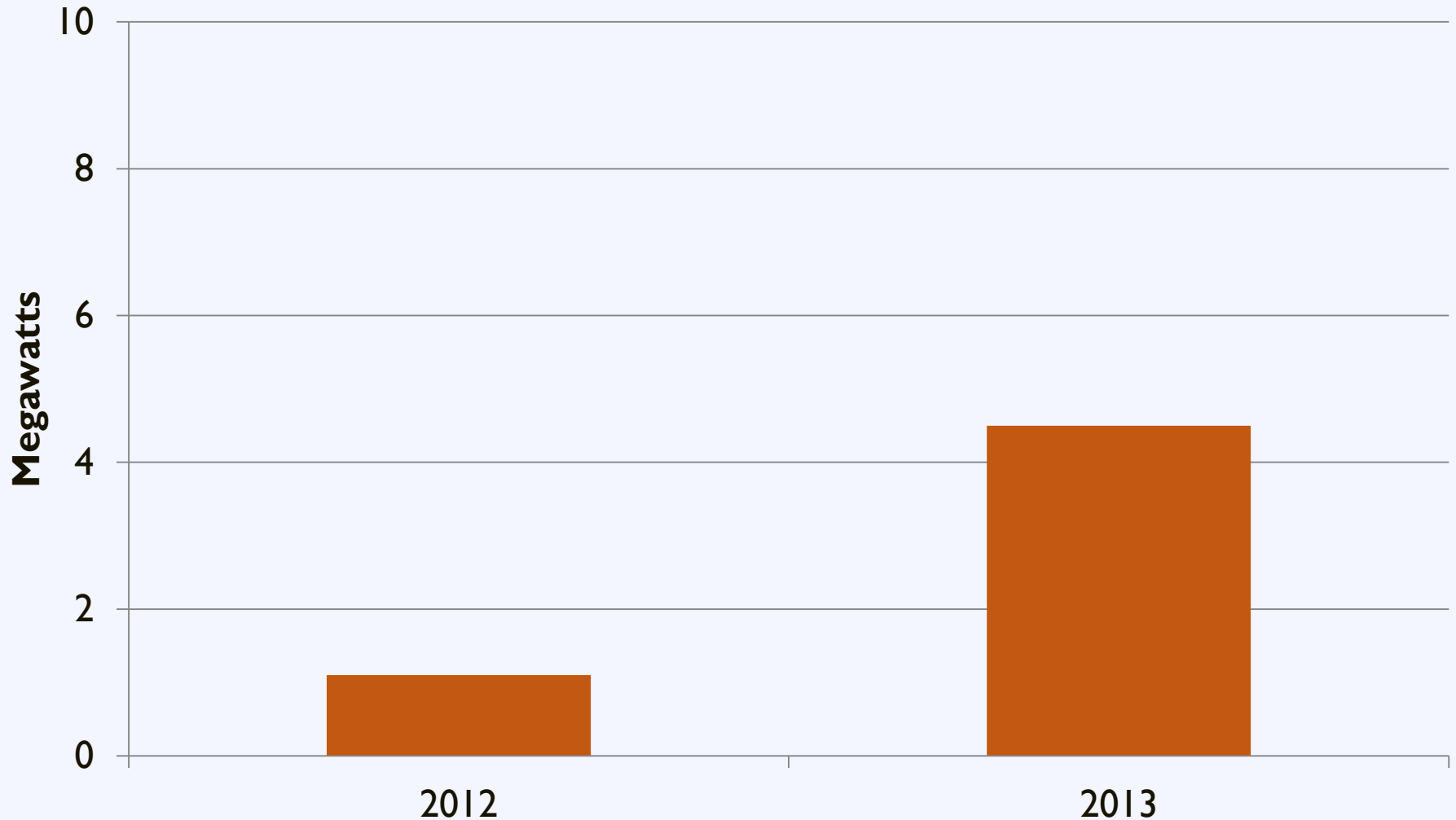
01:30 – 02:30 Solar in Iowa: A Local Perspective

02:30 – 02:50 Developing Solar Policy for Your Community

02:50 – 03:00 Next Steps

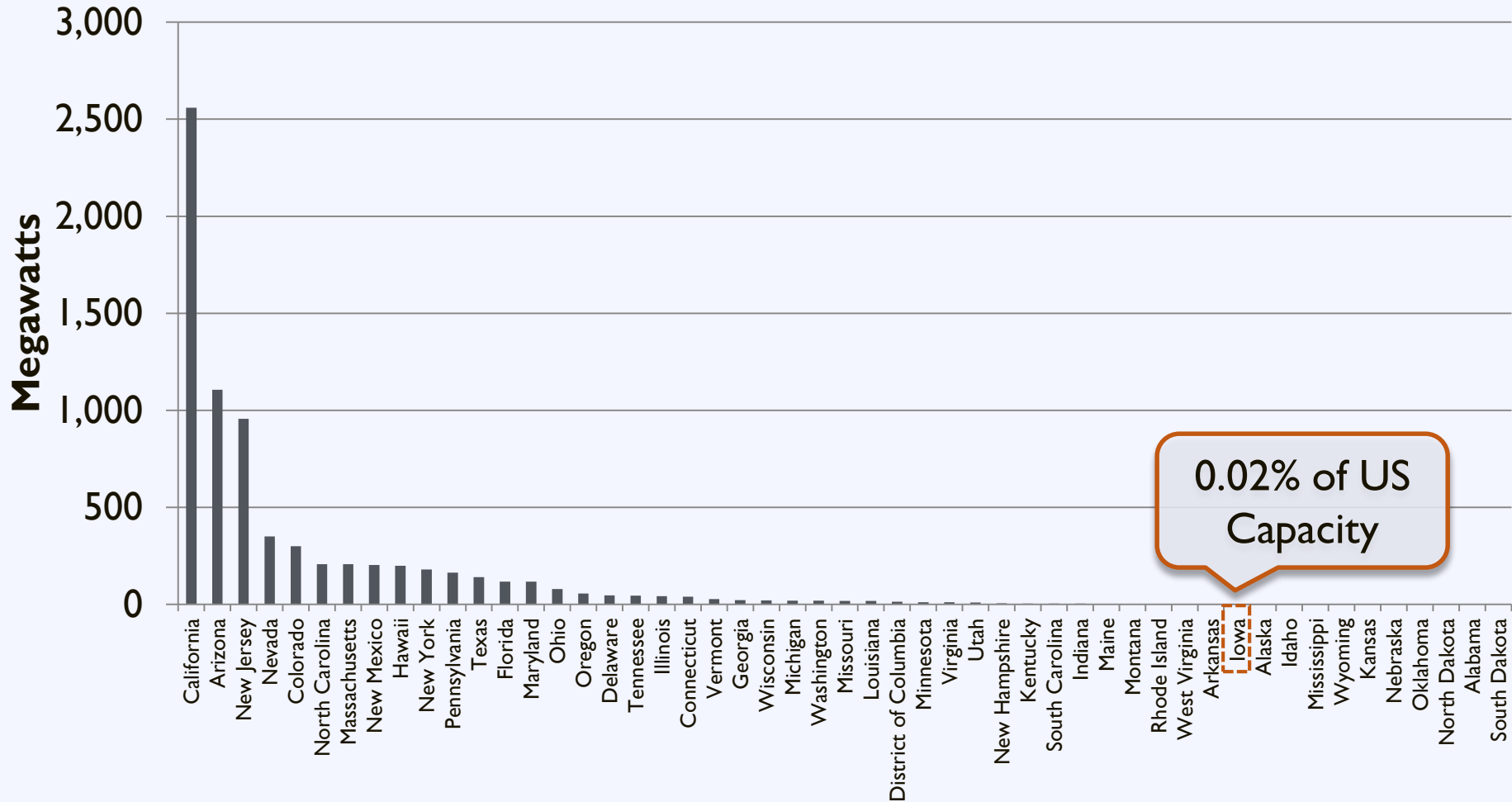
# Iowa Solar Market

## Cumulative Installed PV Capacity in Iowa



# US Solar Market

## Installed Capacity (MW) 2012



0.02% of US  
Capacity

# Iowa Solar Market

---

Iowa

0.4

watts per person

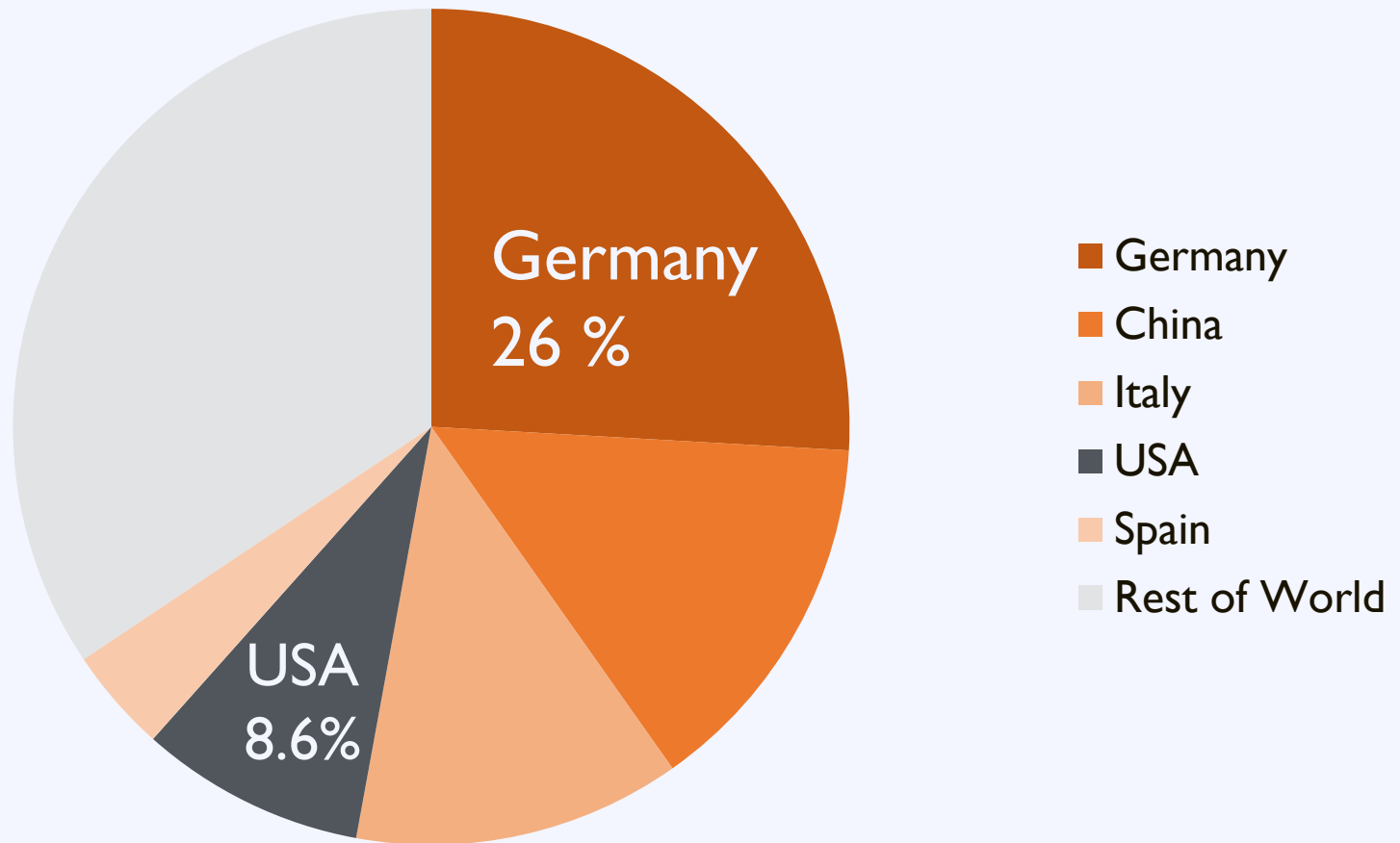
US

39

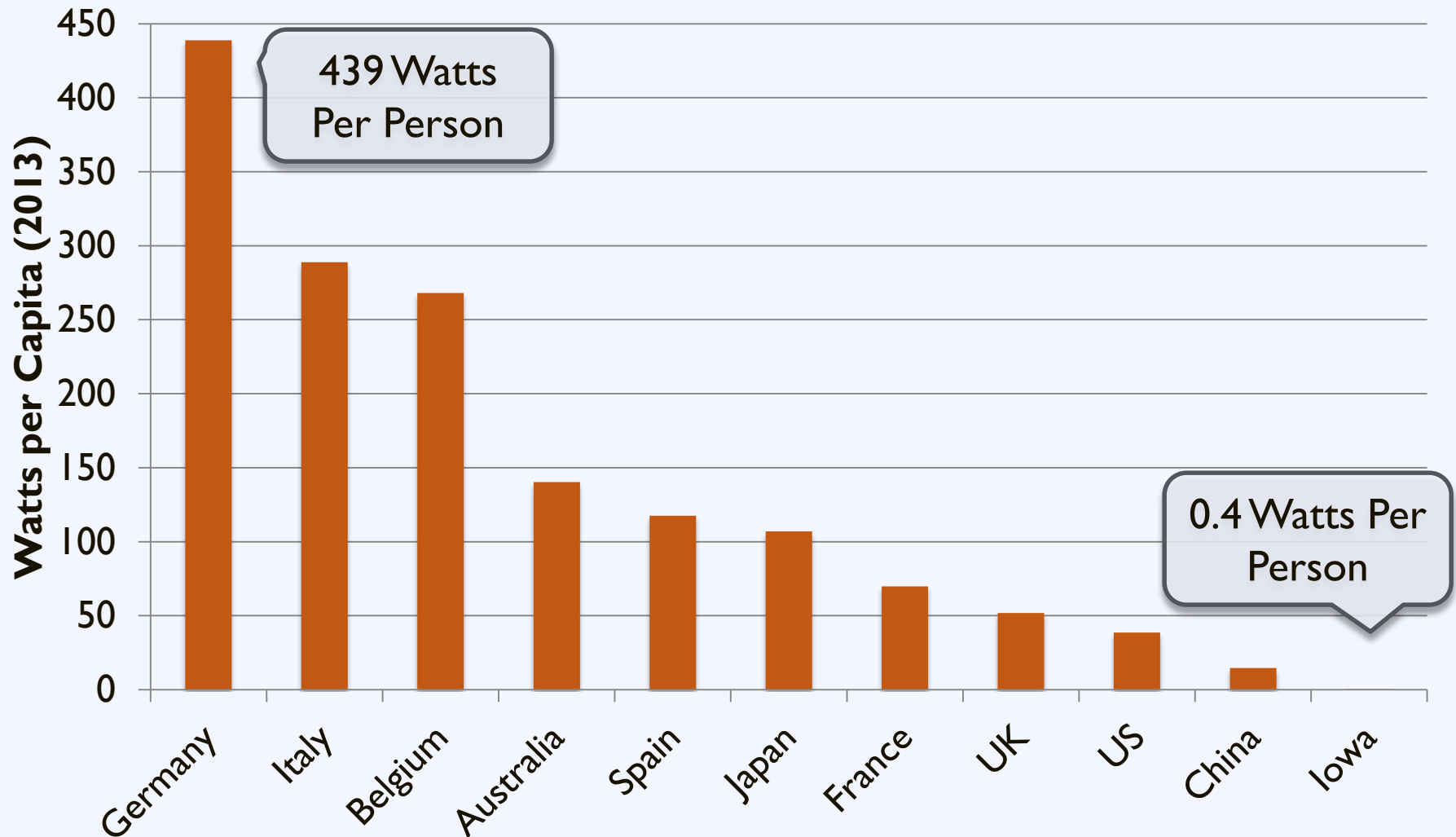
watts per person

# World Solar Market

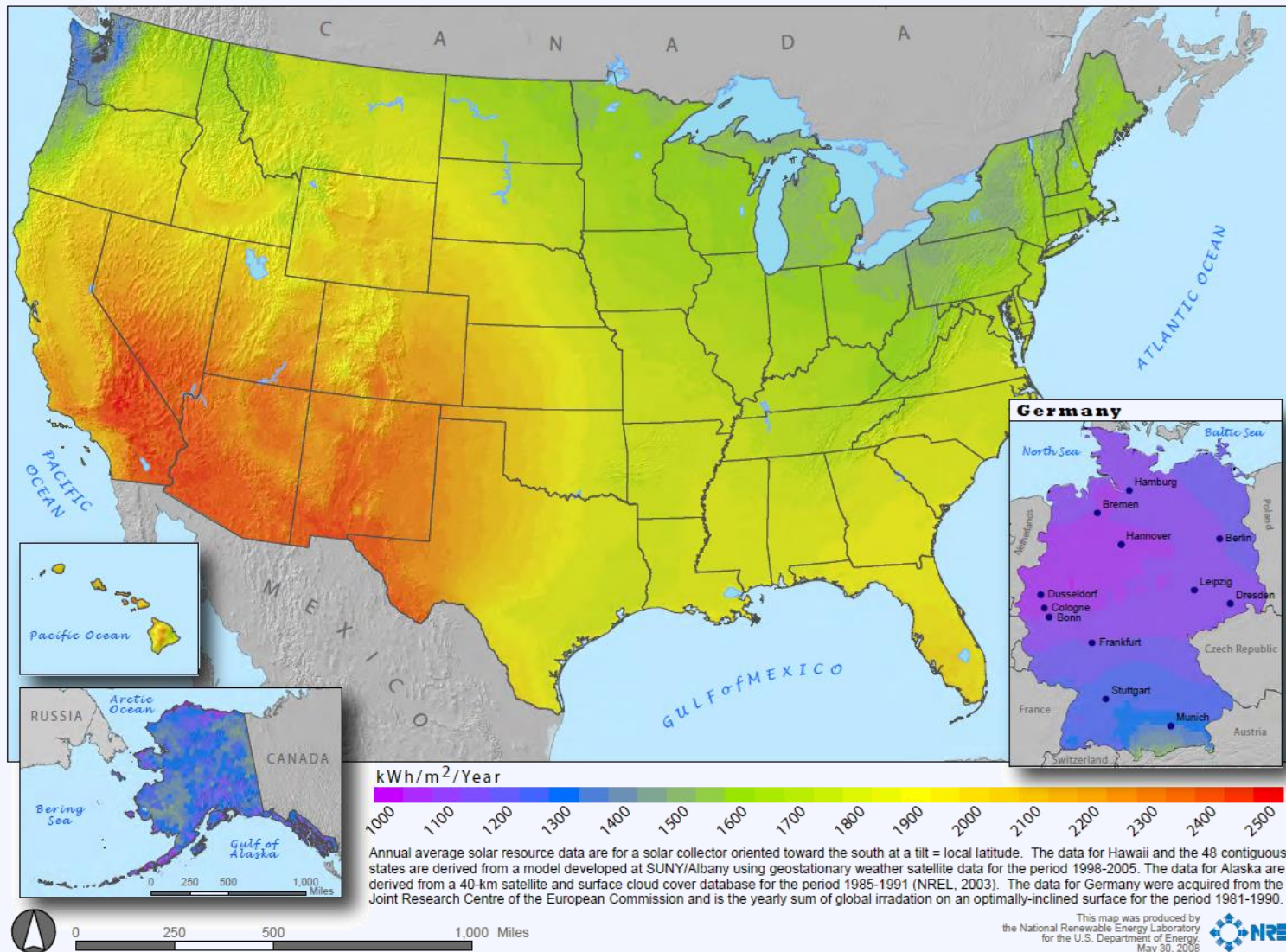
## Top 5 Countries Solar Operating Capacity (2013)



# Installed Capacity per Capita



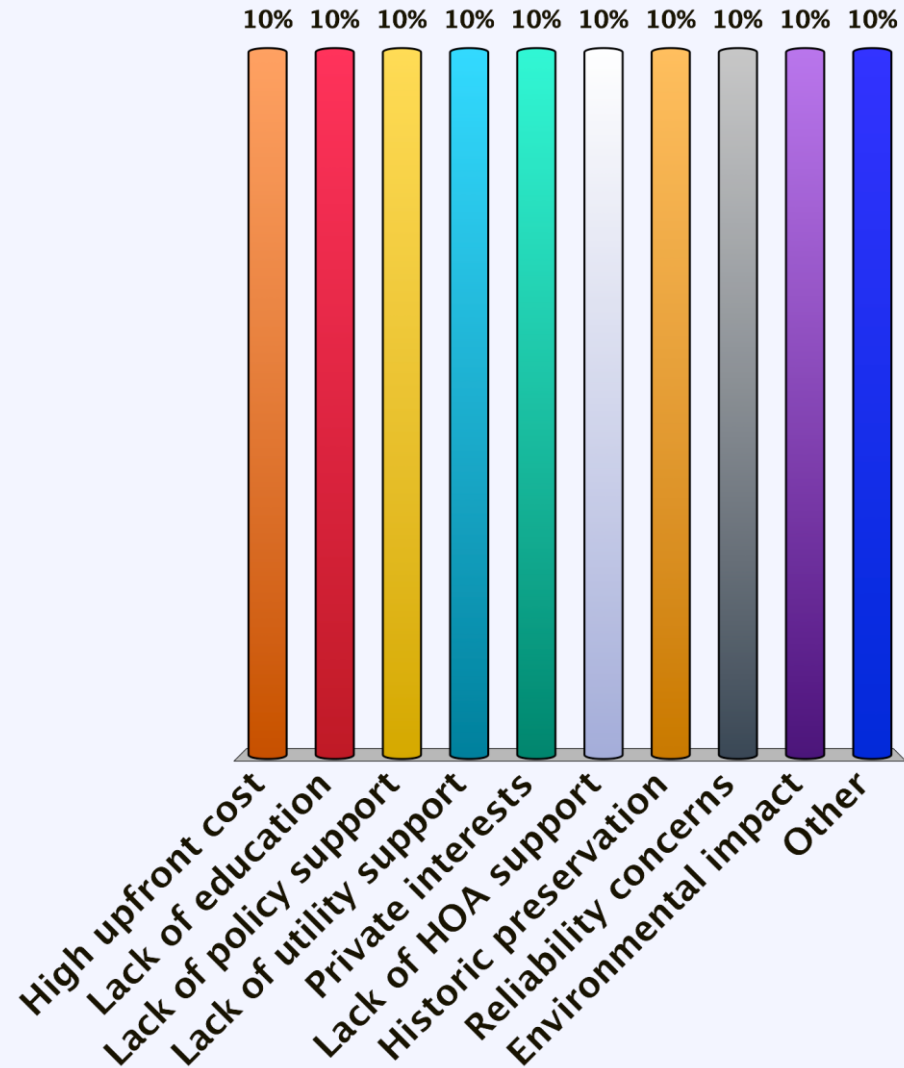
# US Solar Resource





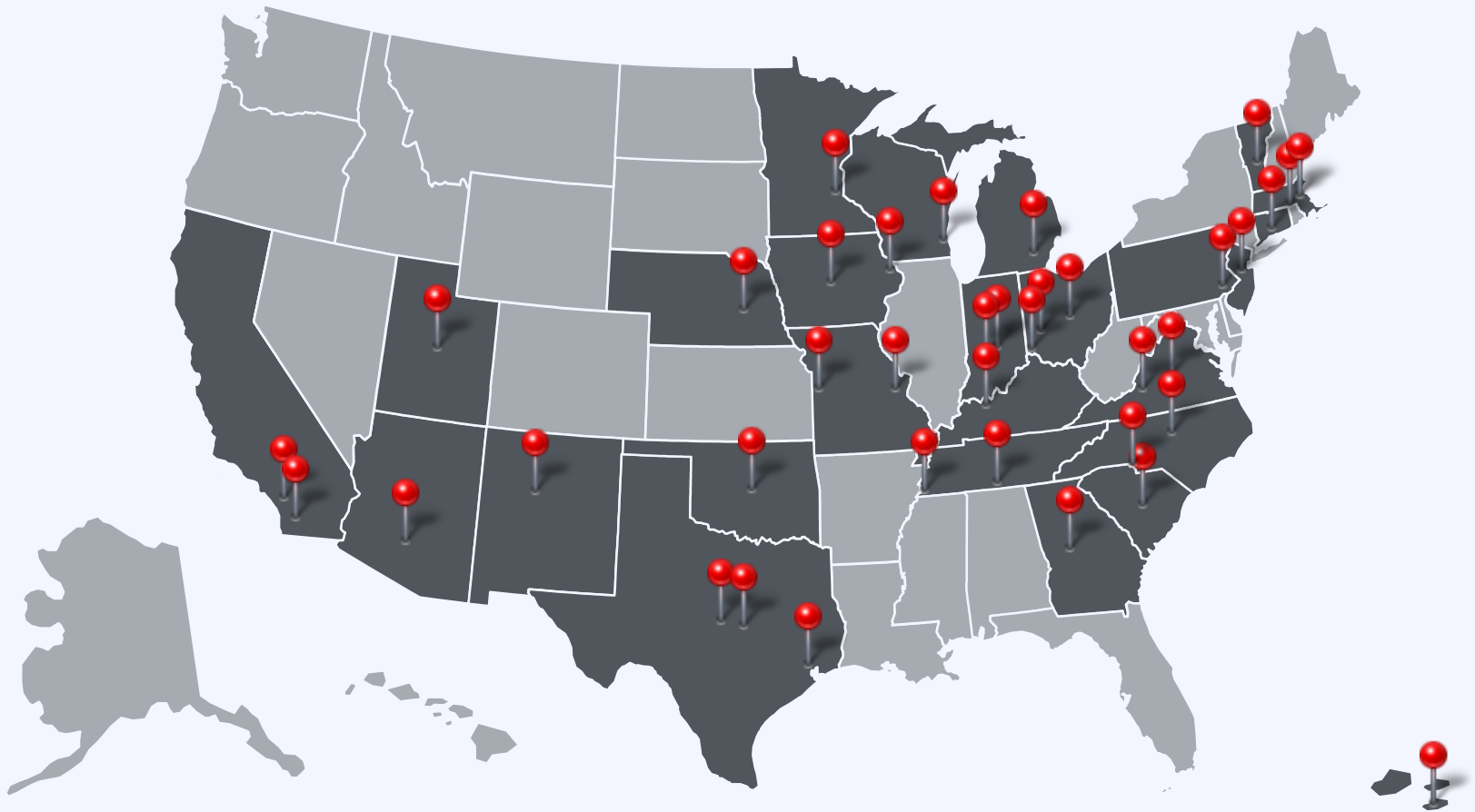
# What are the top 3 barriers to solar adoption in your community?

- A. High upfront cost
- B. Lack of education
- C. Lack of policy support
- D. Lack of utility support
- E. Private interests
- F. Lack of HOA support
- G. Historic preservation
- H. Reliability concerns
- I. Environmental impact
- J. Other

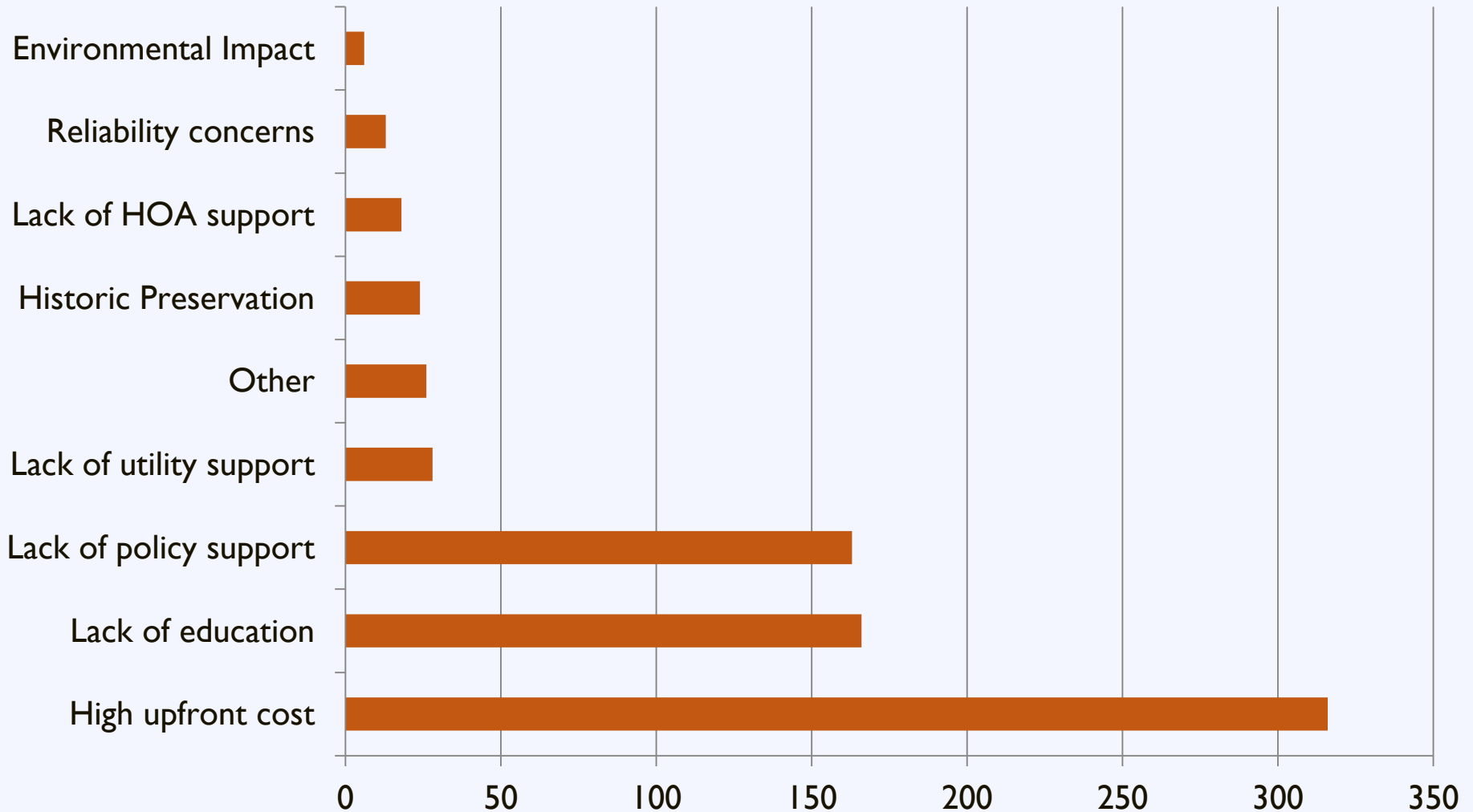


# Regional Workshop Surveys

**Q:** What is the greatest barrier to solar adoption in your community?

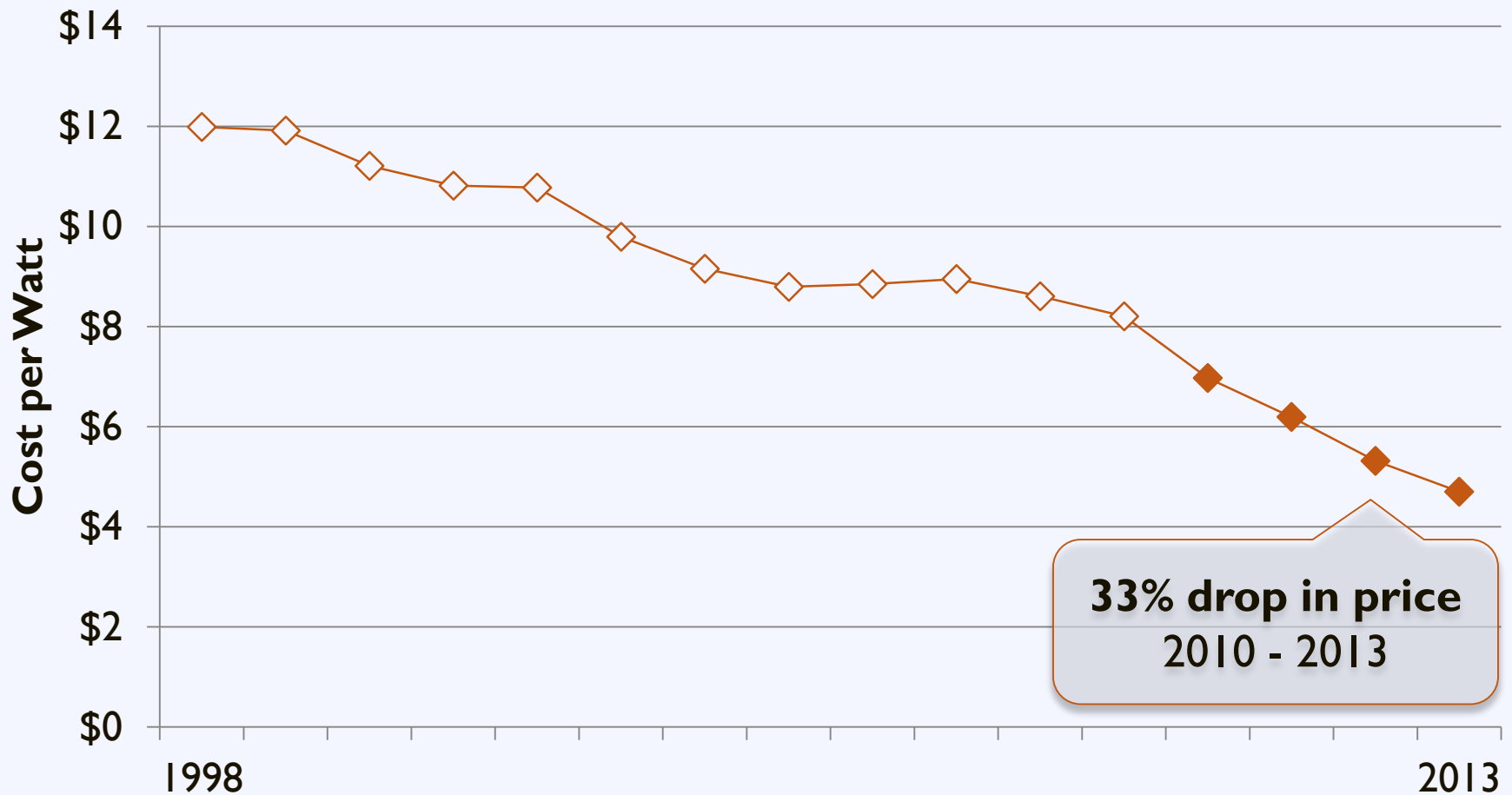


# Activity: Addressing Barriers

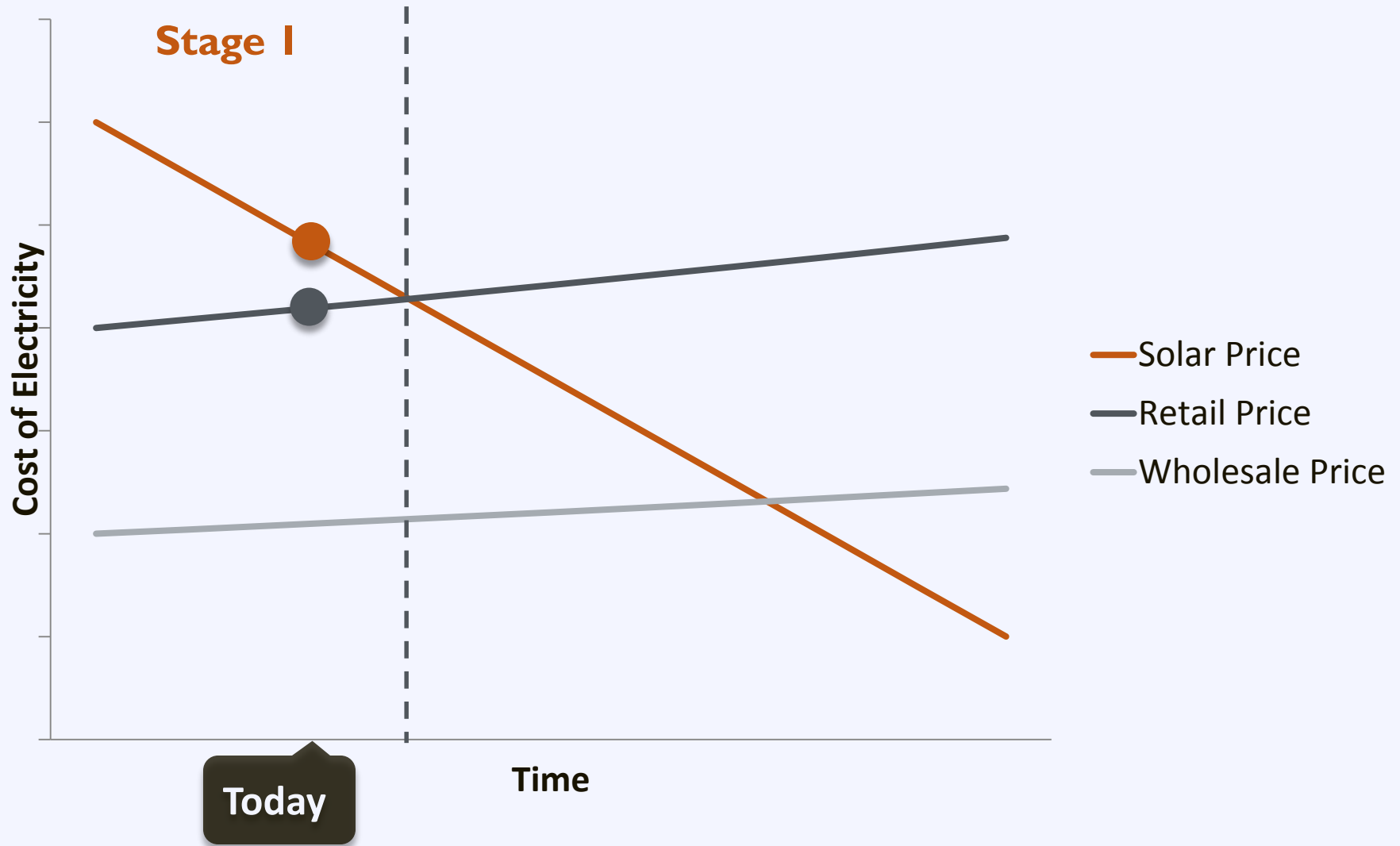


# The Cost of Solar PV

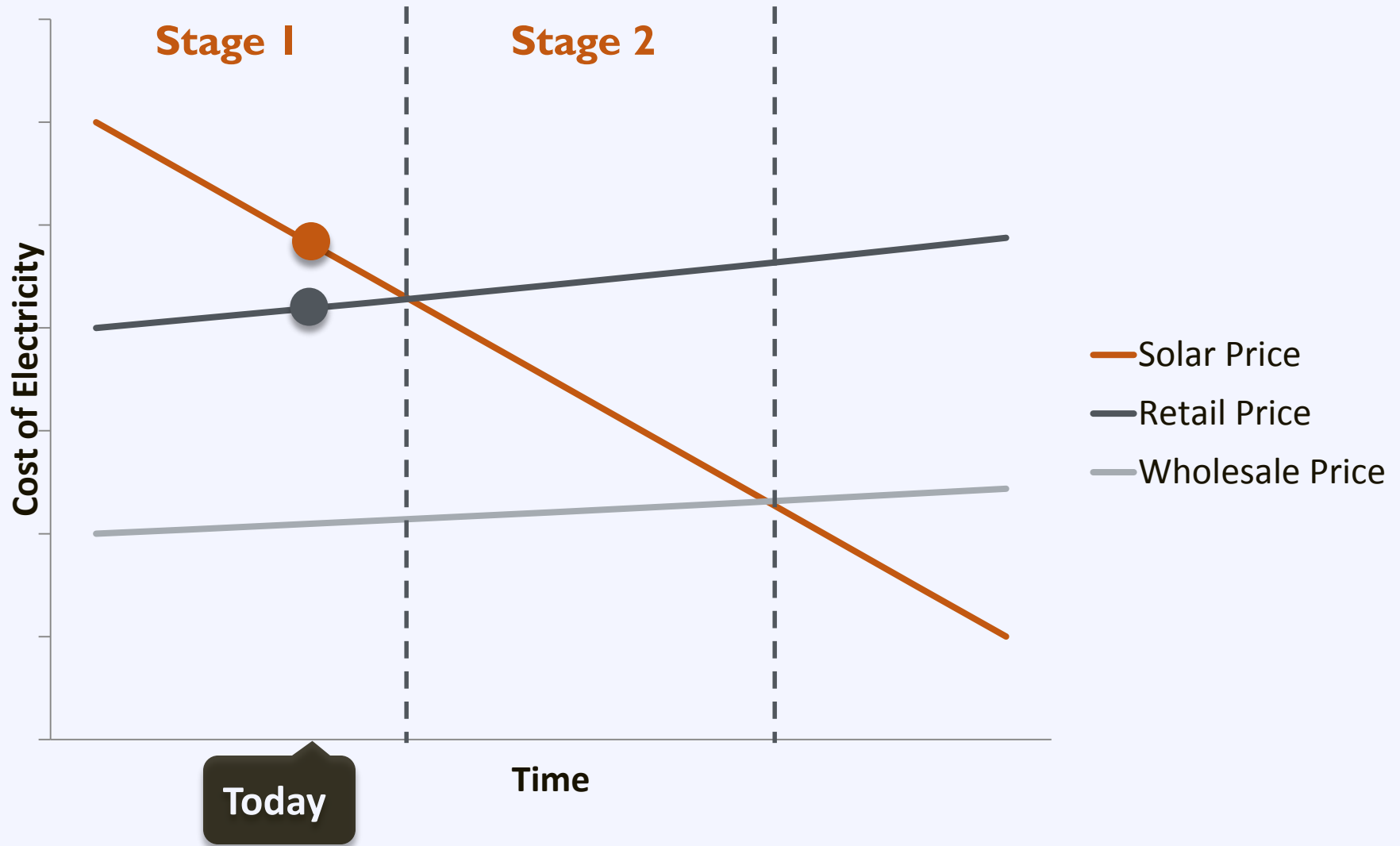
## US Average Installed Cost for Behind-the-Meter PV



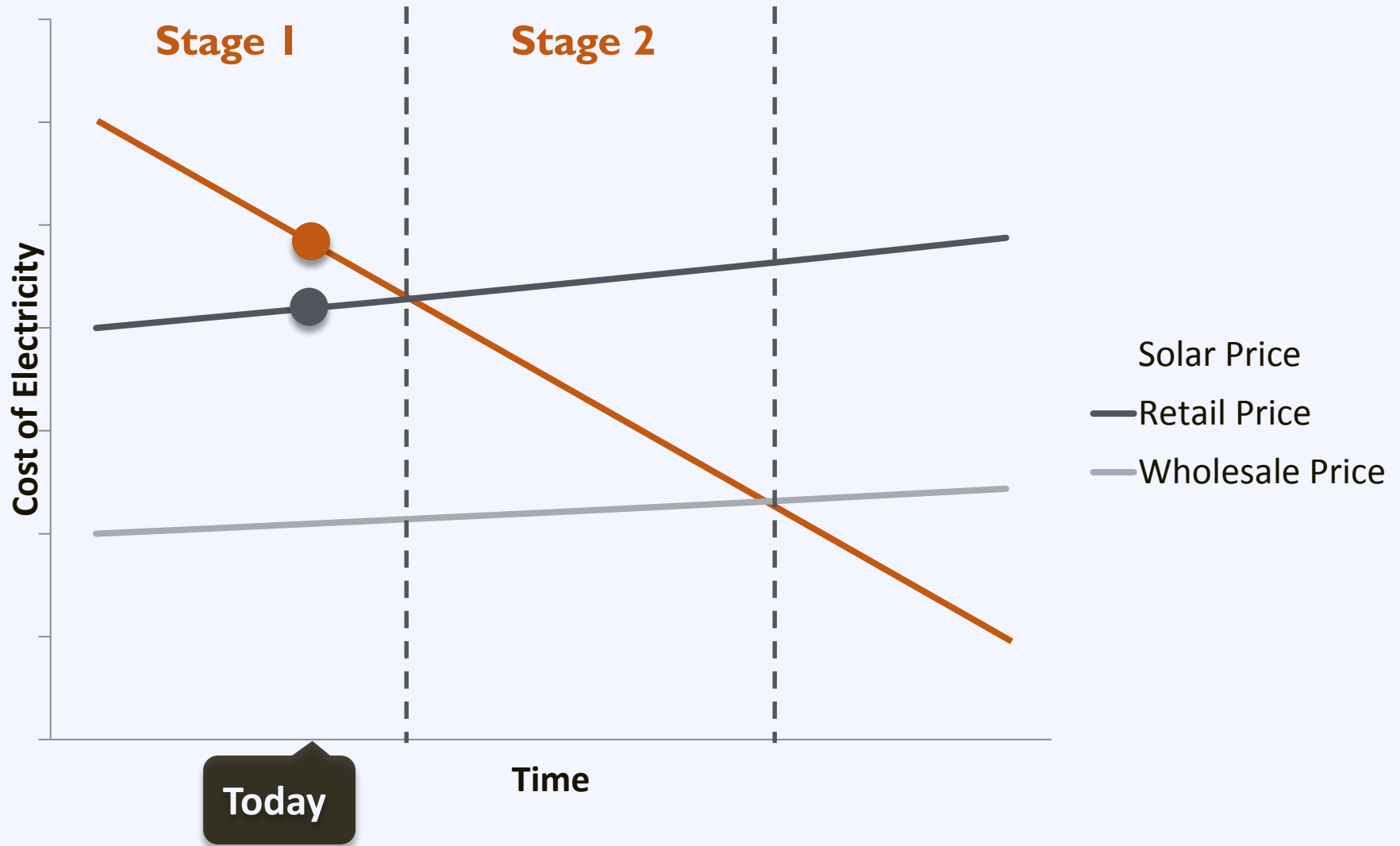
# The Cost of Solar PV



# The Cost of Solar PV

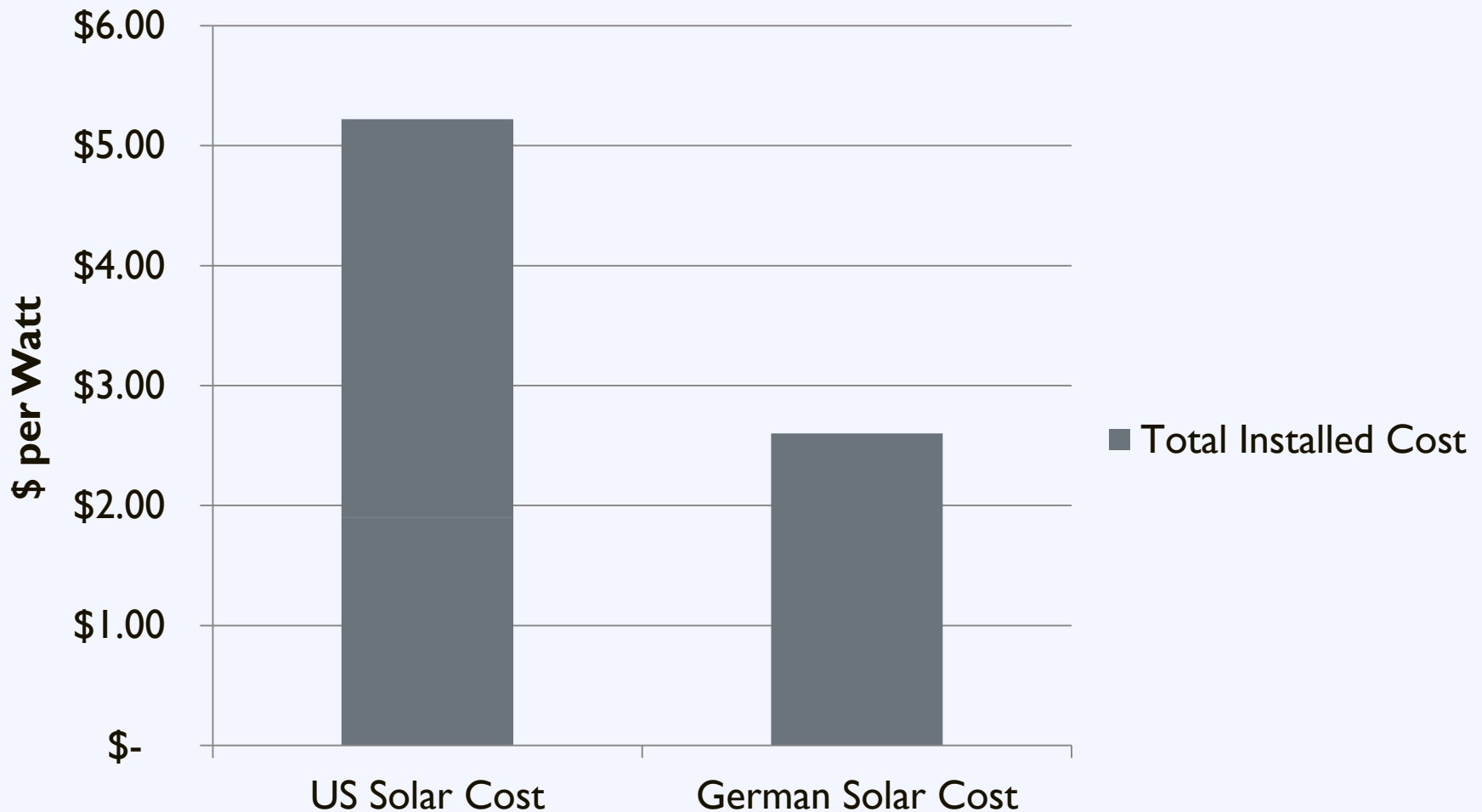


# The Cost of Solar PV



# The Cost of Solar in the US

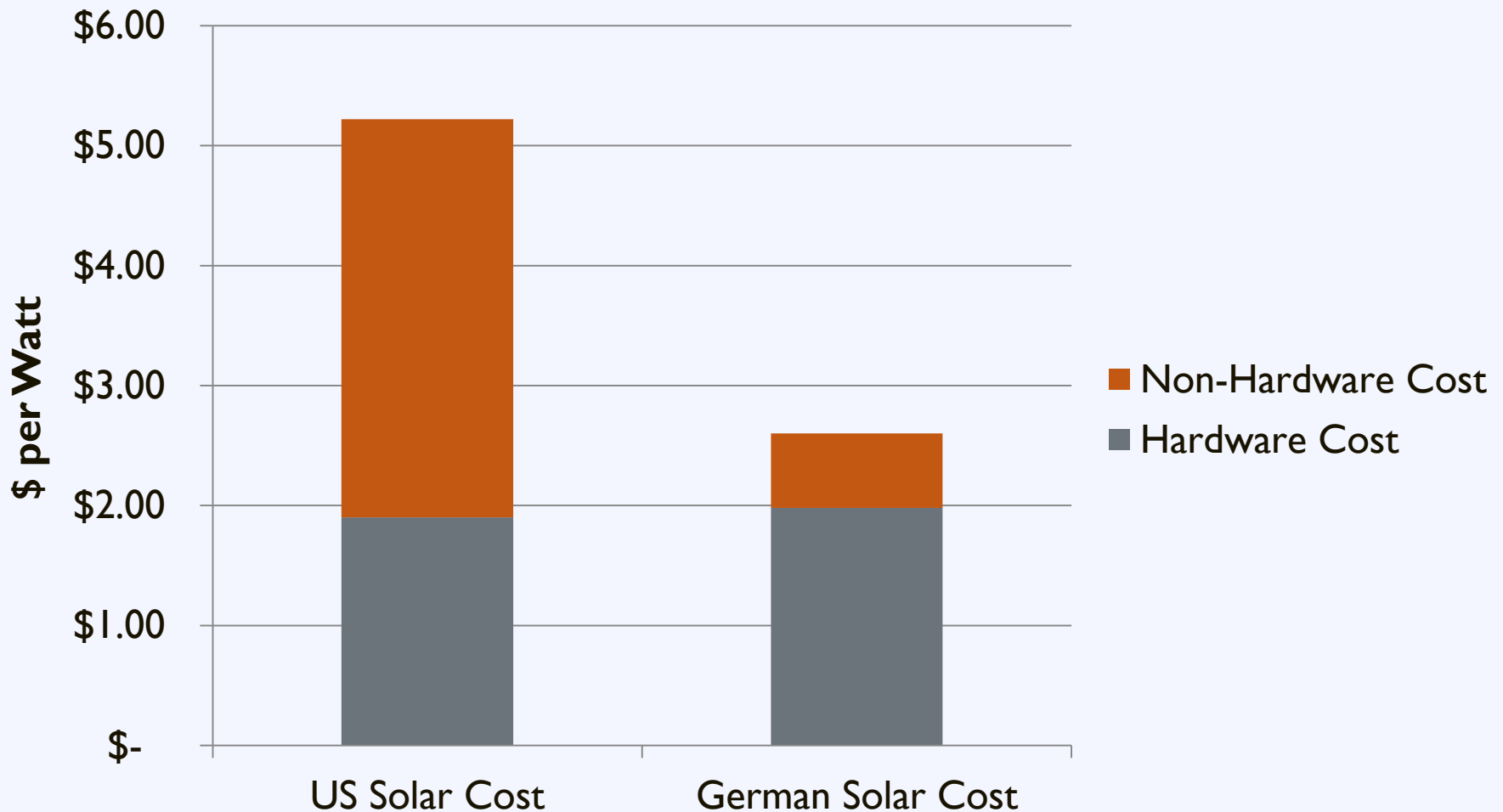
## Comparison of US and German Solar Costs





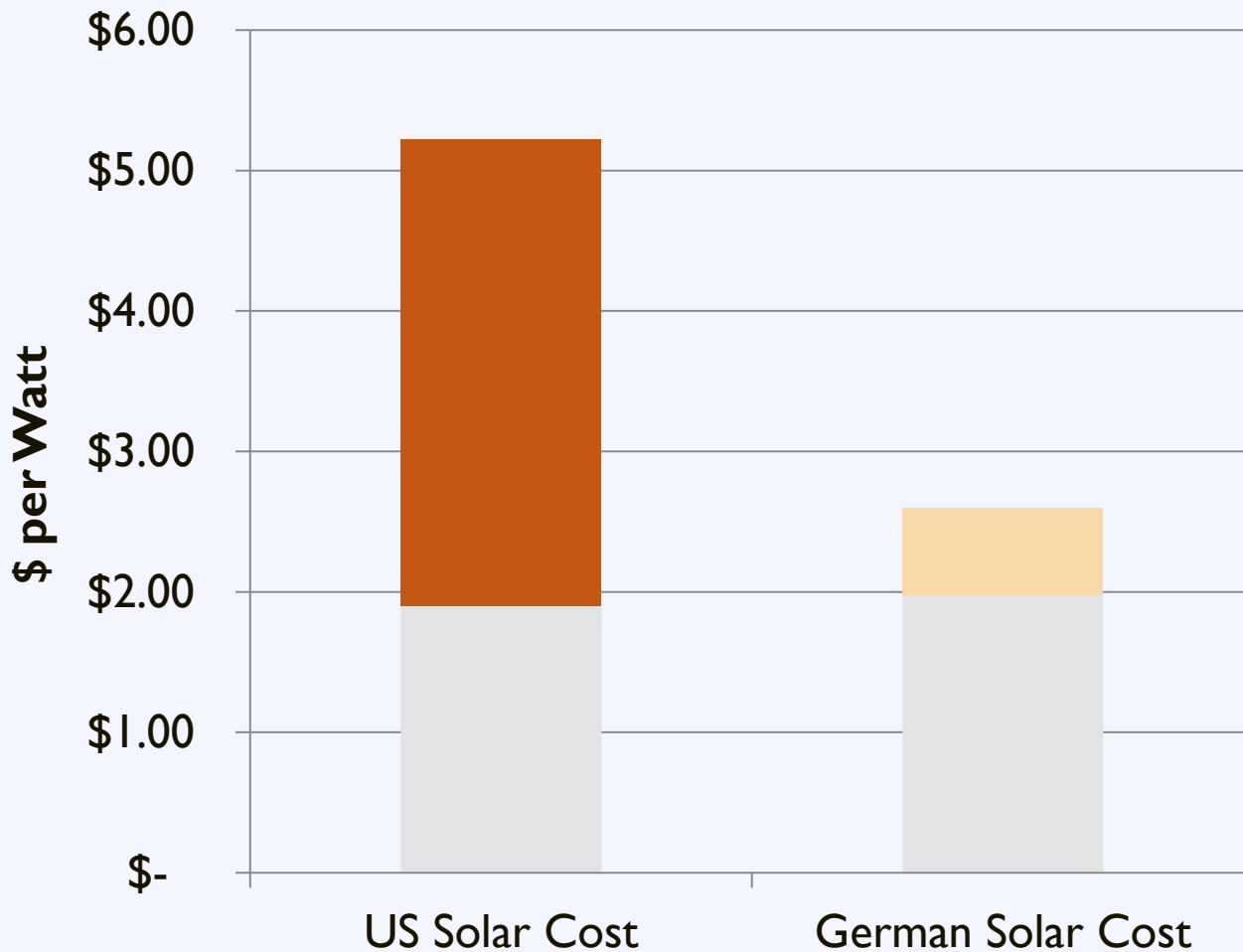
# The Cost of Solar in the US

## Comparison of US and German Solar Costs



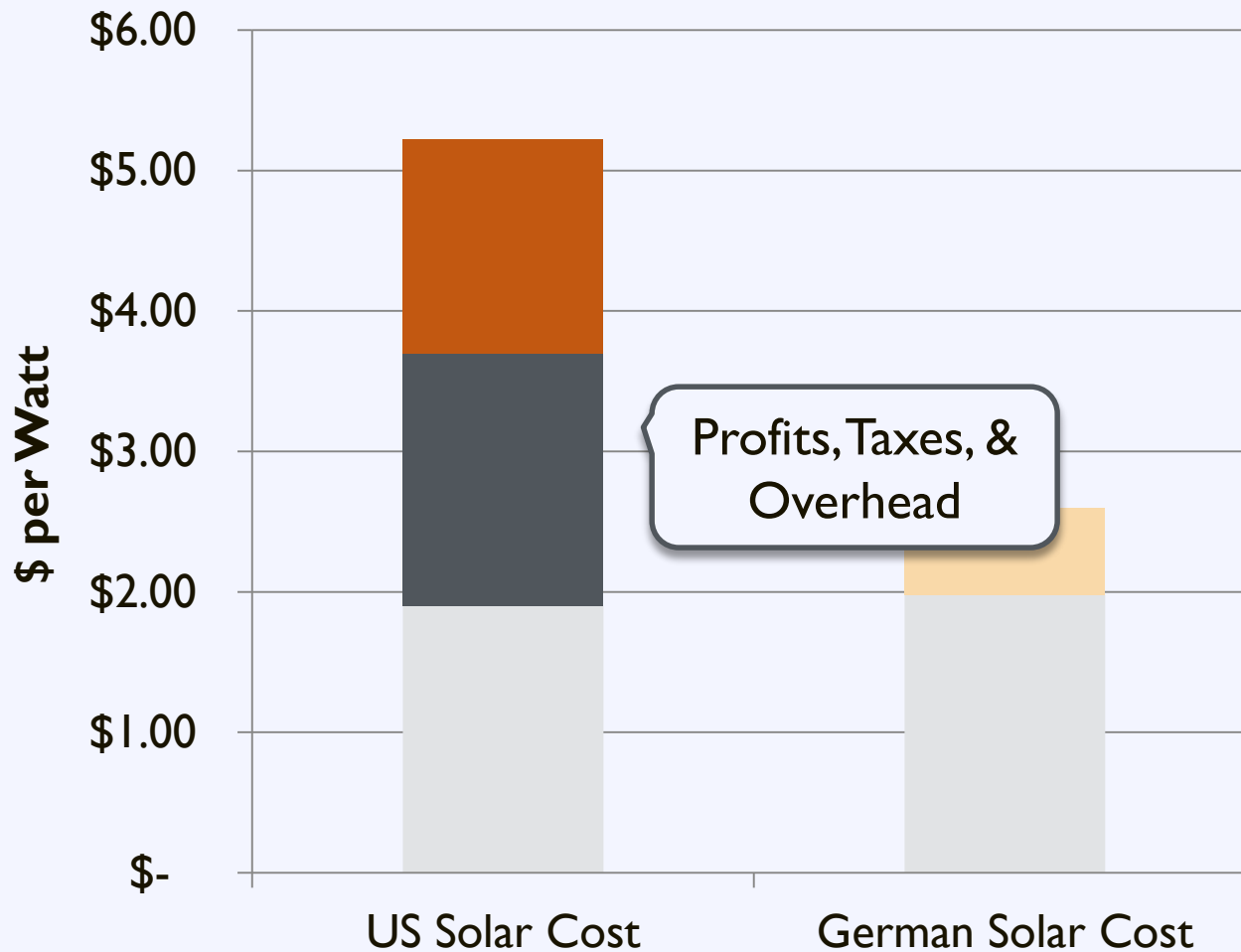
# The Cost of Solar in the US

## Comparison of US and German Solar Costs



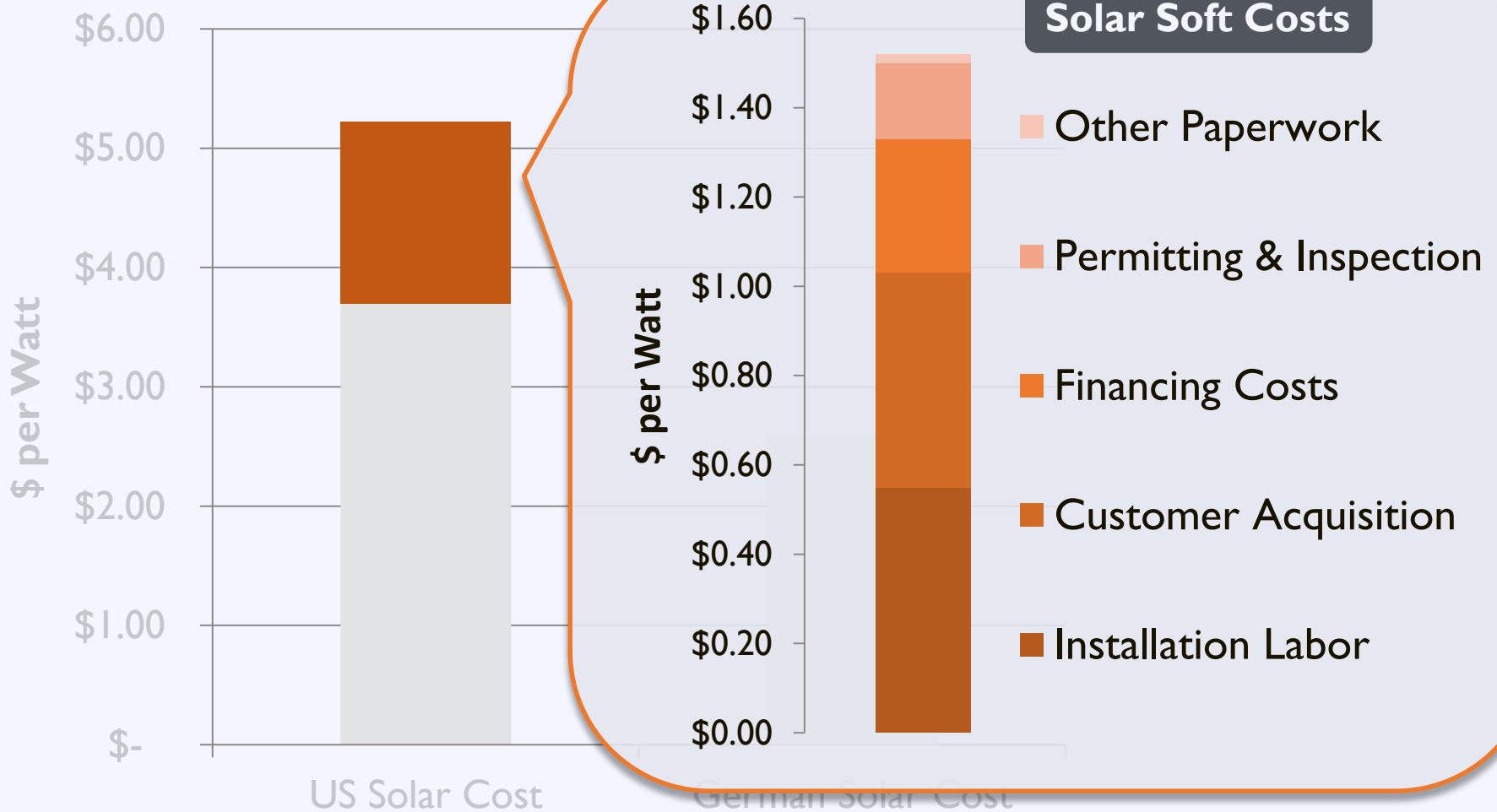
# The Cost of Solar in the US

## Comparison of US and German Solar Costs



# The Cost of Solar in the US

## Comparison of US and German Solar Costs



# Challenge: Installation Time



**New York City's  
Goal**

**100 days**

from inception to completion



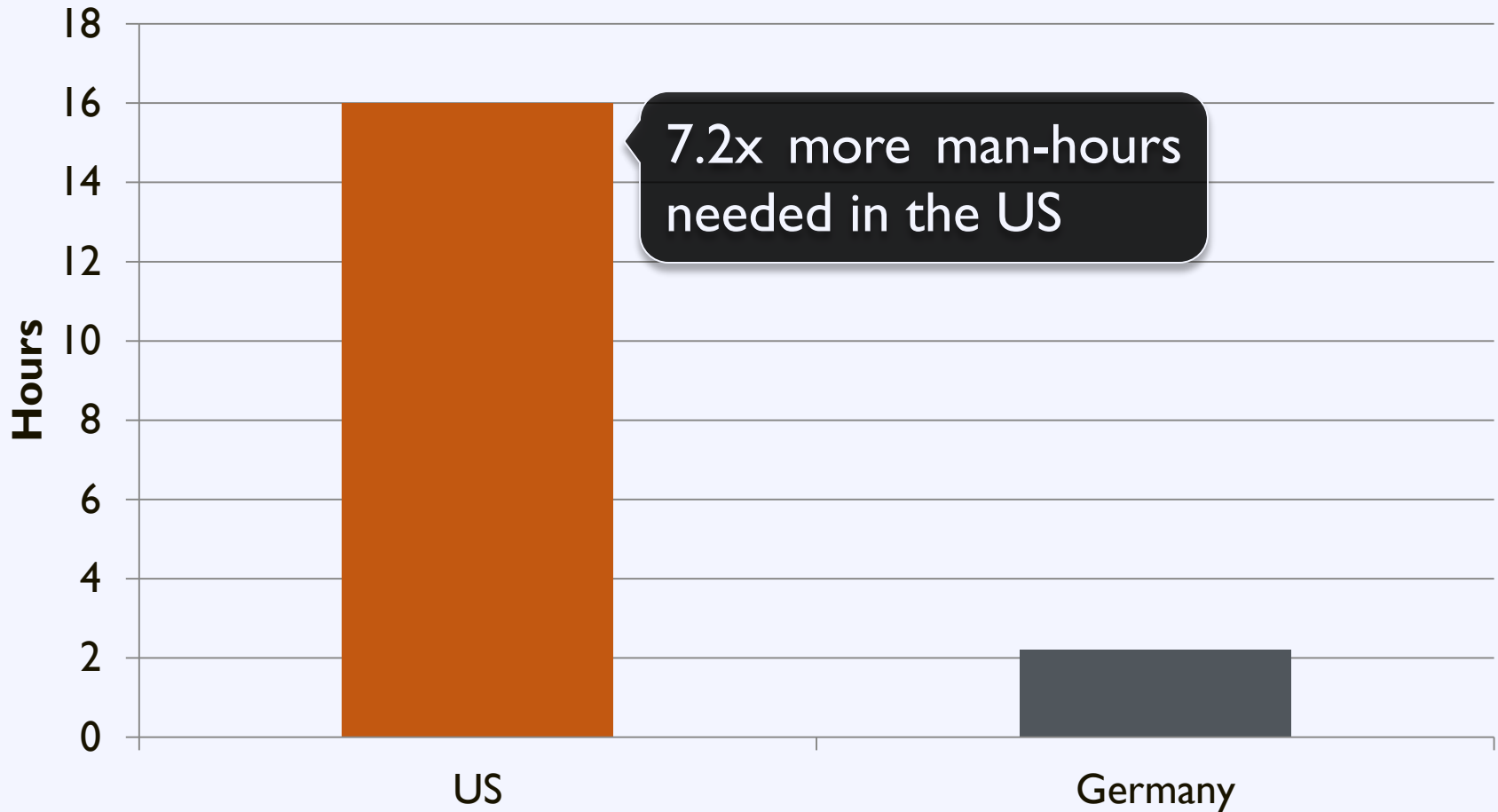
**Germany  
Today**

**8 days**

from inception to completion

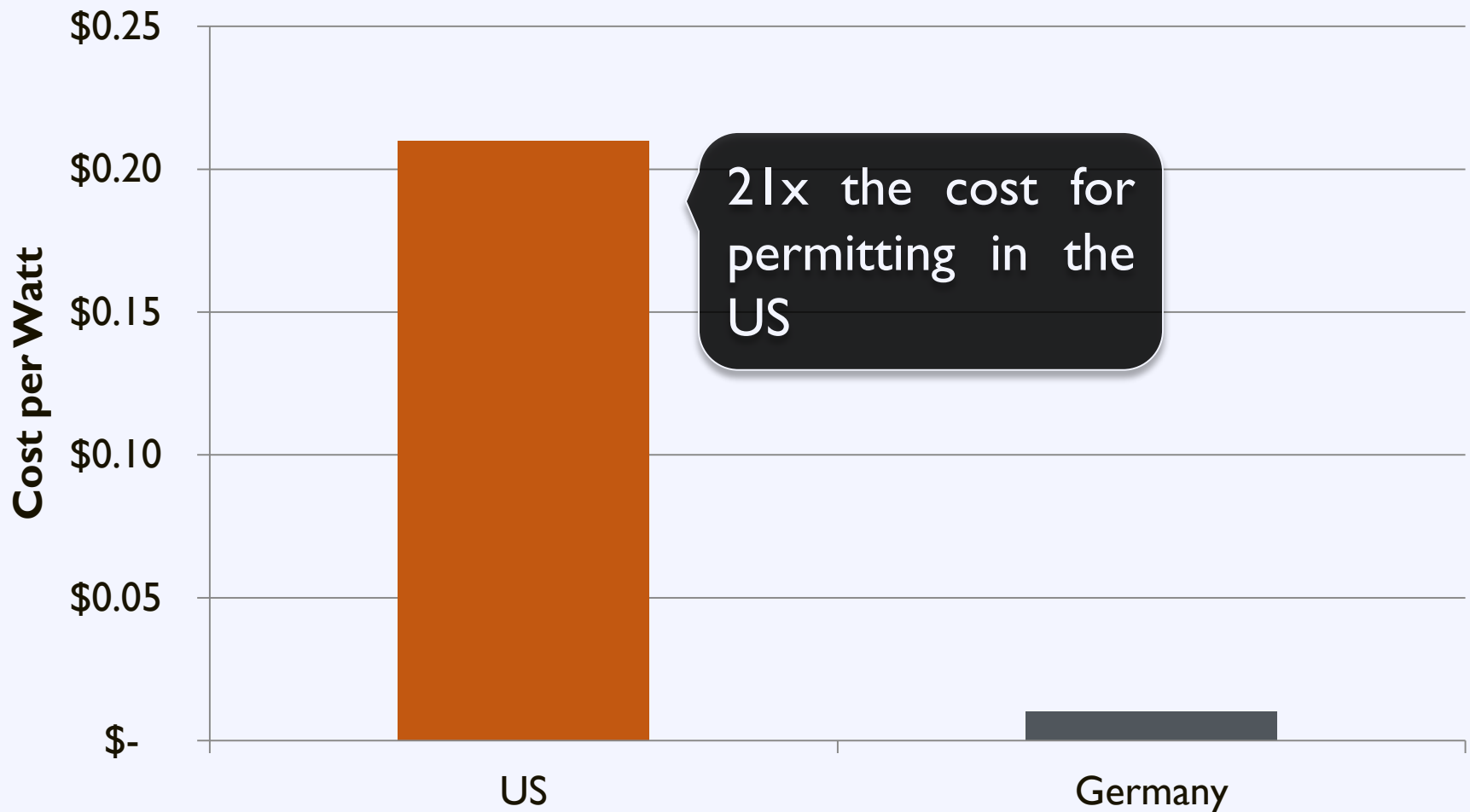
# Time to Installation

## Average Time to Permit a Solar Installation



# Permitting Costs

## Average Cost of Permitting in the US and Germany



# Germany's Success

---

Consistency and Transparency

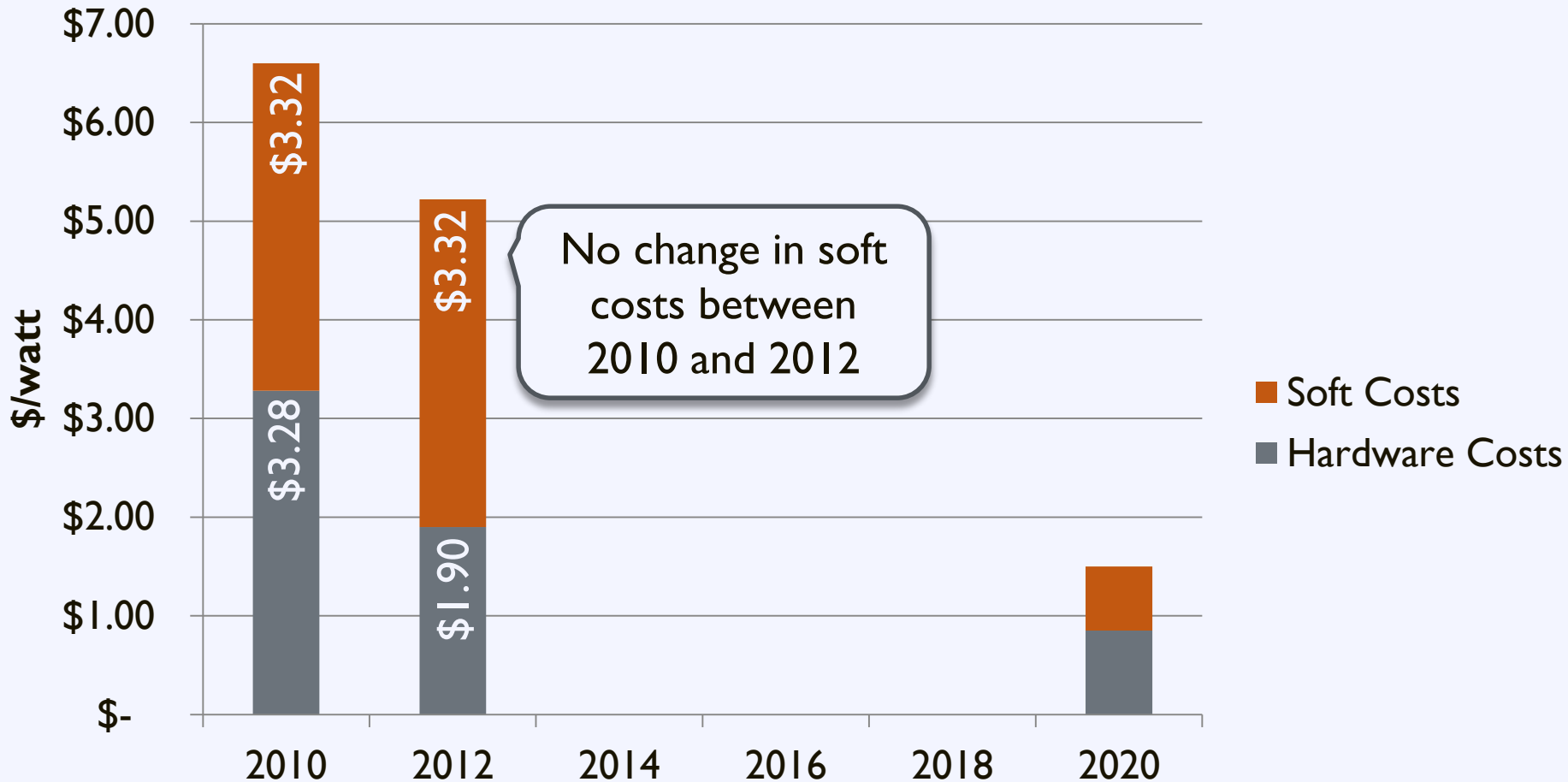
through

Standardized Processes



# The Cost of Solar in the US

## Change in Soft Costs and Hardware Costs Over Time



# Workshop Goal

Enable local governments to replicate successful solar practices to **reduce soft costs** and **expand local adoption of solar energy**

# Agenda

---

10:20 – 10:50 Putting Solar Energy on the Local Policy Agenda

10:50 – 11:20 State of the Local Solar Market

**11:20 – 11:50 Federal, State, and Utility Policy Drivers**

11:50 – 12:15 *Break & Lunch*

12:15 – 12:45 Planning for Solar: Getting Solar Ready

12:45 – 01:20 Solar Market Development Tools

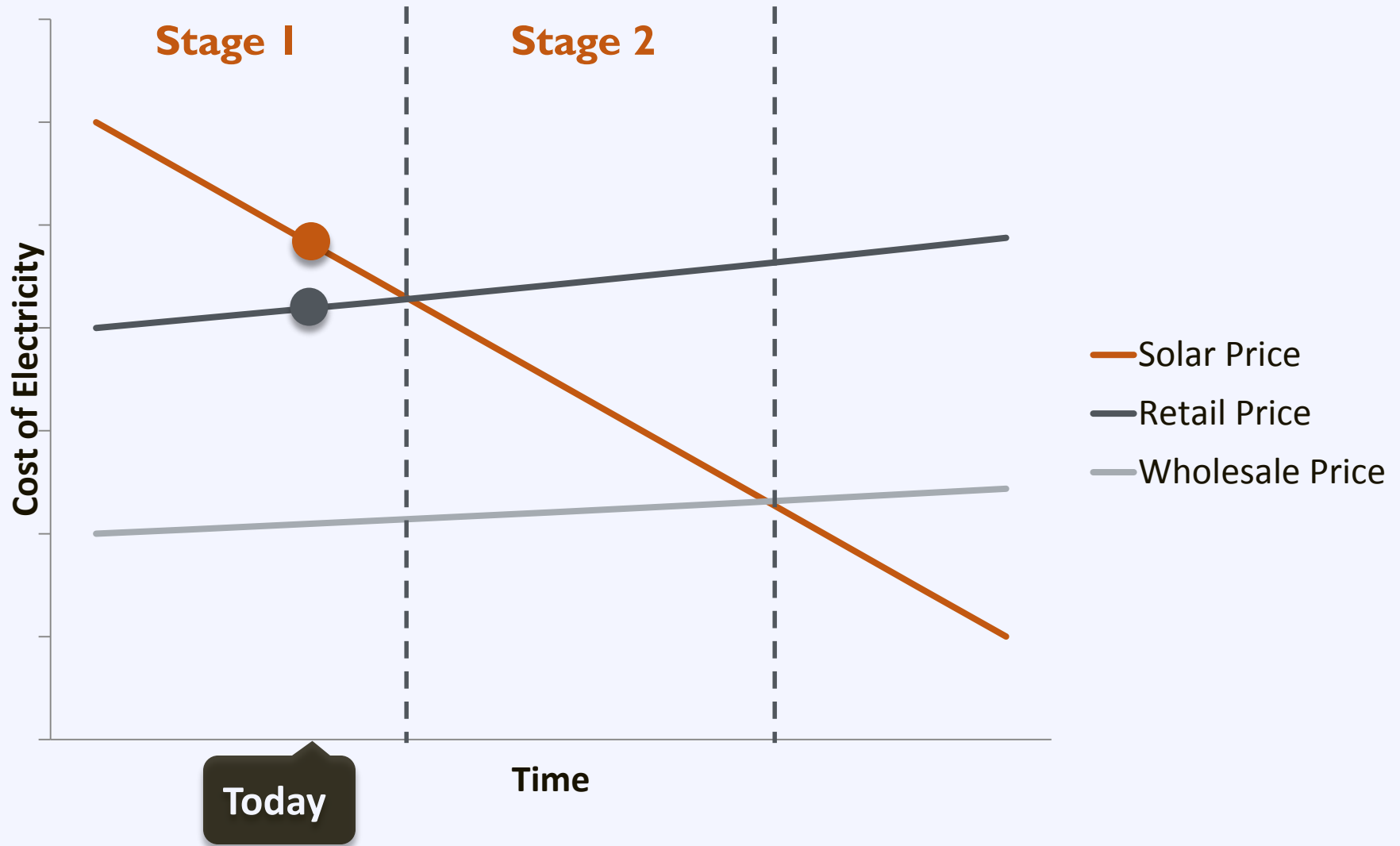
01:20 – 01:30 *Break*

01:30 – 02:30 Solar in Iowa: A Local Perspective

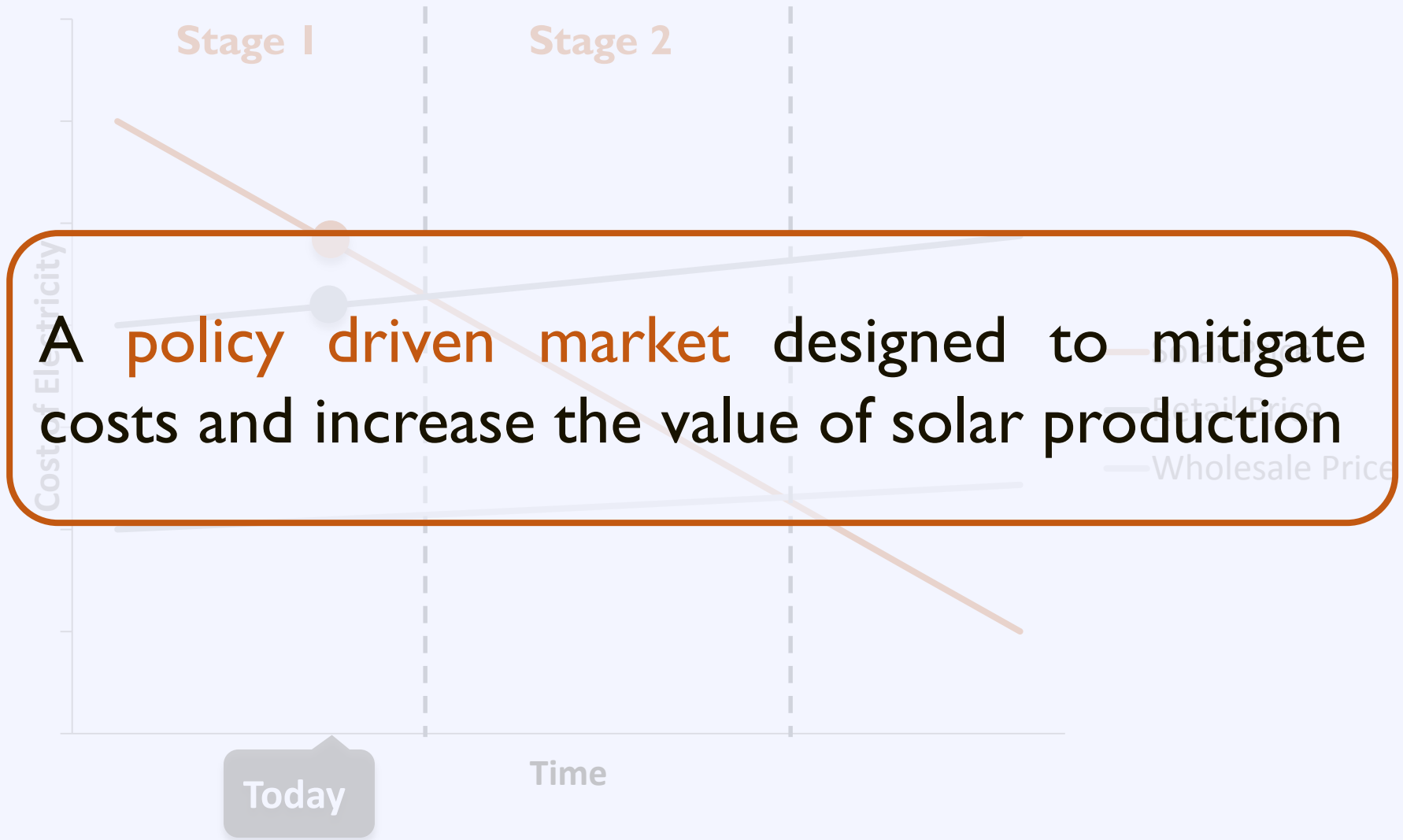
02:30 – 02:50 Developing Solar Policy for Your Community

02:50 – 03:00 Next Steps

# Solar Market: Trends



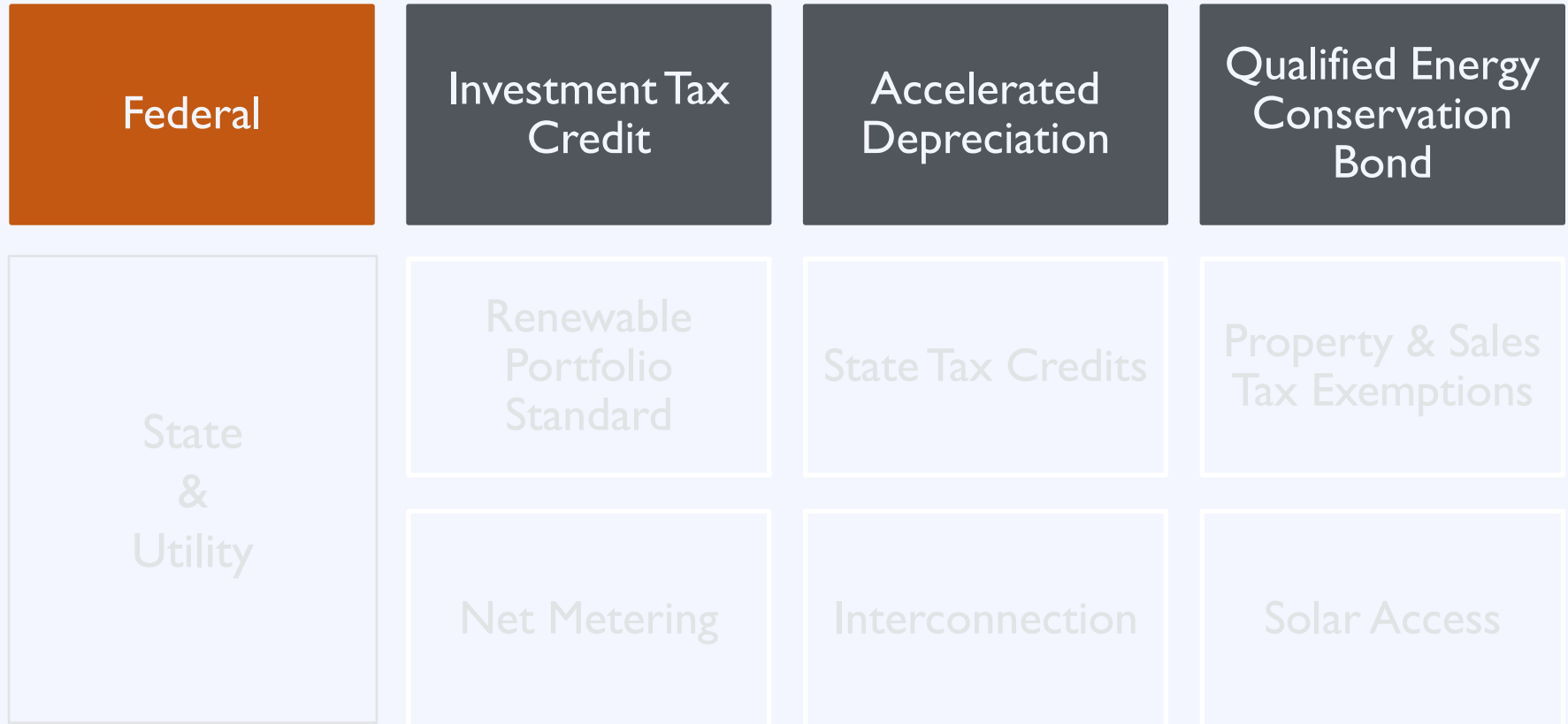
# Solar Market: Trends



# A Policy Driven Market

Federal	Investment Tax Credit	Accelerated Depreciation	Qualified Energy Conservation Bond
State & Utility	Renewable Portfolio Standard	State Tax Credits	Property & Sales Tax Exemptions
	Net Metering	Interconnection	Solar Access

# A Policy Driven Market



# Investment Tax Credit

---

**Type:** Tax Credit

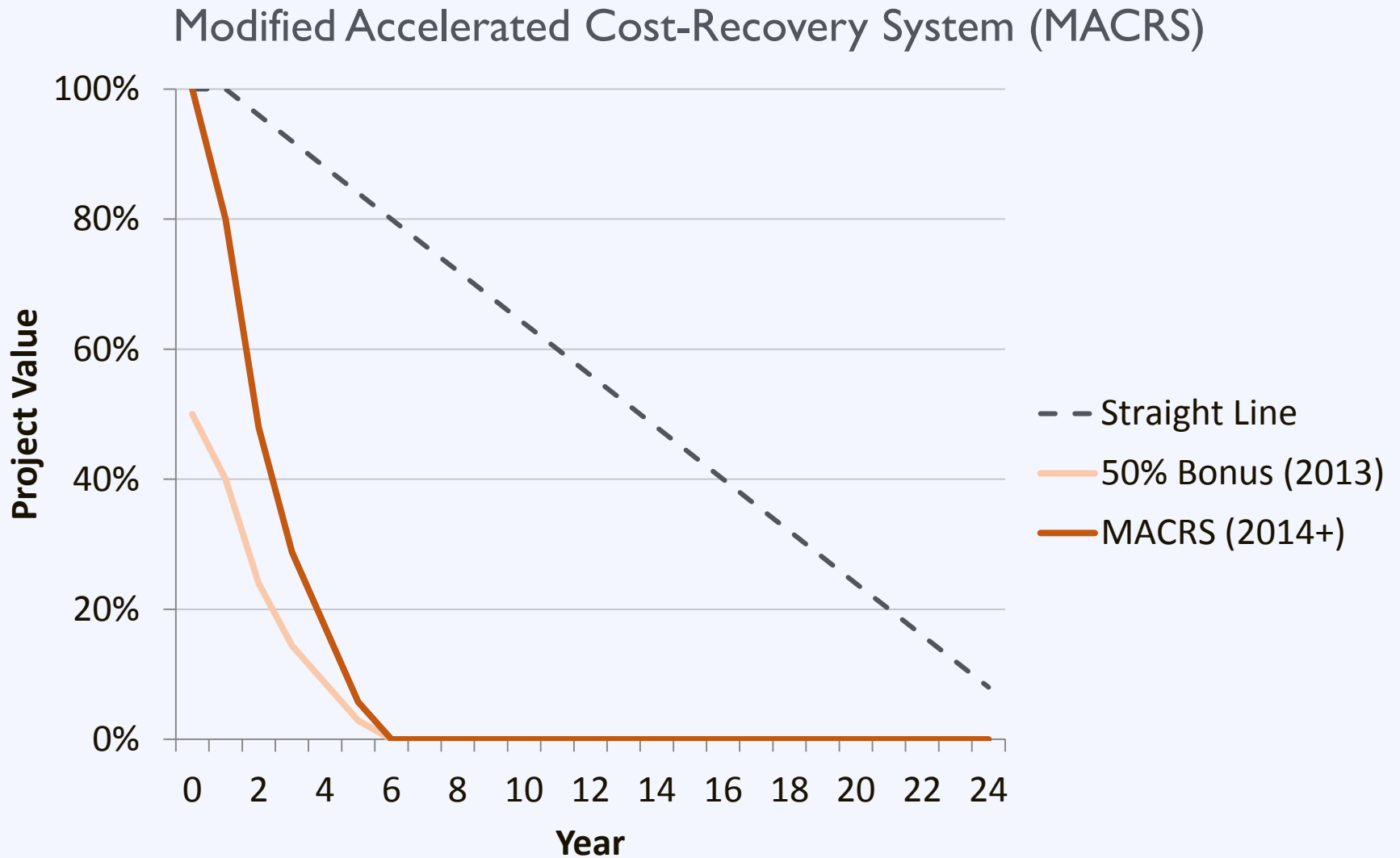
**Eligibility:** For-Profit Organization

**Value:** 30% of the installation cost

**Availability:** Through 2016



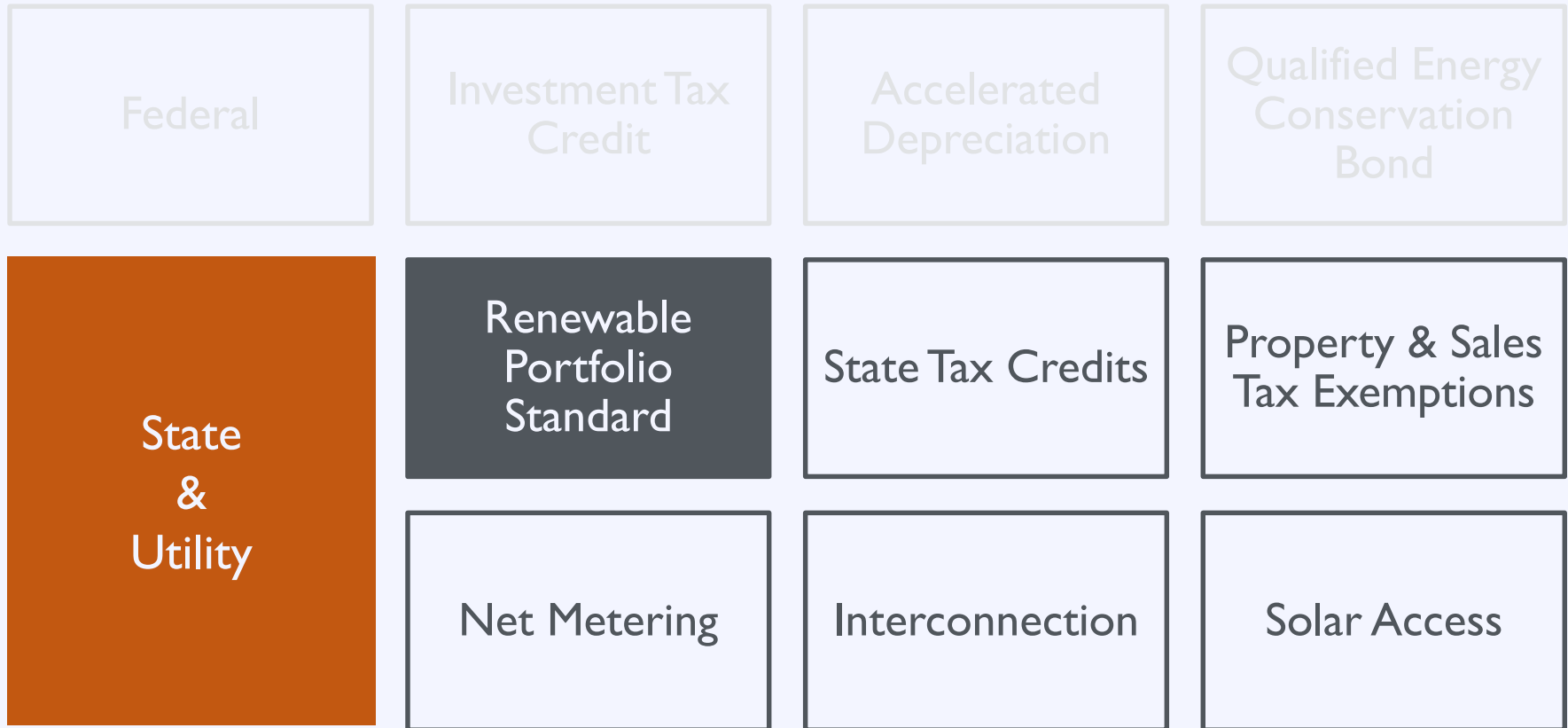
# Accelerated Depreciation



# Qualified Energy Conservation Bond

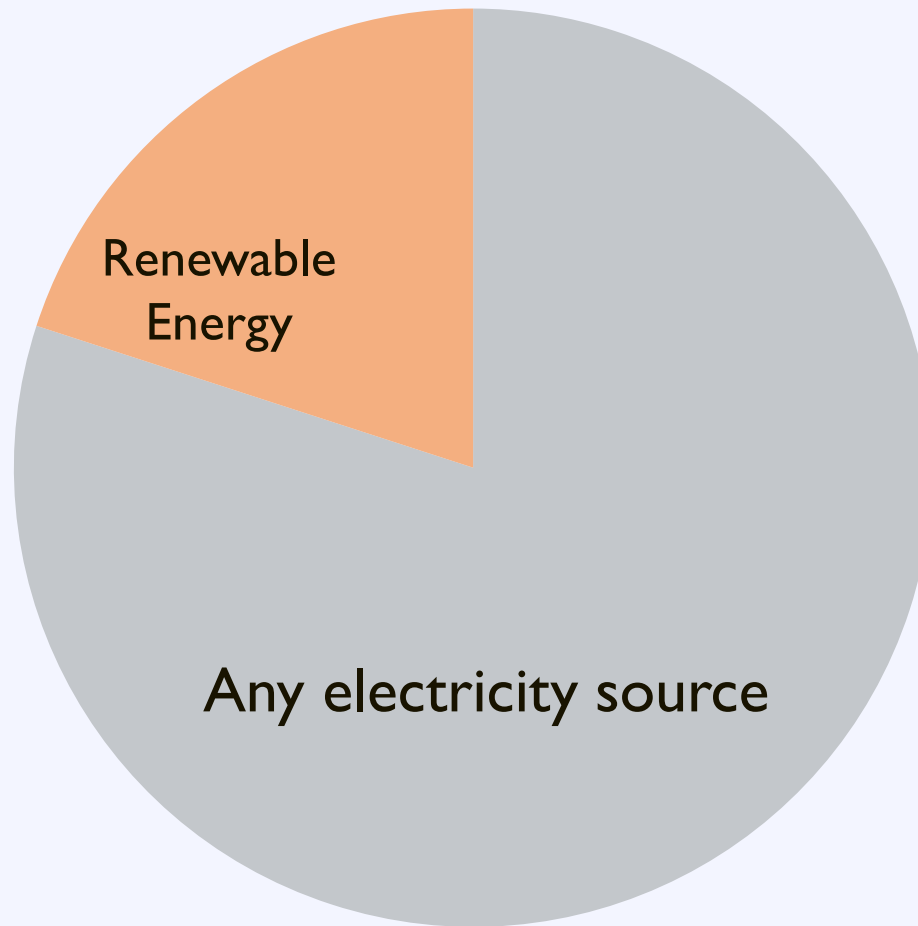


# A Policy Driven Market



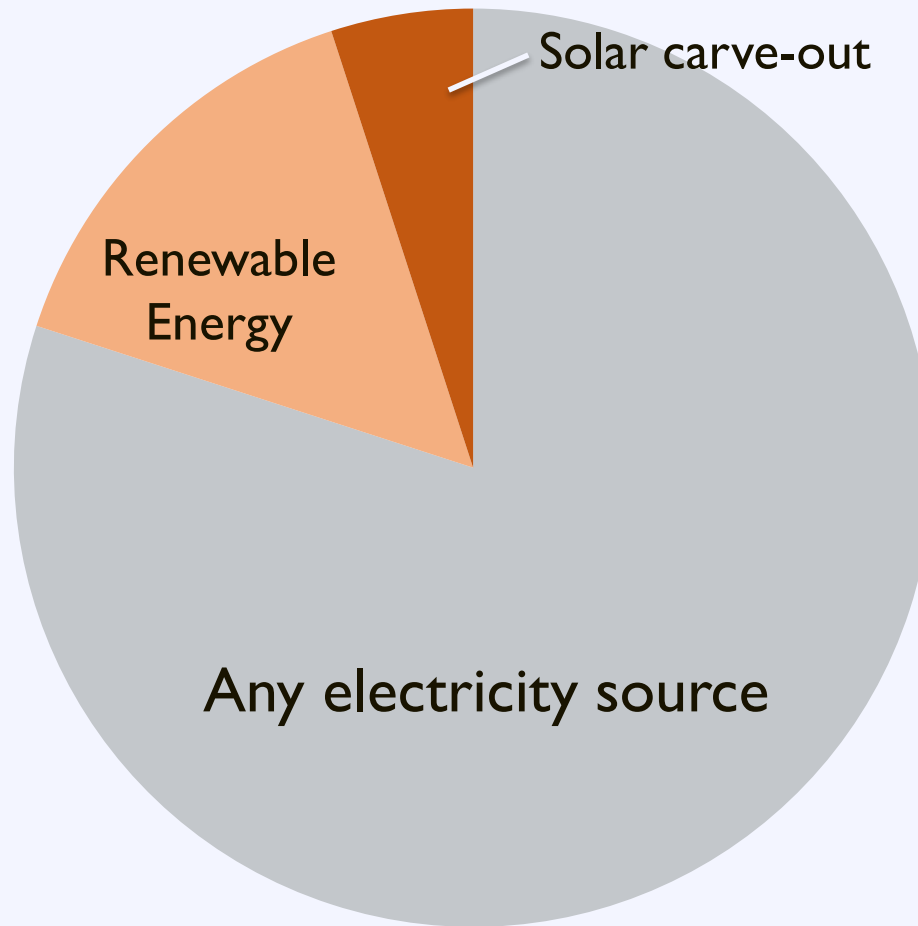
# Renewable Portfolio Standard

## Retail Electricity Sales

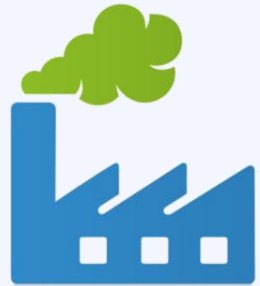


# Renewable Portfolio Standard

## Retail Electricity Sales



# Renewable Portfolio Standard



Fossil Fuel



Renewable Energy

Two revenue streams



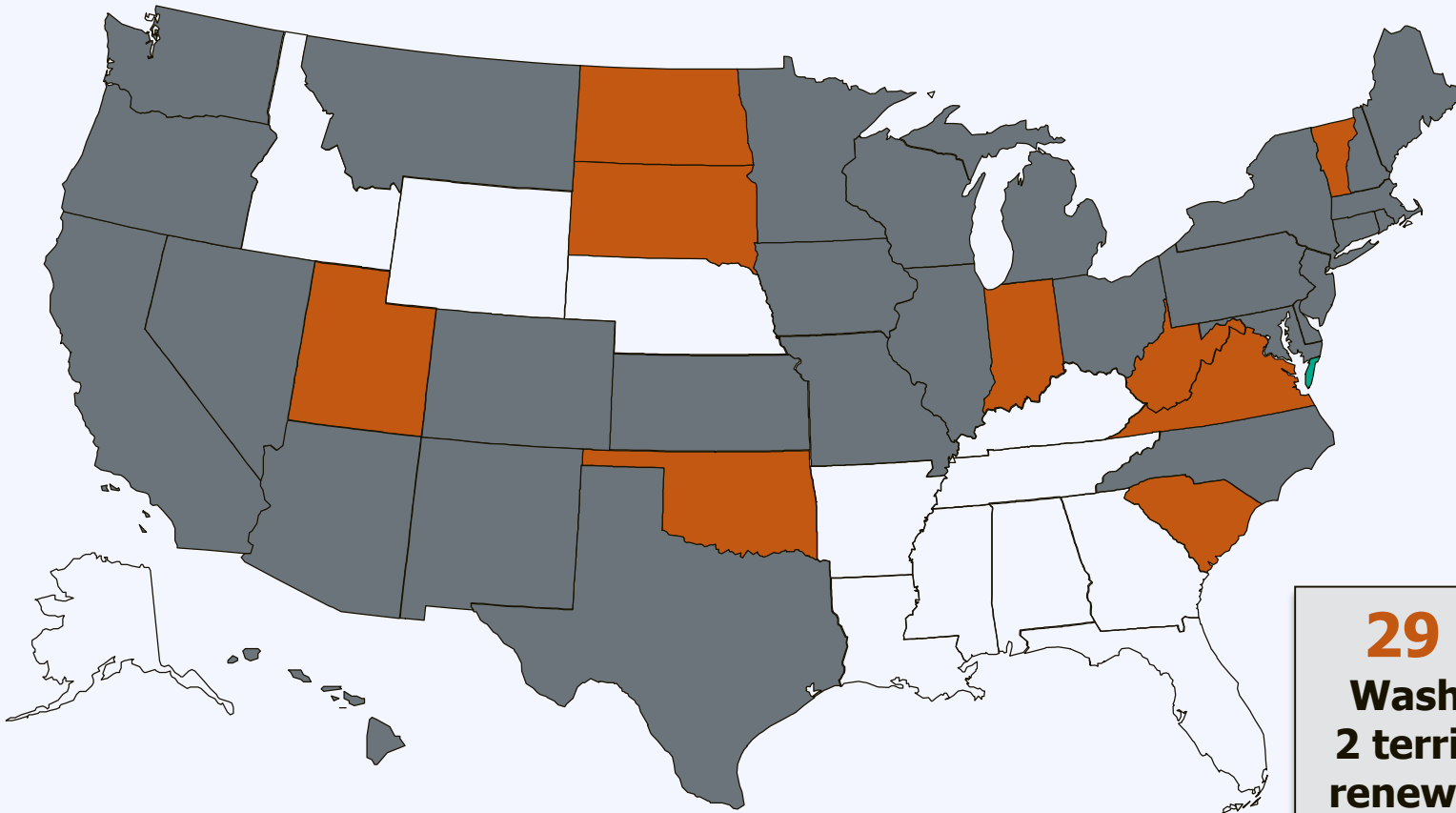
REC



Utility

# Renewable Portfolio Standard

[www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org) / September 2014



■ Renewable portfolio standard  
■ Renewable portfolio goal

**29 states + Washington DC + 2 territories have a renewable portfolio standard**  
*(9 states and 2 territories have renewable portfolio goals)*

# RPS Impacts: Solar Deployment

## RPS and Solar/DG Status of Top Ten Solar States by Cumulative Installed Grid-Connected PV Capacity (as of Q4 2013)

Ranks	State	RPS?	Solar/DG Provision?
1	California	Y	N
2	Arizona	Y	Y
3	New Jersey	Y	Y
4	North Carolina	Y	Y
5	Massachusetts	Y	Y
6	Nevada	Y	Y
7	Colorado	Y	Y
8	Hawaii	Y	N
9	New Mexico	Y	Y
10	New York	Y	Y



# Iowa: RPS Status

---

## Investor-Owned Utilities

*105 MW target  
(already met)*

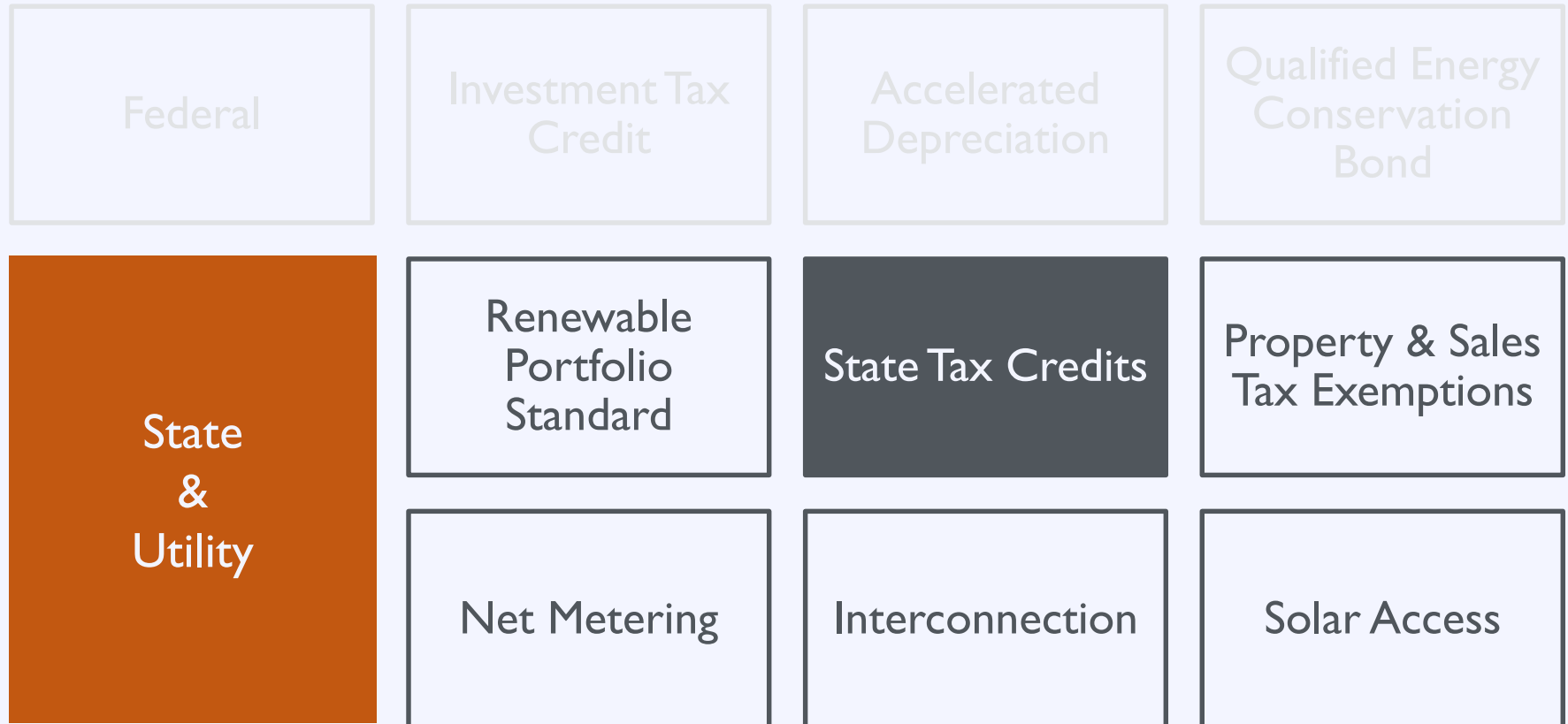
75.7% of state market

## Muni & Coop Utilities

*no target*

24.7% of state market

# A Policy Driven Market



# Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit

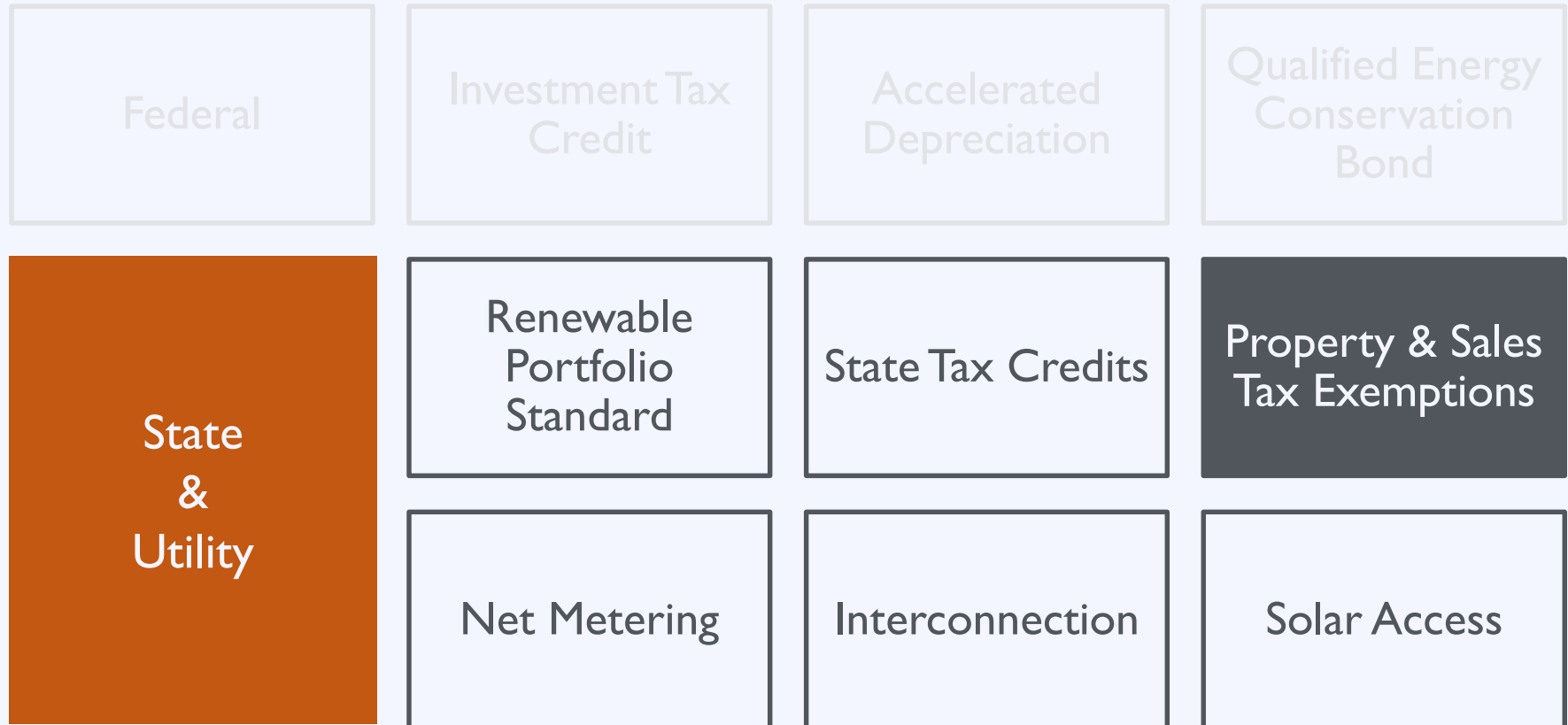
---

- 1.5 cents/kWh for electricity produced
- Available to residential, commercial, industrial, & agricultural entities
- Expires 01/01/2017
- May not be taken with the state solar energy systems tax credit

# Solar Energy Systems Tax Credit

- 18% of installation cost of a solar system
  - Max credit is \$5,000 for residential and \$20,000 for commercial
- Available to residential, commercial, & agricultural entities
- Annual limit of \$4.5 million
- Expires 12/31/2016
- May not be taken with the state renewable energy production tax credit

# A Policy Driven Market

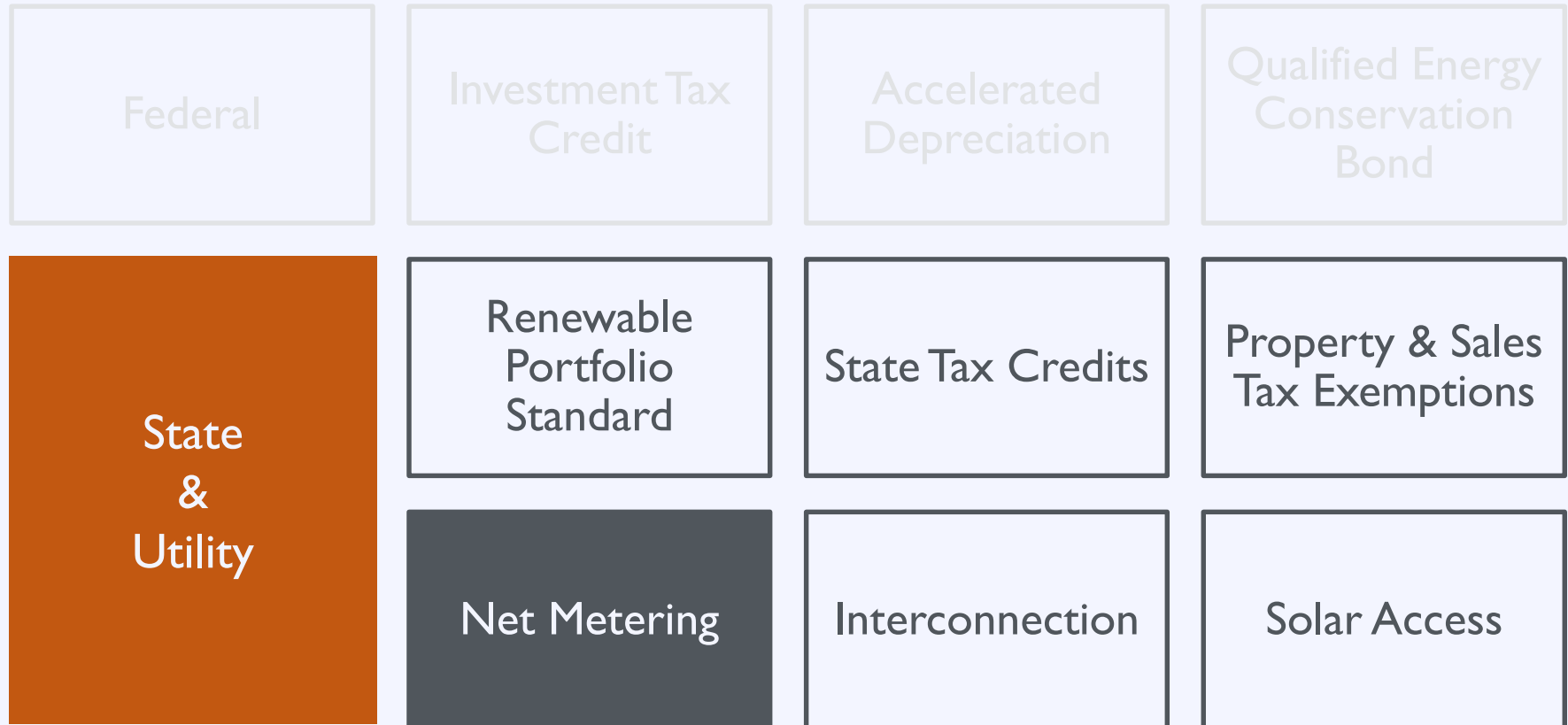


# Tax Exemptions

---

- Property Tax Exemption
  - Property value added by solar energy systems is fully exempt from Iowa state property tax for 5 years
- Sales Tax Exemption
  - Solar energy equipment is fully exempt from Iowa state sales tax (Iowa state sales tax is currently 6%)

# A Policy Driven Market



# Net Metering

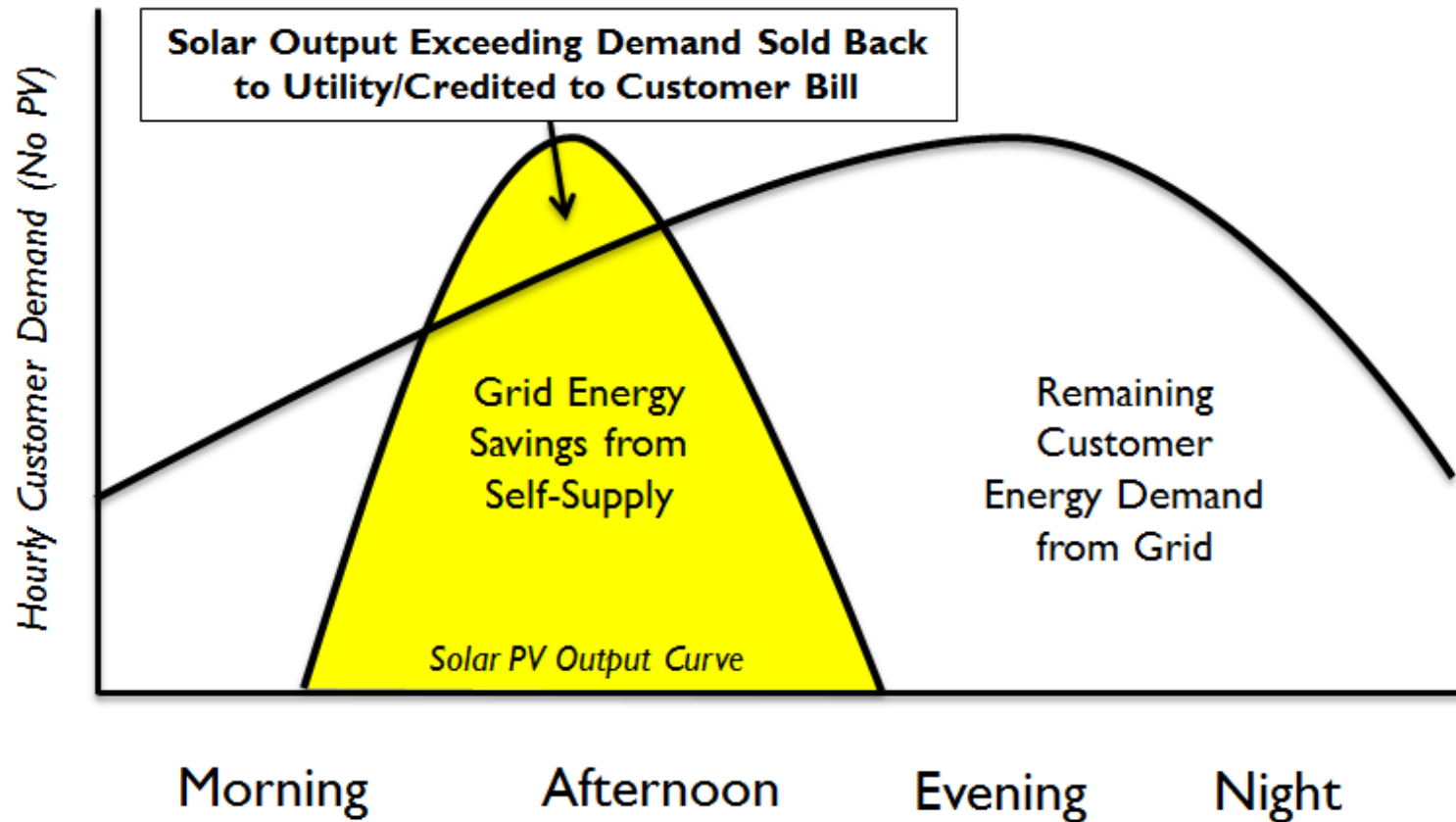
---

Net metering allows customers to export power to the grid during times of excess generation, and receive credits that can be applied to later electricity usage.



# Net Metering

## Selling Energy Back to the Utility: Net Metering

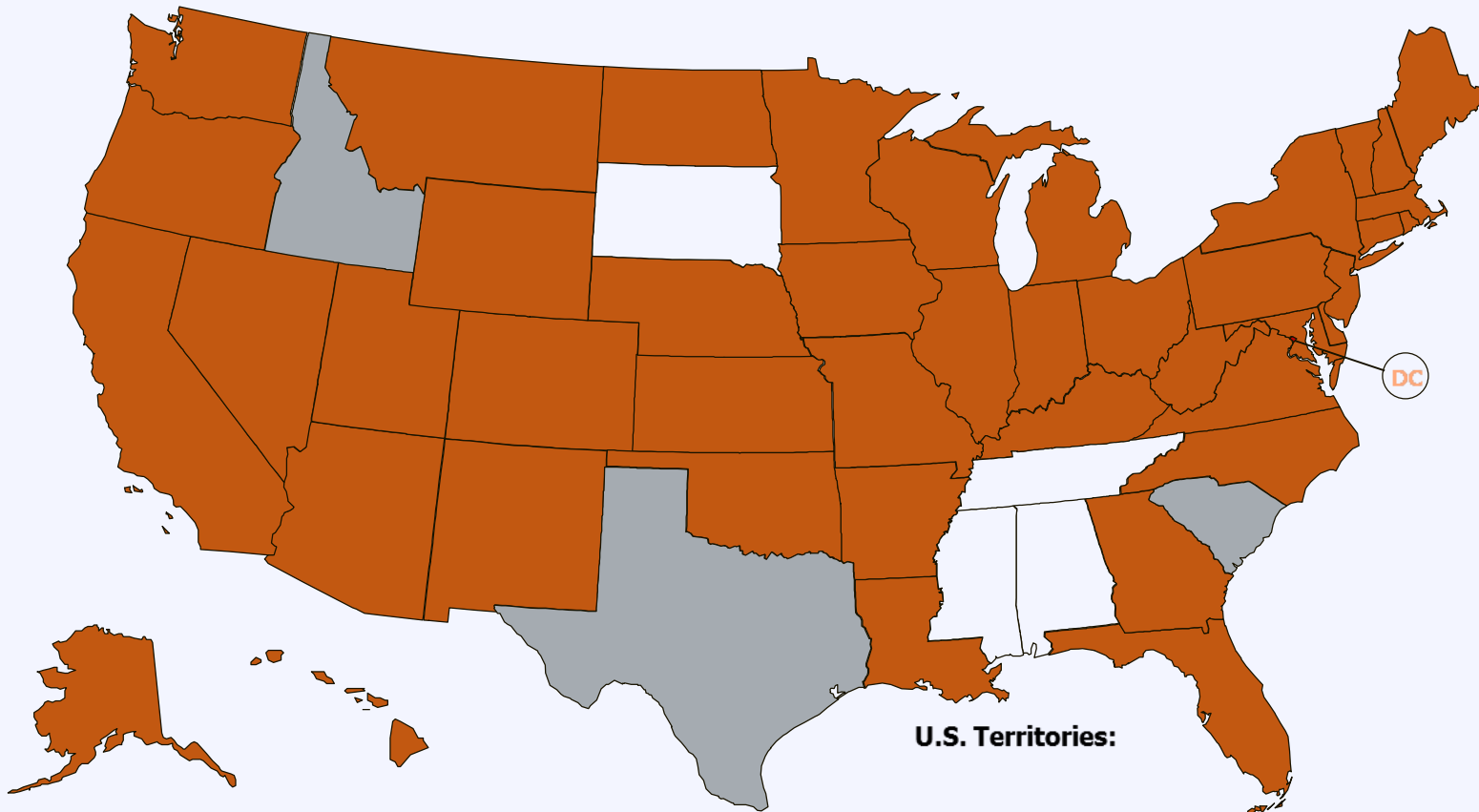


# Net Metering: Market Share

---

More than **95%** of distributed  
PV Installations are net-metered

# Net Metering



- State policy
- Voluntary utility program(s) only

U.S. Territories:

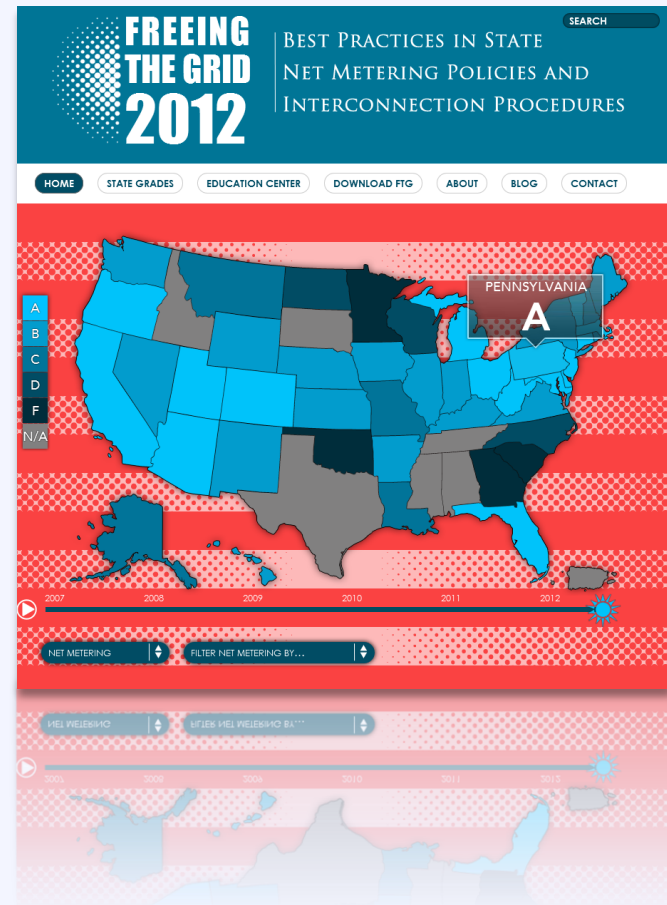
**43 states** +  
Washington DC and 4  
territories have Net  
Metering Policies

# Net Metering: Resources

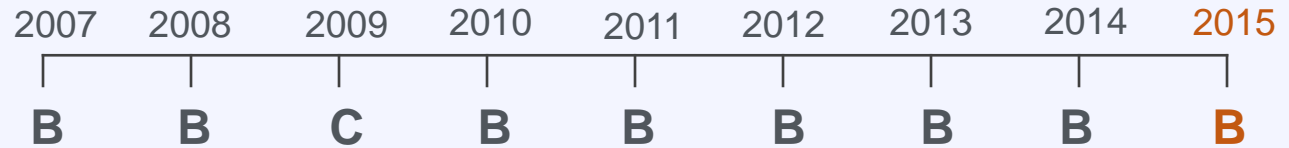
## Resource **Freeing the Grid**

Provides a “report card” for state policy on net metering and interconnection

<http://freeingthegrid.org/>



# Net Metering: Iowa



**Net Excess Credit Value**  
Retail Rate  
Carried Over Indefinitely



**Applicable Utilities**  
IOUs Only

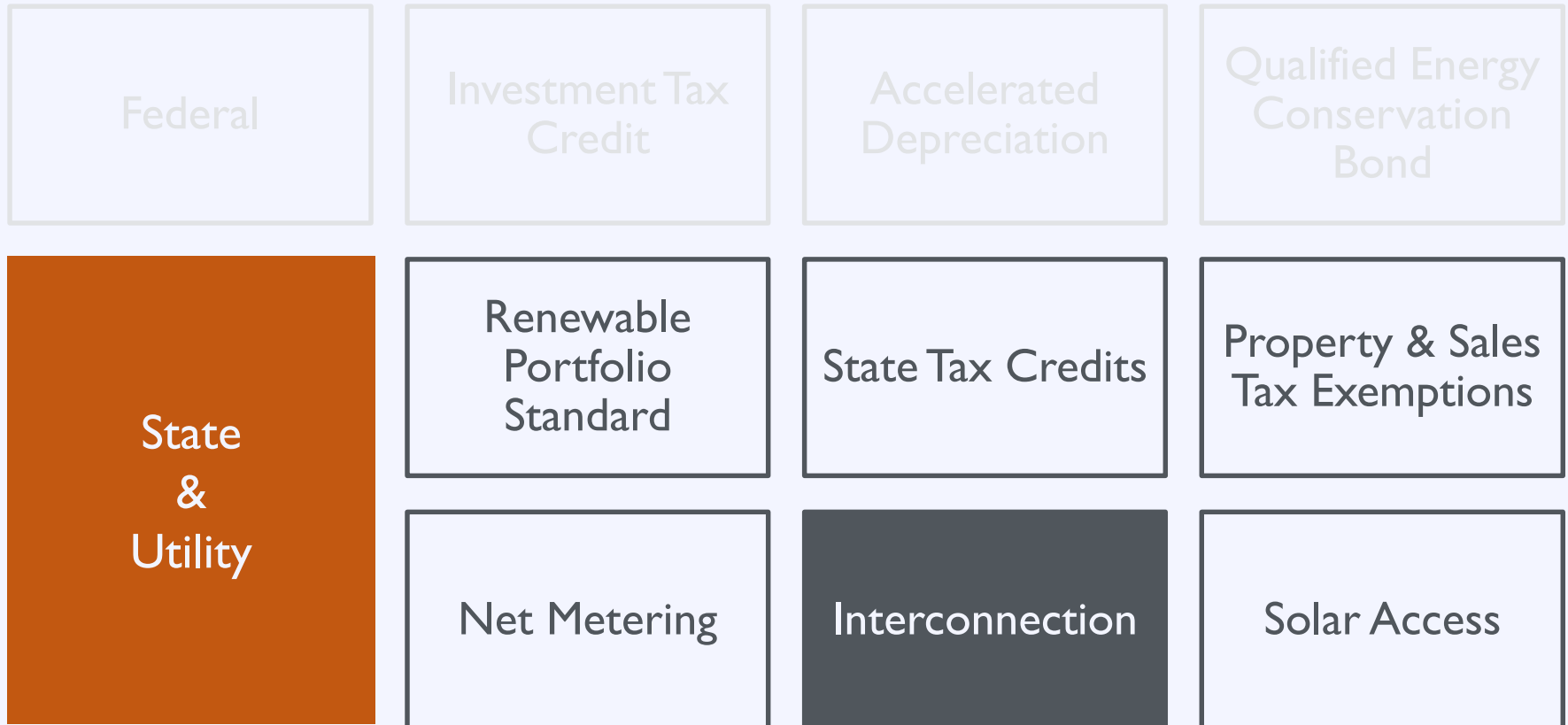


**System Capacity Limit**  
500 KW



**REC Ownership**  
Not Addressed

# A Policy Driven Market

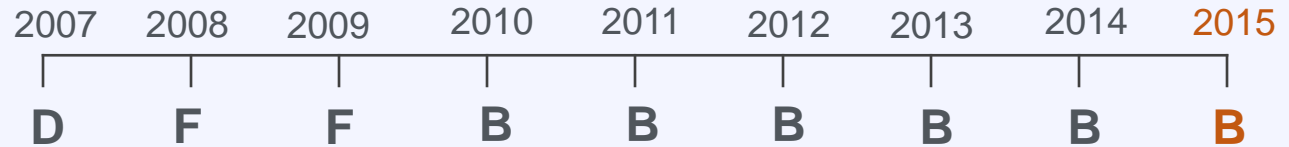


# Interconnection

---

Standardized interconnection rules require utilities to provide a fair and transparent pathway for customer-generators and other developers of distributed energy resources to interconnect with the utility's grid.

# Interconnection: Iowa



**Applicable Technologies**  
All DG renewables



**Applicable Utilities**  
IOUs  
Lynn County REC



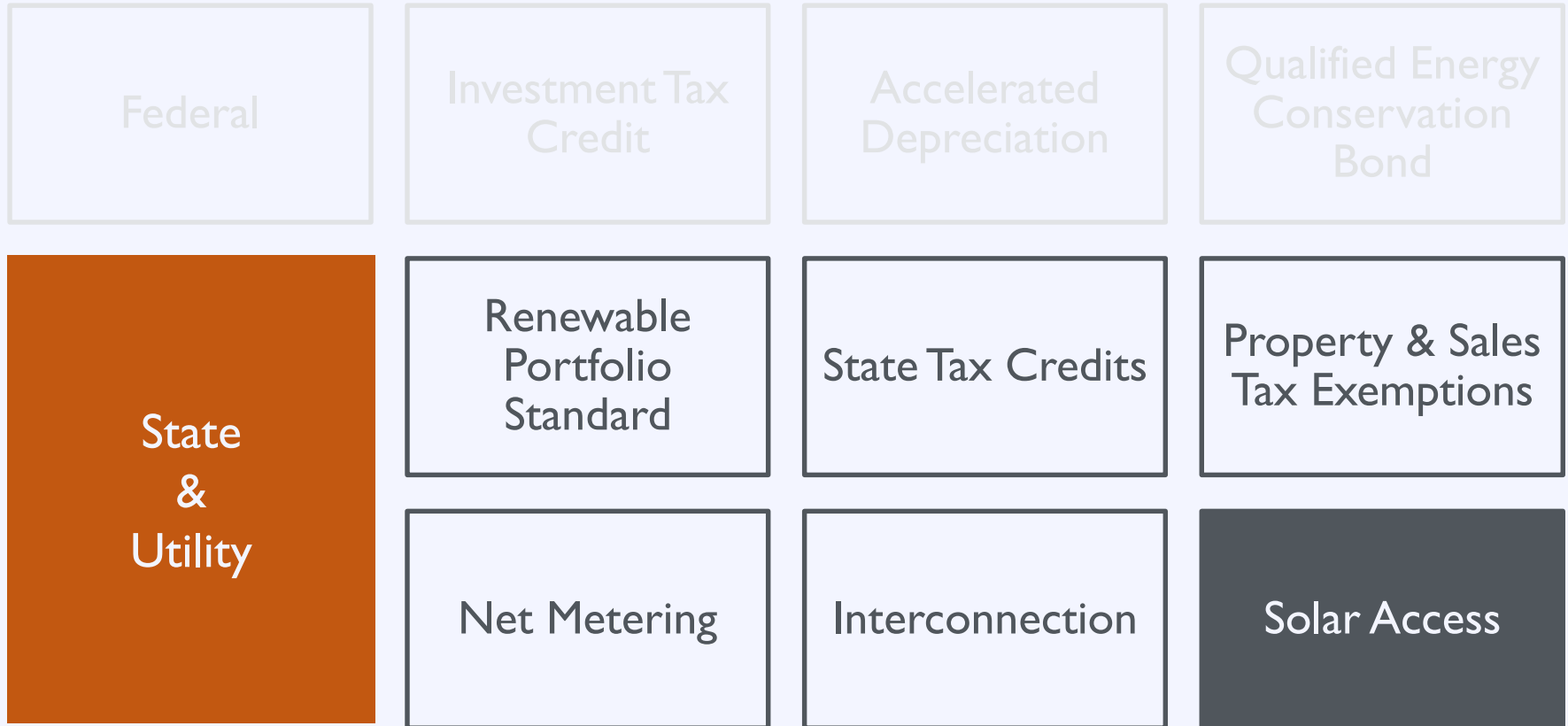
**System Capacity Limit**  
10 MW



**Bonus**  
Electronic Application  
Standardized Process



# A Policy Driven Market



# Solar Access



A landowner does not have any legal right to the free flow of light and air across the adjoining land of his neighbor

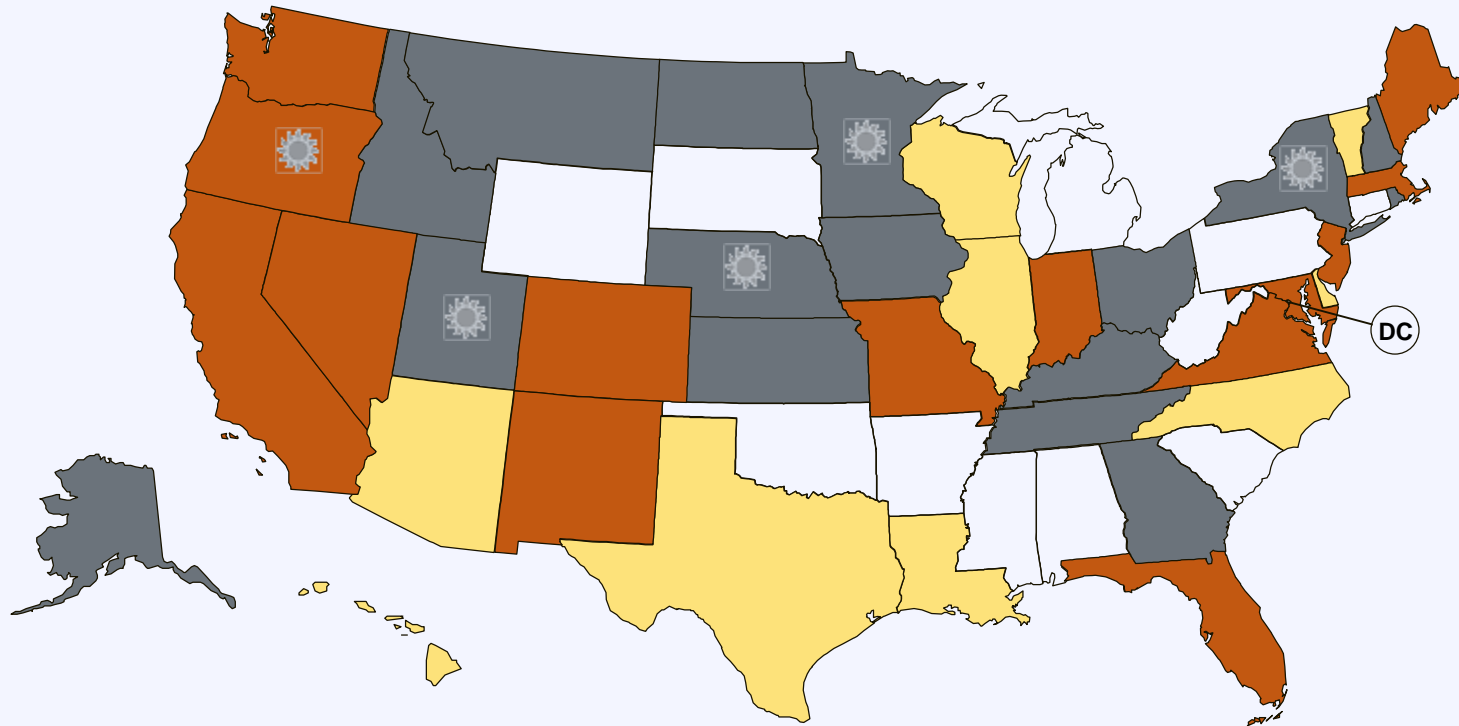
# Solar Access

---

## Solar Access Laws:

1. Increase the likelihood that properties will receive sunlight
2. Protect the rights of property owners to install solar
3. Reduce the risk that systems will be shaded after installation

# Solar Access



■ Solar Easements Provision

■ Solar Rights Provision

■ Solar Easements and Solar Rights Provisions

● U.S. Virgin Islands

☀ Local option to create solar rights provision

# Solar Access in Iowa

---

## Obtaining an Easement:

- Homeowners can obtain voluntary easements from neighbors
- Court-ordered easements are also available

## Municipal Actions:

- Establish solar access regulatory boards
- Pass ordinances prohibiting restrictive subdivision rules regarding solar

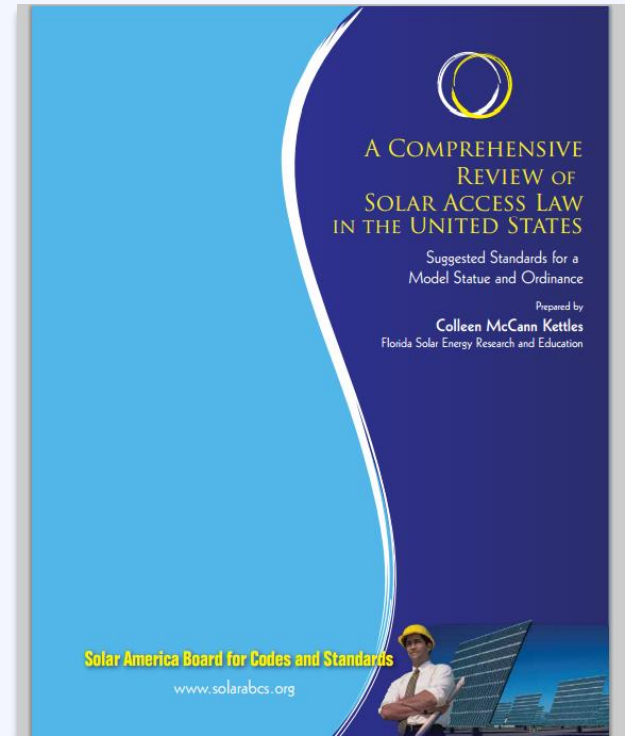
# Solar Access

## Resource

## Solar America Board for Codes & Standards

A comprehensive review of solar access law in the US – Suggested standards for a model ordinance

[www.solarabcs.org](http://www.solarabcs.org)





# ENERGY TRANSITION INITIATIVE

## State & Local Energy Data (SLED)



# DOE EERE SLED Overview

---

- Centrally aggregates a broad array of rich data sets in real-time on regional energy systems, demands, and resources
- Gives decision makers the information they need for a clearer understanding of a market's energy picture
- Allows for more effective planning and implementation of clean energy projects



# Access SLED

[www.eere.energy.gov/sled](http://www.eere.energy.gov/sled)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY** | Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy

## State & Local Energy Data

 Share

### Learn about the energy market in your community

Get basic energy market information that can help state and local governments plan and implement clean energy projects, including:

- Electricity generation
- Fuel sources and costs
- Applicable policies, regulations, and financial incentives
- Renewable energy resource potential

[Get Summary Report](#)

## Electricity Generation

Energy Efficiency

Renewable Energy

Transportation

Community Planning

Data Sources

### New Search

Start Over

Download PDF of this Page

## Electricity Generation Summary for 80020

This section provides details on the electric utilities that serve your area and the related average electricity costs. Trends in electricity rates over time are presented as well as details on the mix of fuel sources used and electricity use by sector in your area.

### Electric Utility Names

Public Service Co of Colorado

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 2012 <sup>1</sup>

### Average Retail Electricity Rates (\$/kWh) [Download Chart](#)

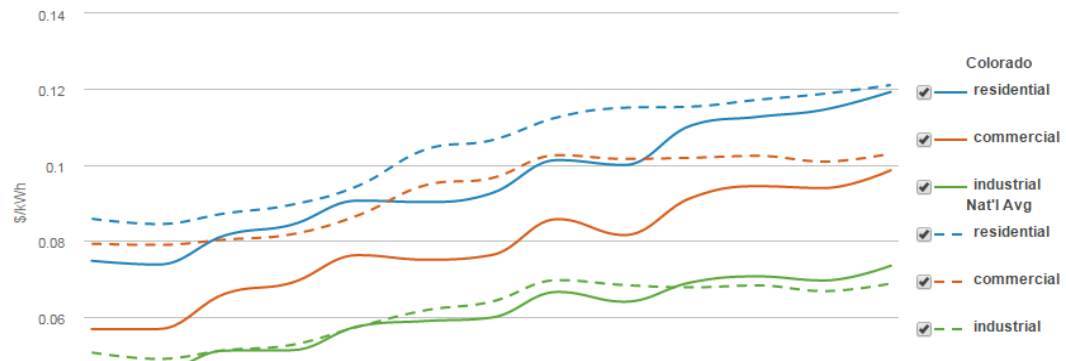
	Public Service Co of Colorado	Colorado Avg.	Nat'l Avg.
Residential	0.1105	0.1211	0.1211
Commercial	0.0916	0.1030	0.1030
Industrial	0.0604	0.0687	0.0687

Note: Contact your utility or search the [Utility Rate Database](#) for specific rate schedules

Source: Energy Information Administration, 2013 <sup>2, 3</sup>

### State and National Retail Electricity Rate Trends

[Download Chart](#)



# Agenda

---

10:20 – 10:50 Putting Solar Energy on the Local Policy Agenda

10:50 – 11:20 State of the Local Solar Market

11:20 – 11:50 Federal, State, and Utility Policy Drivers

**11:50 – 12:15** *Break & Lunch*

12:15 – 12:45 Planning for Solar: Getting Solar Ready

12:45 – 01:20 Solar Market Development Tools

01:20 – 01:30 *Break*

01:30 – 02:30 Solar in Iowa: A Local Perspective

02:30 – 02:50 Developing Solar Policy for Your Community

02:50 – 03:00 Next Steps

# Agenda

---

10:20 – 10:50 Putting Solar Energy on the Local Policy Agenda

10:50 – 11:20 State of the Local Solar Market

11:20 – 11:50 Federal, State, and Utility Policy Drivers

11:50 – 12:15 *Break & Lunch*

**12:15 – 12:45 Planning for Solar: Getting Solar Ready**

12:45 – 01:20 Solar Market Development Tools

01:20 – 01:30 *Break*

01:30 – 02:30 Solar in Iowa: A Local Perspective

02:30 – 02:50 Developing Solar Policy for Your Community

02:50 – 03:00 Next Steps

# Effective Local Solar Policy

## Local Solar Policy

Planning for Solar

Solar in Development Regulation

Effective Solar Permitting Process

Solar Market Development Tools

# Effective Local Solar Policy

Local Solar  
Policy

Planning for  
Solar

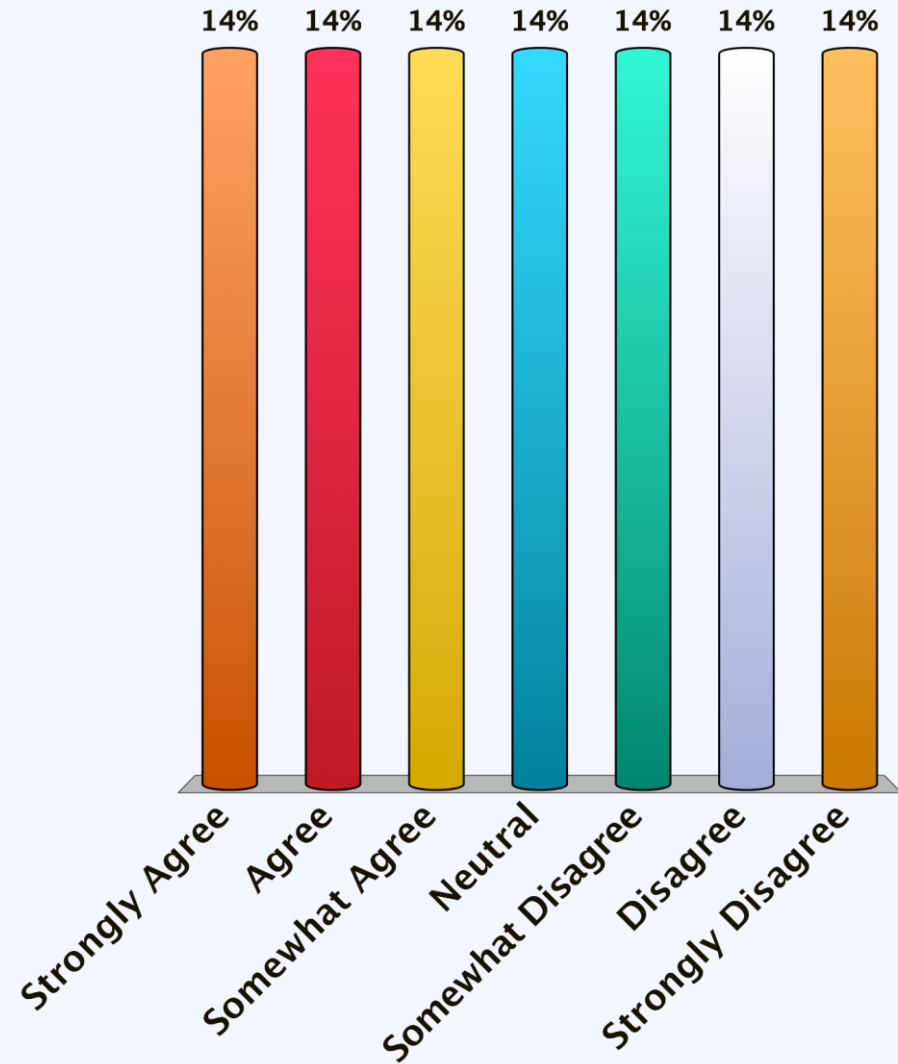
Visioning &  
goal setting

Effective Solar  
Permitting  
Process

Solar Market  
Development  
Tools

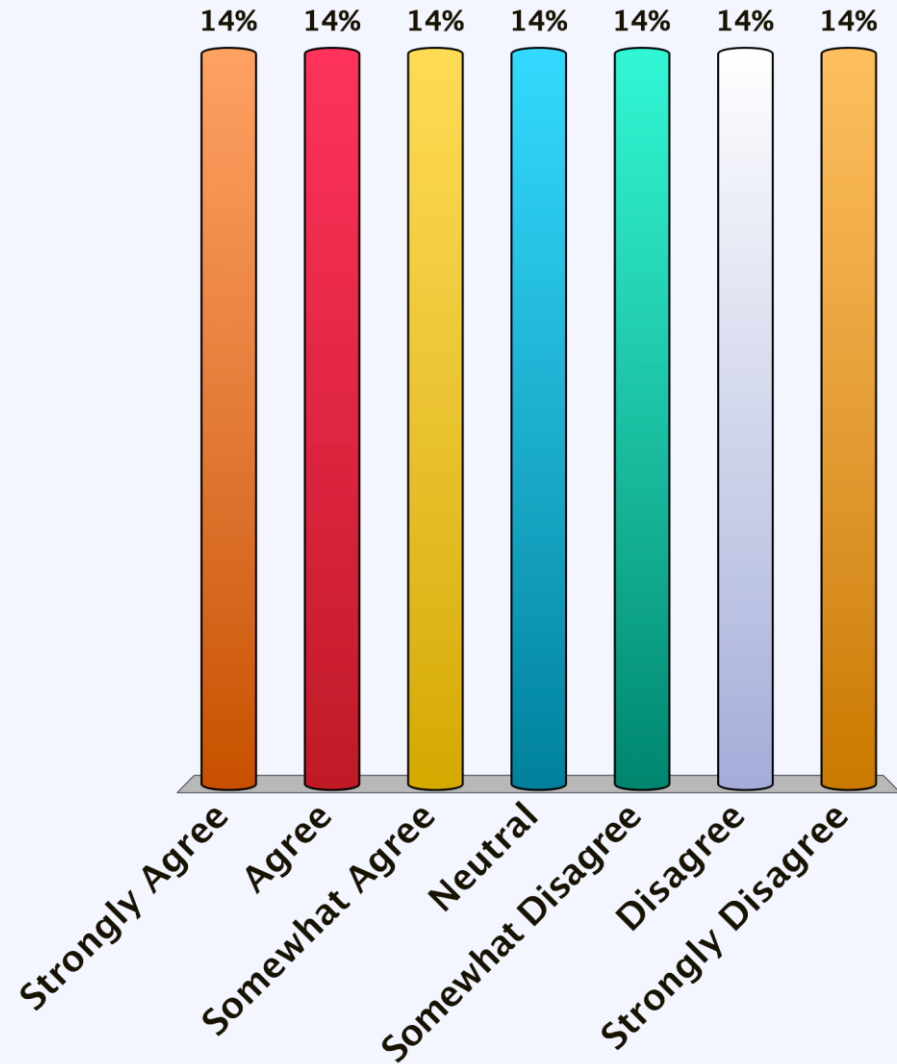
# Solar advances your energy goals

- A. Strongly Agree
- B. Agree
- C. Somewhat Agree
- D. Neutral
- E. Somewhat Disagree
- F. Disagree
- G. Strongly Disagree



# Solar advances your economic development goals

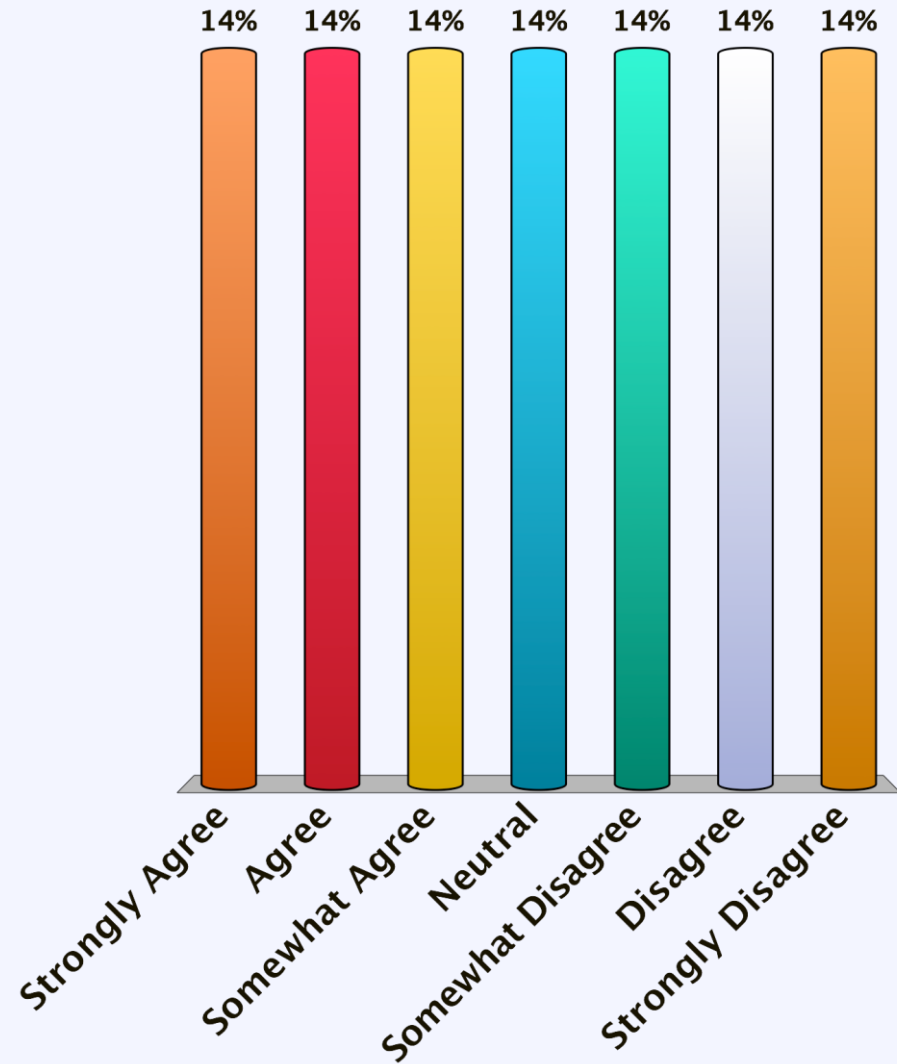
- A. Strongly Agree
- B. Agree
- C. Somewhat Agree
- D. Neutral
- E. Somewhat Disagree
- F. Disagree
- G. Strongly Disagree





# Solar advances your environmental & health goals

- A. Strongly Agree
- B. Agree
- C. Somewhat Agree
- D. Neutral
- E. Somewhat Disagree
- F. Disagree
- G. Strongly Disagree



# Visioning: Scales & Contexts

## Poll

Is solar on residential rooftops appropriate for your community?

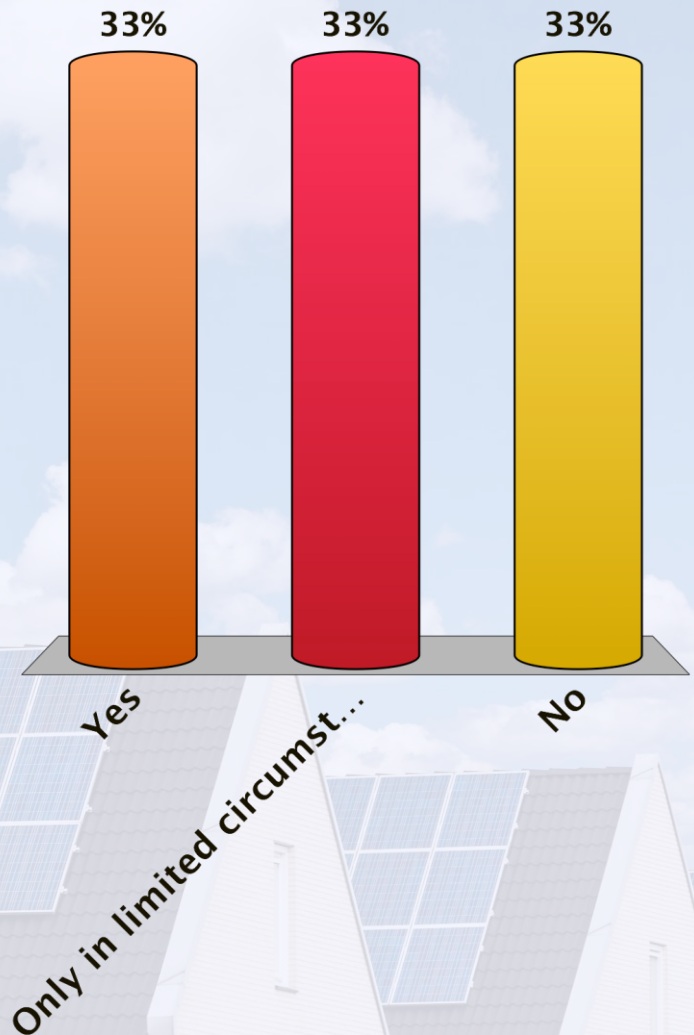


# Visioning: Scales & Contexts

## Poll

Is solar on residential rooftops appropriate for your community?

- A. Yes
- B. Only in limited circumstances
- C. No



# Visioning: Scales & Contexts

## Poll

Is solar on  
commercial  
rooftops  
appropriate for  
your community?

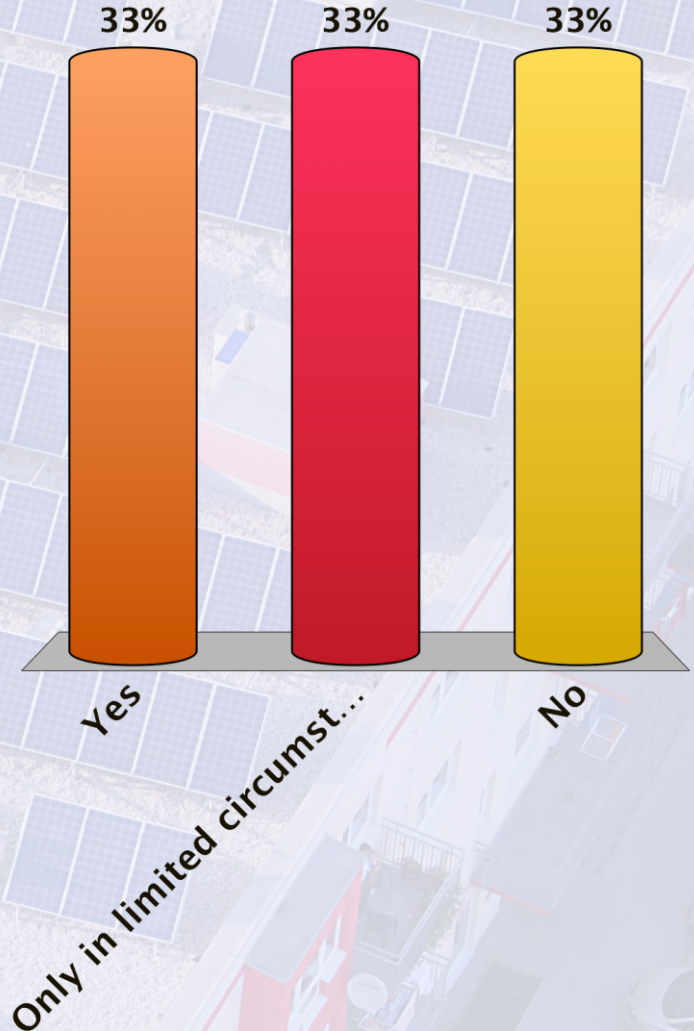


# Visioning: Scales & Contexts

## Poll

Is solar on  
commercial  
rooftops  
appropriate for  
your community?

- A. Yes
- B. Only in limited  
circumstances
- C. No



# Visioning: Scales & Contexts

## Poll

Is solar on historic structures appropriate for your community?

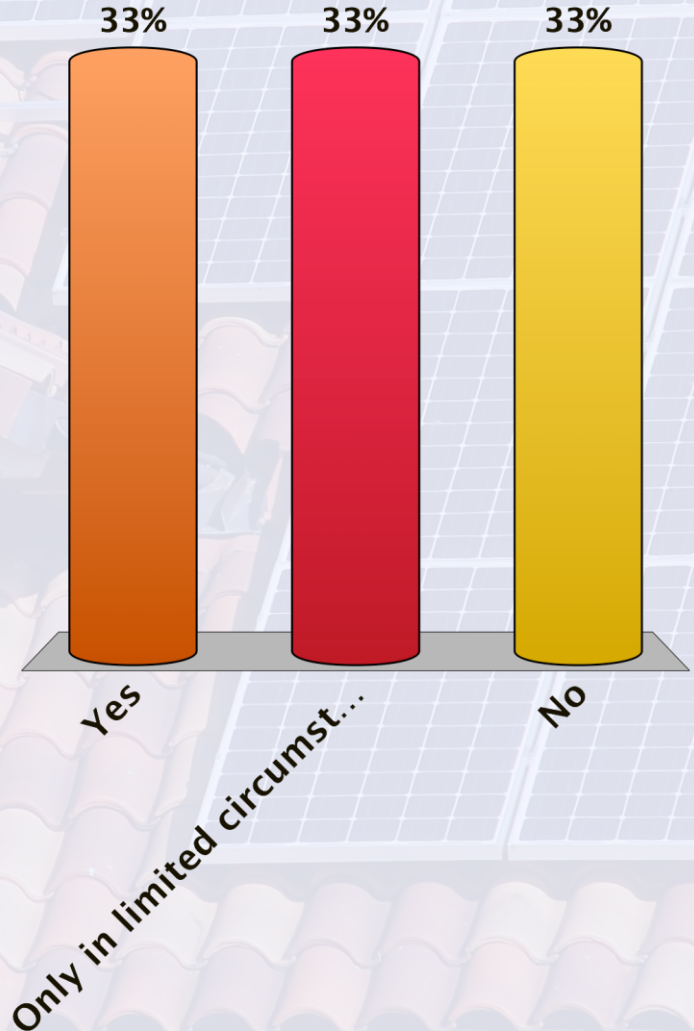


# Visioning: Scales & Contexts

## Poll

Is solar on historic structures appropriate for your community?

- A. Yes
- B. Only in limited circumstances
- C. No



# Visioning: Scales & Contexts

## Poll

Is solar on  
brownfields  
appropriate for  
your community?



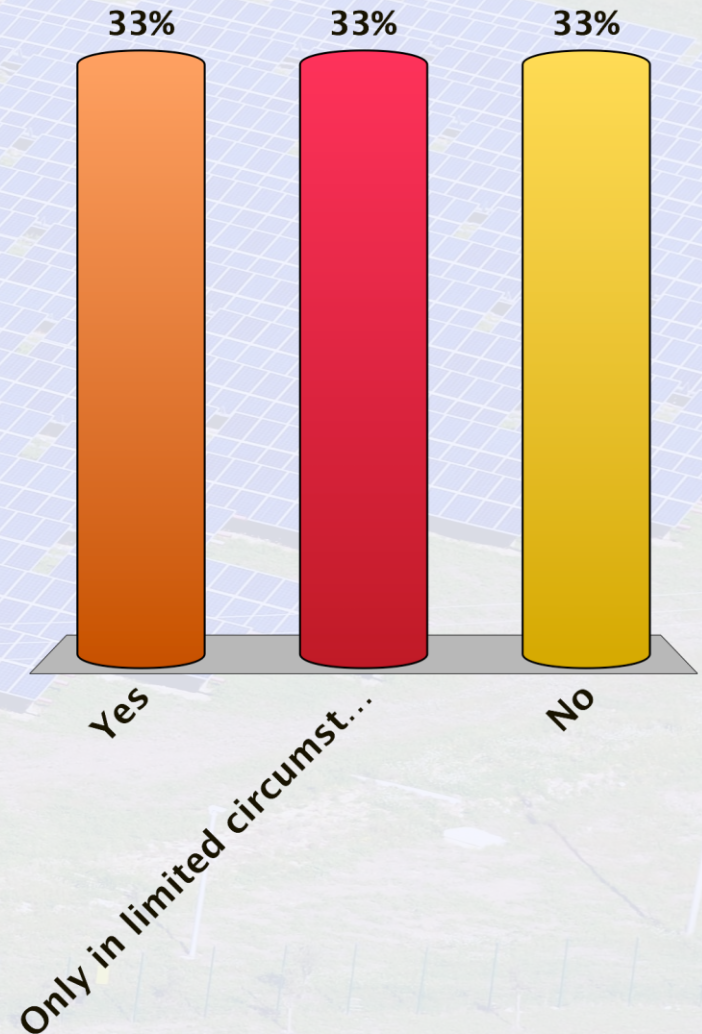


# Visioning: Scales & Contexts

## Poll

Is solar on brownfields appropriate for your community?

- A. Yes
- B. Only in limited circumstances
- C. No



# Visioning: Scales & Contexts

## Poll

Is solar on  
greenfields  
appropriate for  
your community?

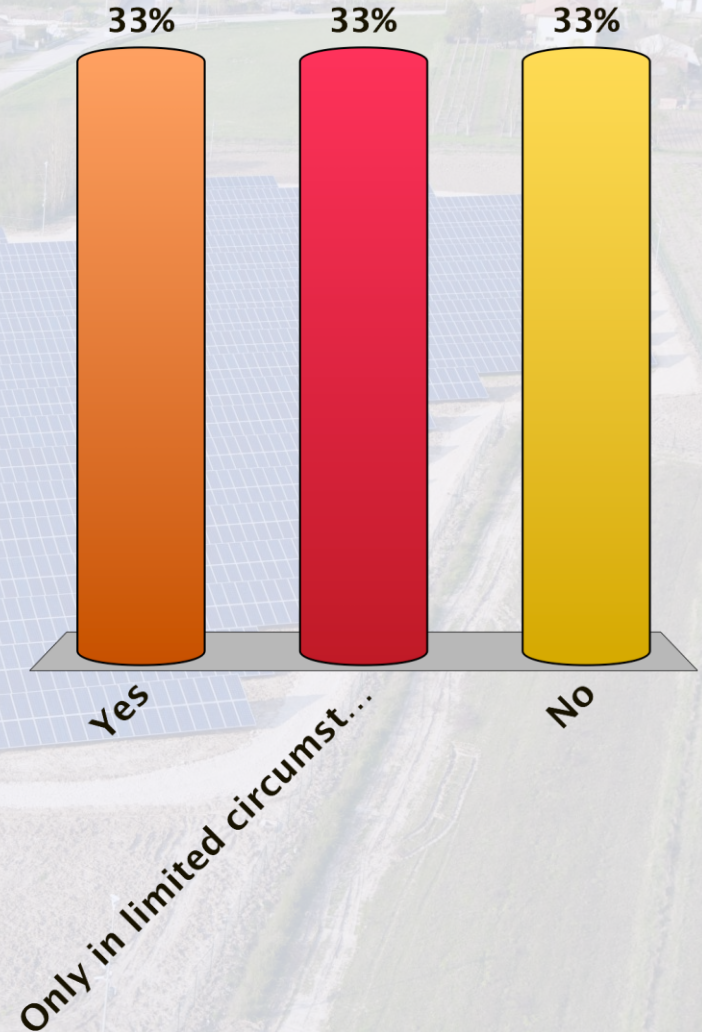


# Visioning: Scales & Contexts

## Poll

Is solar on greenfields appropriate for your community?

- A. Yes
- B. Only in limited circumstances
- C. No



# Visioning: Scales & Contexts

## Poll

Is solar on parking lots appropriate for your community?

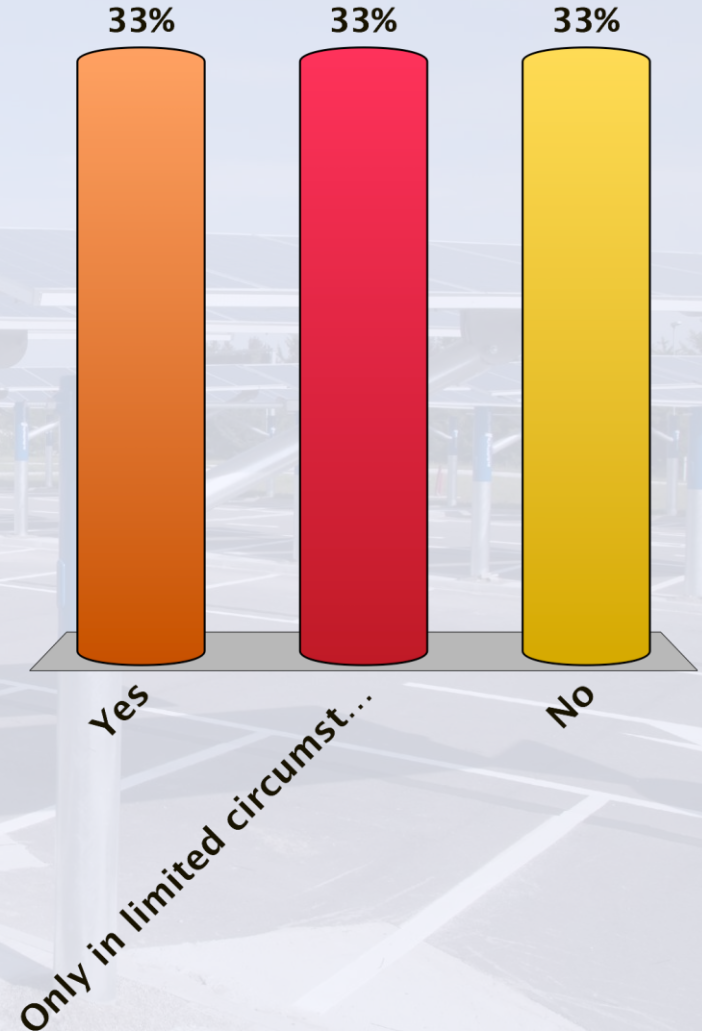


# Visioning: Scales & Contexts

## Poll

Is solar on parking lots appropriate for your community?

- A. Yes
- B. Only in limited circumstances
- C. No



# Visioning: Scales & Contexts

## Poll

Is building-integrated solar appropriate for your community?

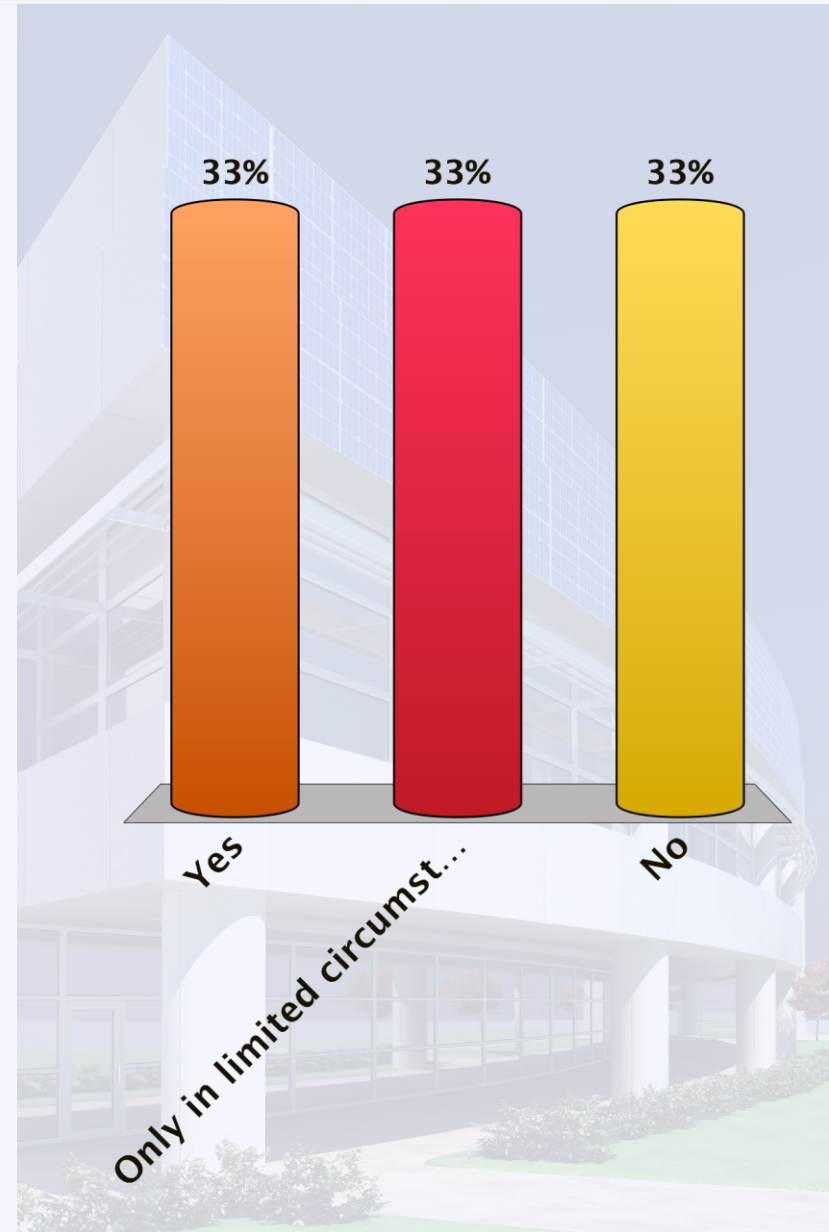


# Visioning: Scales & Contexts

## Poll

Is building-integrated solar appropriate for your community?

- A. Yes
- B. Only in limited circumstances
- C. No



# Planning for Solar Development

## Communitywide Comprehensive Plan

Neighborhood  
Plans

Corridor Plans

Special District  
Plans

Green  
Infrastructure  
Plans

Energy Plan

Climate Action  
Plan



# Technical Resources

## Resource

## Planning for Solar Energy

A guide for planners on determining and implementing local solar goals, objectives, policies, and actions

[www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org)



# Effective Local Solar Policy

Local Solar  
Policy

Planning for  
Solar

Solar in  
Development  
Regulation

Effective Solar  
Permitting  
Process

Solar Market  
Development  
Tools

# Zoning Standards

Section	Topics to Address
<b>Definitions</b>	Define technologies & terms
<b>Applicability</b>	Primary vs. accessory use
<b>Dimensional Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Height</li><li>• Size</li><li>• Setbacks</li><li>• Lot coverage</li></ul>
<b>Design Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Signage</li><li>• Disconnect</li><li>• Screening</li><li>• Fencing</li></ul>

# Zoning Standards: Small Solar

## Typical Requirements:

- Permitted as accessory use
- Minimize visibility if feasible
- Requirements:
  - District height
  - Lot coverage
  - Setback



# Zoning Standards: Large Solar

## Typical Requirements:

- Allowed for primary use in limited locations
- Requirements:
  - Height limits
  - Lot coverage
  - Setback
  - Fencing and Enclosure



# Zoning Standards: Historic

## Typical Requirements:

- Prevent permanent loss of “character defining” features
- Possible design requirements
  - Ground mounted
  - Flat roof with setback
  - Panels flush with roof
  - Blend color



Source: SolarCentury

# Update Building Code

---

## Solar Ready Construction:

Preparing a building for solar at the outset can help make future solar installations easier and more cost effective.

# Update Building Code

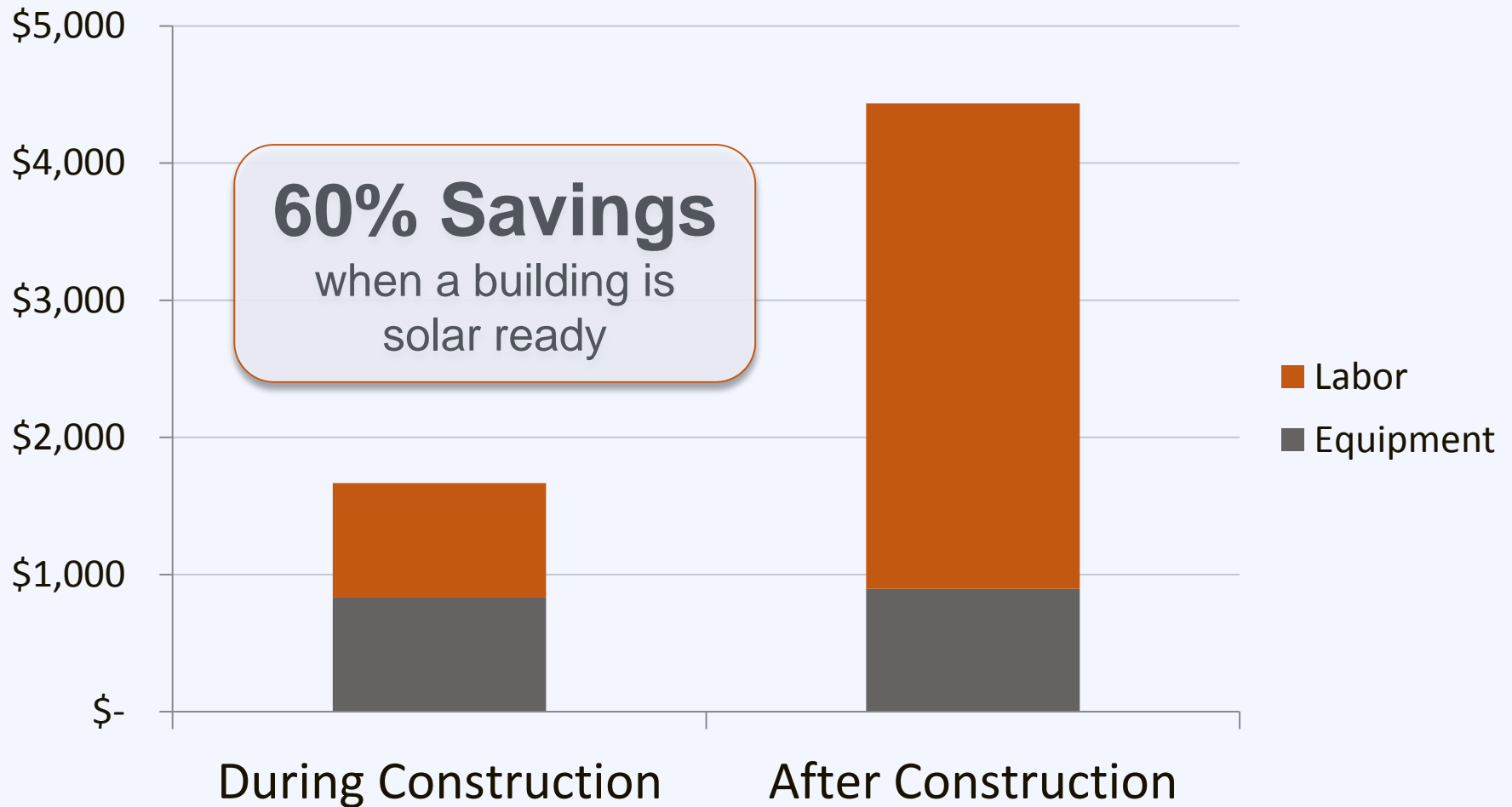
---

## Require builders to:

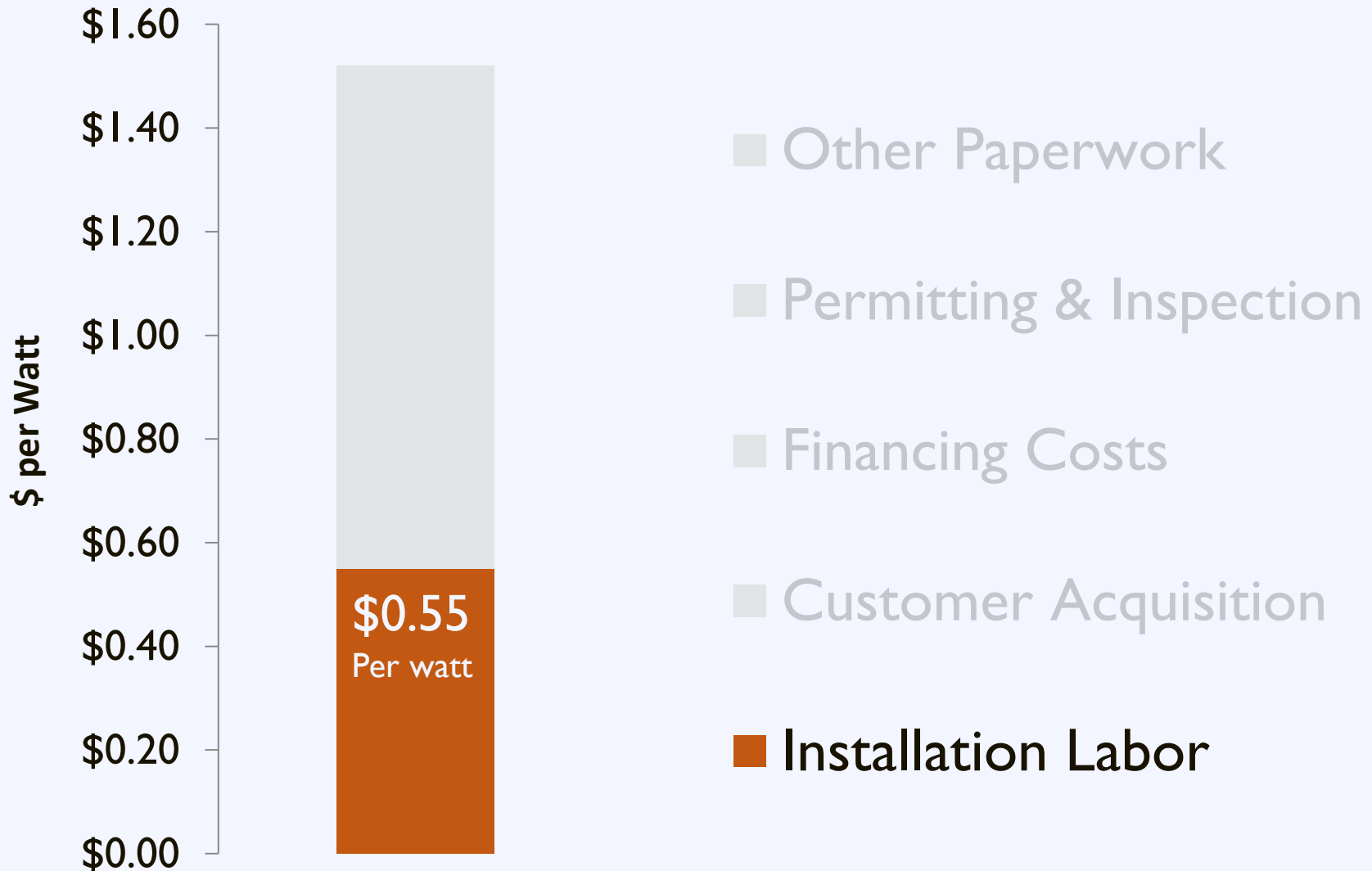
- ✓ Minimize rooftop equipment
- ✓ Plan for structure orientation to avoid shading
- ✓ Install a roof that will support the load of a solar array
- ✓ Record roof specifications on drawings
- ✓ Plan for wiring and inverter placement



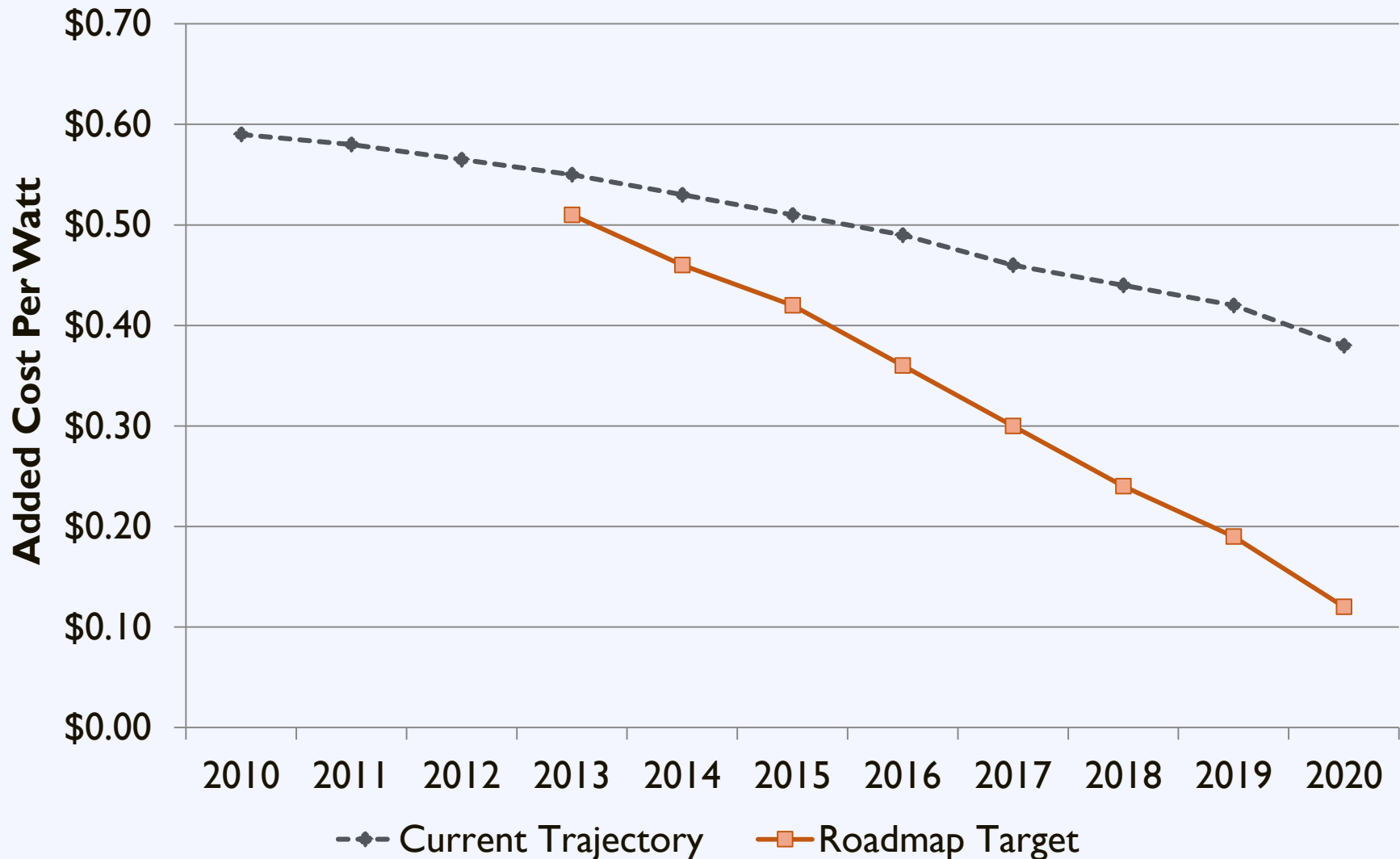
# Update Building Code



# Installation Soft Costs



# Installation Labor Roadmap



# Effective Local Solar Policy

Local Solar  
Policy

Planning for  
Solar

Solar in  
Development  
Regulation

Effective Solar  
Permitting  
Process

Solar Market  
Development  
Tools

# Challenge: Inconsistency

---

**18,000+** local jurisdictions  
with unique zoning and permitting requirements

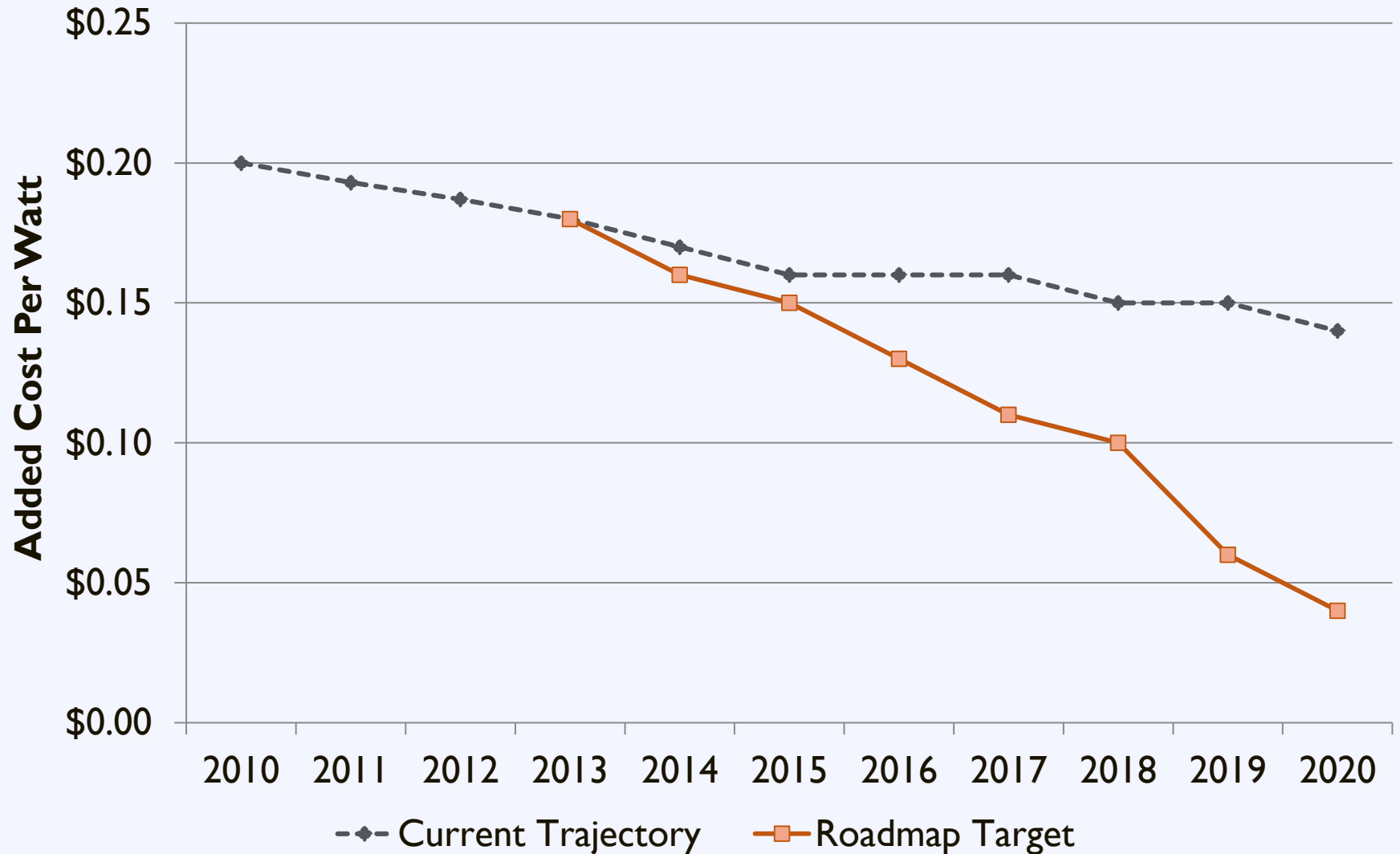
# Consumer Challenges



# Regulatory Barriers



# Planning & Permitting Roadmap





# Expedited Review



# Expedited Review

*Depth of Review*



## Expedient

Within established design parameters

Impacts are well understood

Quick, Easy, Cheap

## Expedient

Outside of established design parameters

Review necessary to understand impacts

## Standard

Flexible

# Expedited Review

*Depth of Review*

## Expedient

Within established design parameters

## Expedient

Outside of established design parameters

## Standard

Review necessary to understand impacts

Flexible

### I-I. Example Design Criteria:

- Size < 10-15 kW
- Code compliant
- Weight < 5 lb / sqft
- 4 strings or less

# Expedited Review

---

|  
**No Permit  
Required**

Only interconnection  
agreement required

# Model Permitting Process

Resource

Solar America Board for Codes & Standards

## Expedited Permitting:

- Simplifies requirements for PV applications
- Facilitates efficient review of content
- Minimize need for detailed studies and unnecessary delays

**Solar America Board for Codes and Standards**  
Collaborate • Contribute • Transform

ABOUT US | CODES & STANDARDS | CURRENT ISSUES

### Codes & Standards

The Solar America Board for Codes and Standards (Solar ABCs) collaborates and enhances the practice of developing, implementing, and disseminating solar codes and standards. The Solar ABCs provides formal coordination in the planning and revision of separate, though interrelated, solar codes and standards. We also provide access for stakeholders to participate with members of standards making bodies through working groups and research activities to set national priorities on technical issues. The Solar ABCs is a centralized repository for collection and dissemination of documents, regulations, and technical materials related to solar codes and standards.

The Solar ABCs creates a centralized home to facilitate photovoltaic (PV) market transformation by:

- Creating a forum that fosters generating consensus 'best practices' materials.
- Disseminating such materials to utilities, state and other regulating agencies.
- Answering code-related questions (technical or statutory in nature).
- Providing feedback on important related issues to DOE and government agencies.

**Learn more about solar codes and standards development:**

The below organizations all publish codes and standards for PV products and each organization has its own process to develop and publish standards.

- [ASTM](#)
- [IAPMO Standards](#)
- [International Code Council](#)
- [International Electrotechnical Commission](#)
- [IEEE](#)
- [National Fire Protection Association](#)
- [SEMI](#)
- [Underwriters Laboratories](#)

# Cost-Based Recovery Fees



**Residential**  
Flat Fees



**Commercial**  
Fee Calculator

$$\text{Fee} = (\text{Est. Staff Time} \times \text{Rate}) + \text{Additional Review}$$

# Transparent process

Jobs | FREE RIDE | Forms & Documents | Town Calendar | Contact Us | Water Bill Access | Text Size + -

TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE

BRECKENRIDGE COLORADO

Quick Links  
Search... GO

HOME ◊ ABOUT BRECKENRIDGE ◊ GOVERNMENT ◊ DEPARTMENTS & SERVICES ◊ ARTS ◊ RECREATION ◊ WHAT'S NEW ◊ I WANT TO...

▼ Building Department

- Adopted Building Codes and Amendments
- Climactic and Geographical Design Criteria 2006 IRC Table R301.2(1)
- Permits and Applications
- Inspections
- Electrical, Mechanical & Plumbing Applications
- Hot Tub Permits
- Solar Panel Permits
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Contractor's Licensing
- How Much Will My Permit

Departments & Services » Building Department

## Solar Panel Permits

E-mail Print

### BUILDING & PLANNING DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR PHOTOVOLTAIC (SOLAR PANEL) INSTALLATIONS

The solar panel installer is responsible for insuring that all of the code requirements are met and permits issued.

Required permits are: Development, Building and Electrical Permits.

**Planning Department / Development Permit Requirements:**

- Outside of the Conservation District, [Class D Permit](#)
- Within the Conservation District, [Class C Minor Permit](#)
- Letter of approval from the Homeowners Association (strongly suggested)

Refer to the [Breckenridge Development Code](#), reference [Section 9-1-19, Policy 5 \(Absolute\)](#) regarding solar panel policies

**Building Department Permits / Building & Electrical Permit Requirements:**

- Meet with a Town of Breckenridge Planner (see above requirements)
- [Building Permit](#) (Submit a completed building permit application, along with two photovoltaic system electrical diagram drawings, stamped by a Colorado licensed engineer)
- [Electrical Permit](#)

**Contractor Requirements**

- Must be certified by North American Certified Energy Practitioners ([www.nabcep.org](http://www.nabcep.org))
- Must have a current Town of Breckenridge [Business License](#), available through the Town

# Agenda

---

10:20 – 10:50 Putting Solar Energy on the Local Policy Agenda

10:50 – 11:20 State of the Local Solar Market

11:20 – 11:50 Federal, State, and Utility Policy Drivers

11:50 – 12:15 *Break & Lunch*

12:15 – 12:45 Planning for Solar: Getting Solar Ready

**12:45 – 01:20 Solar Market Development Tools**

01:20 – 01:30 *Break*

01:30 – 02:30 Solar in Iowa: A Local Perspective

02:30 – 02:50 Developing Solar Policy for Your Community

02:50 – 03:00 Next Steps



# Effective Local Solar Policy

## Local Solar Policy

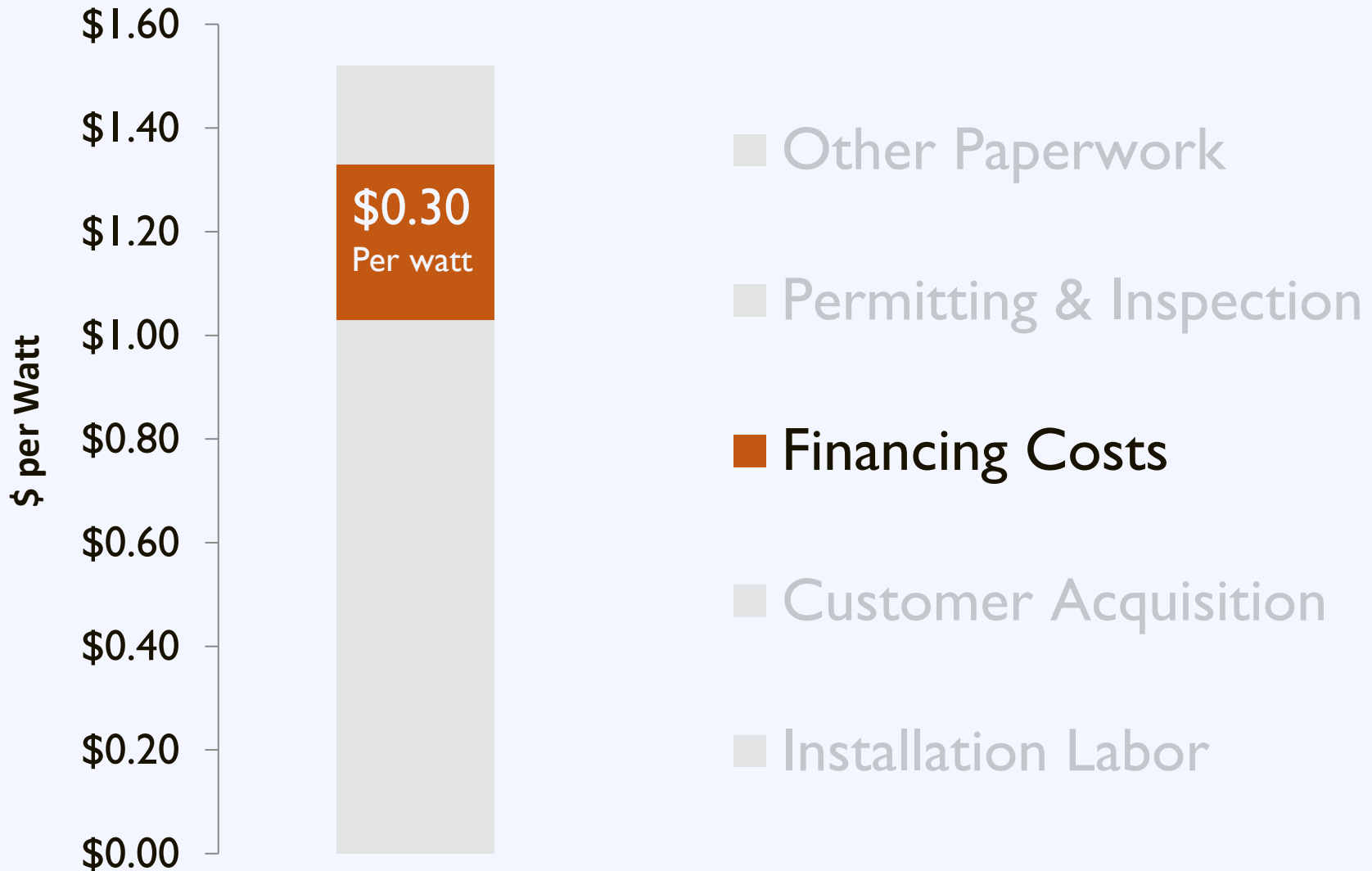
Planning  
Solar

Understanding solar financing  
Expanding financing options  
Addressing customer acquisition

Effective Solar  
Permitting  
Process

Solar Market  
Development  
Tools

# Ownership



# The Solar Equation

---

## Cost

- + Installed Cost
- + Maintenance
- Direct Incentive

## Benefit

- + Avoided Energy Cost
- + Excess Generation
- + Performance Incentive

# Ownership Options for Solar

---

Direct  
Ownership

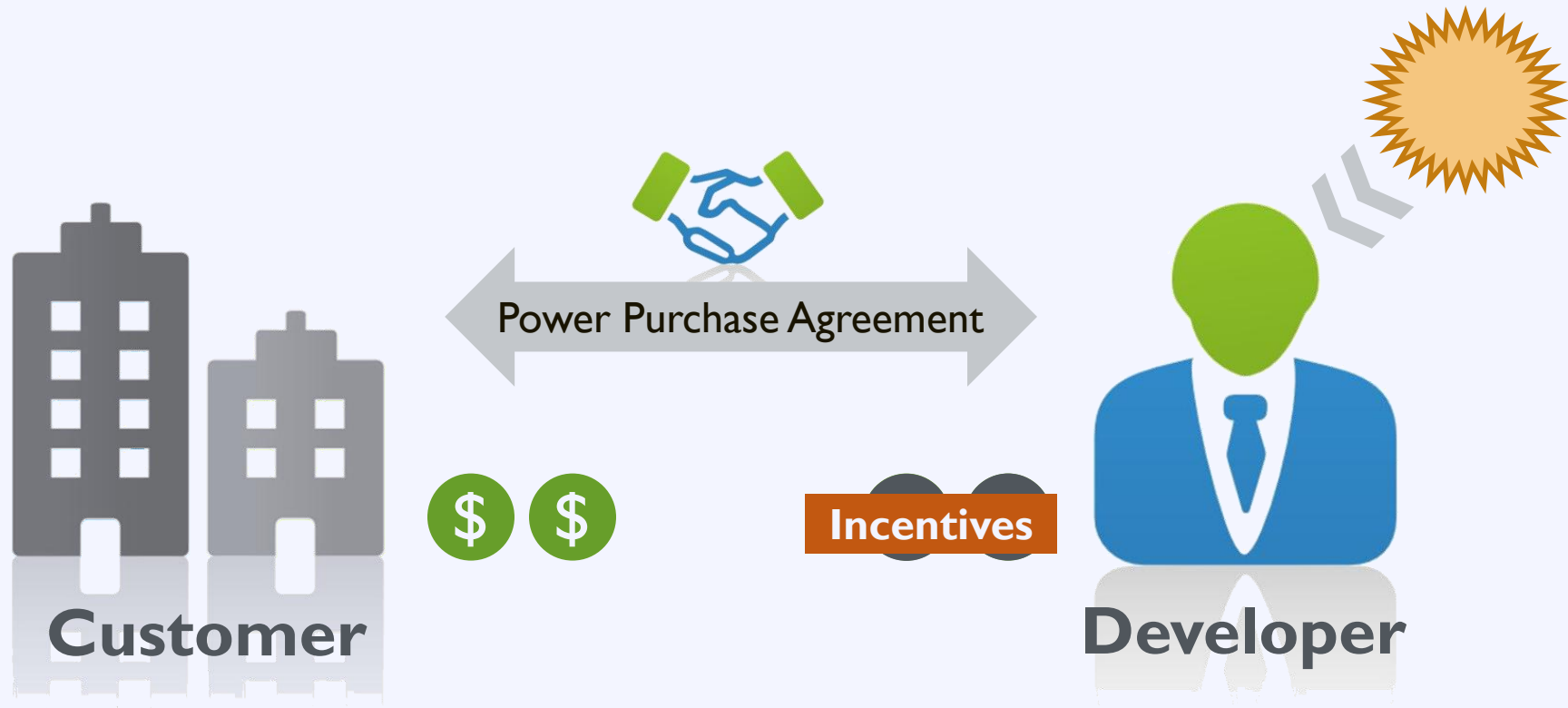
Third-Party  
Ownership

# Direct Ownership

---



# Third Party Ownership



# Power Purchase Agreements

## Eagle Point Solar Supreme Court Ruling

Eagle Point Solar **was not** acting as an illegal utility by installing a solar system on a Dubuque city building.

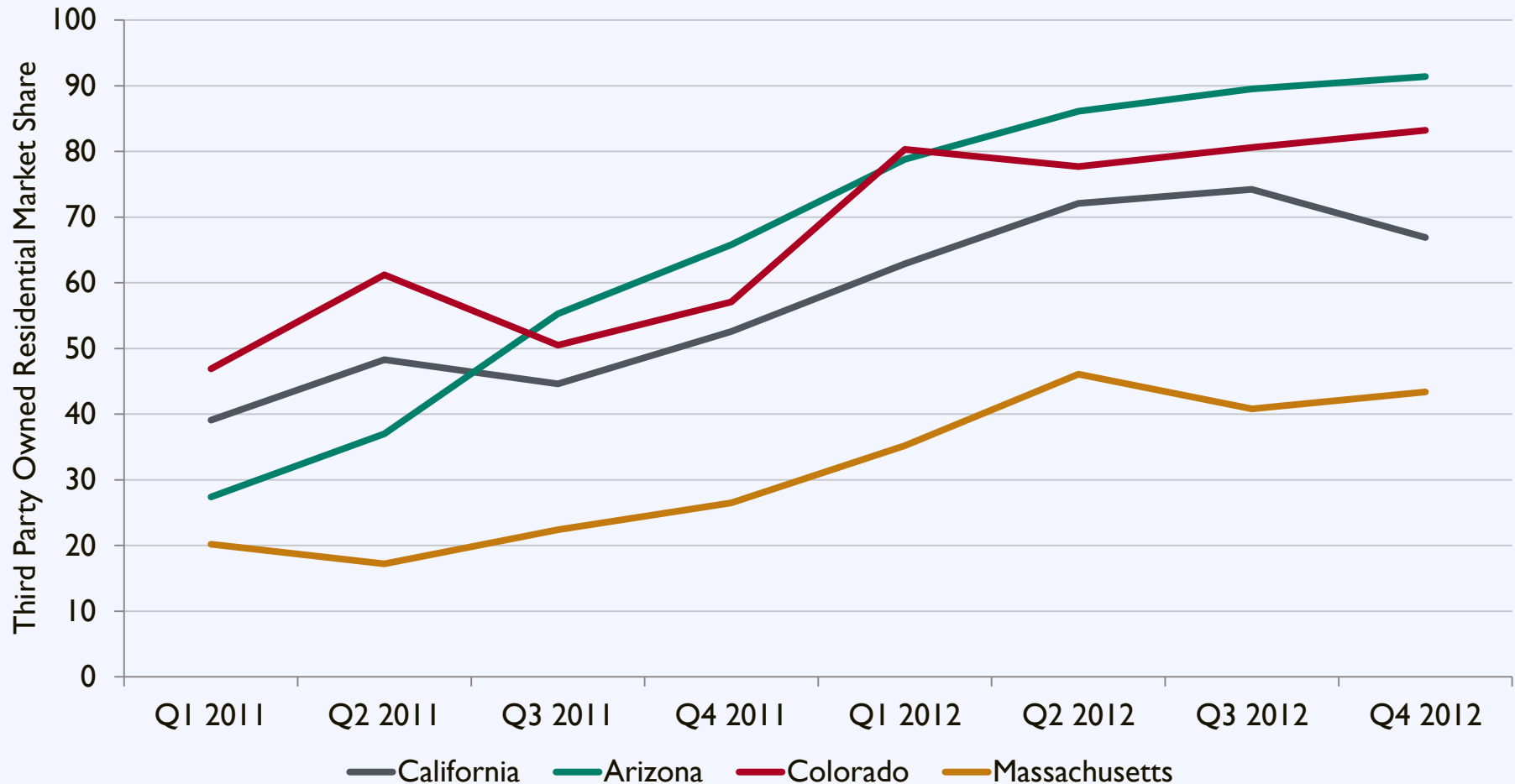
Effectively, this ruling **opens the door to PPAs in Iowa.**



Source: Eagle Point Solar

# Third Party Ownership

Percentage of New Residential Installations Owned by Third Party in CA, AZ, CO, and MA





# Third Party Ownership

---

## Benefits

- No upfront cost
- No O&M costs
- Low risk
- Predictable payments

## Drawbacks

- Not available in all states
- Investor needs higher ROI

# Ownership Options for Solar

Direct  
Ownership

Third-Party  
Ownership

Solar lending products to  
enable direct ownership

# Engage Local Lenders

---

Fewer than **5%**

*of the*

**6,500 banks** in the US

*are*

**actively financing solar PV projects**

# Ownership Options for Solar

Direct  
Ownership

Third-Party  
Ownership

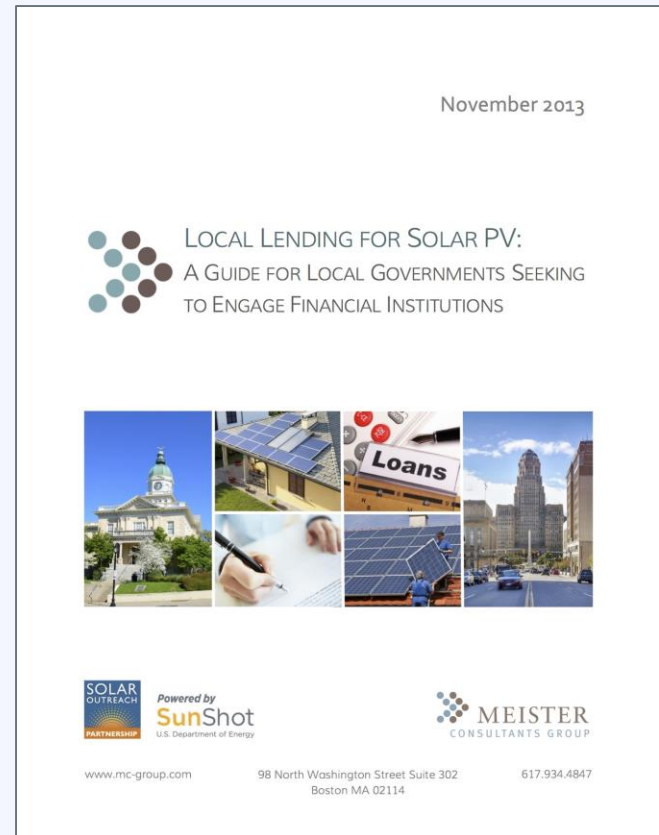
Expand direct ownership  
options by engaging local  
lenders

# Solarize: Resources

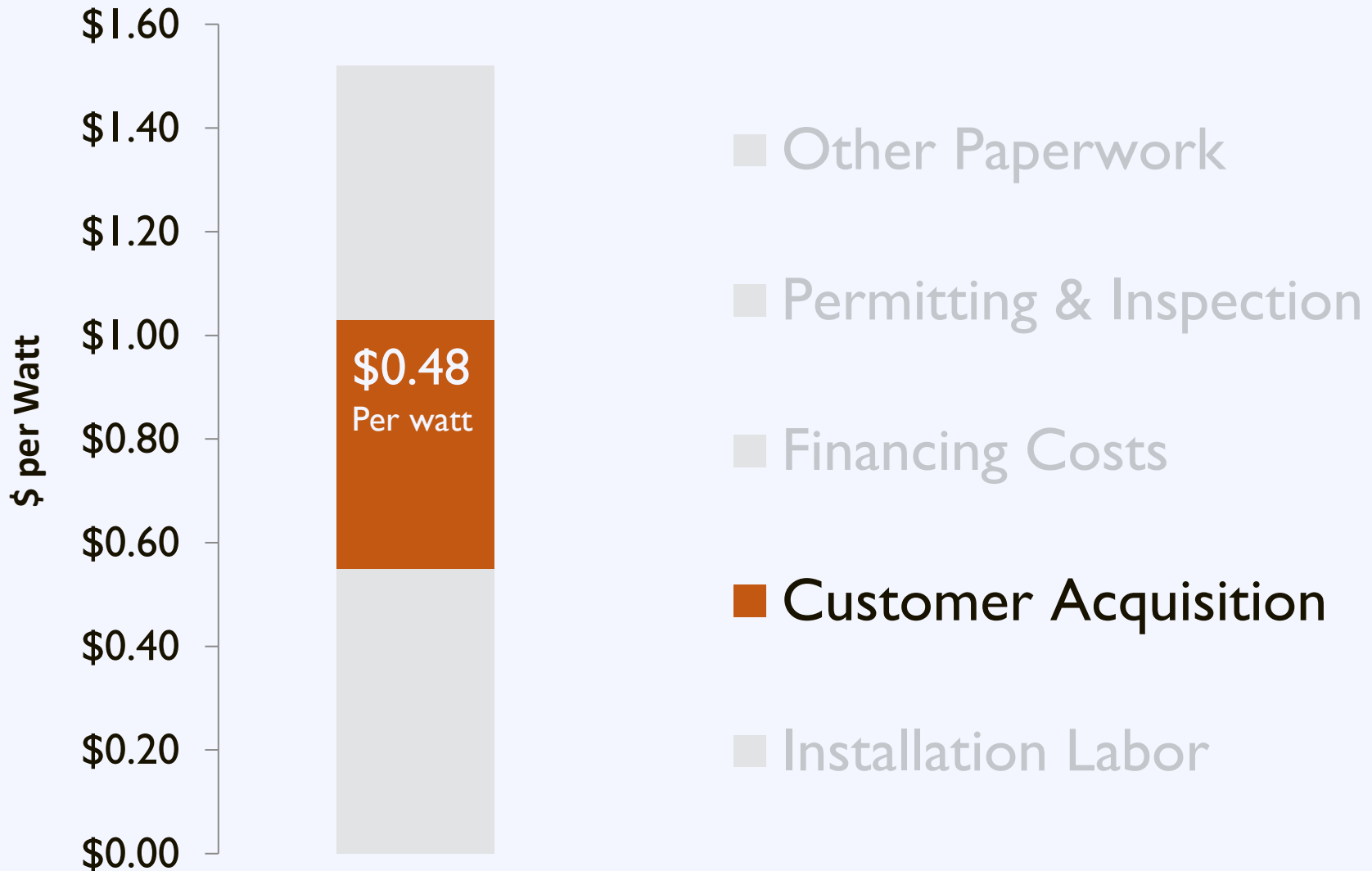
## Resource Local Lending for Solar PV

A guide for local governments seeking to engage financial institutions

[www.solaroutreach.org](http://www.solaroutreach.org)



# Customer Acquisition



# Customer Acquisition

---

**5 % of homeowners** that request a quote choose to install solar.

# Customer Acquisition

## Barriers

High upfront cost

Complexity

Customer inertia





# The Solarize Program

Group purchasing for residential solar PV



# The Solarize Program

---

## Barriers

High upfront cost



## Solutions

Group purchase

Complexity



Vetted offer

Customer inertia



Limited-time offer

# Solarize: Partnership

**Program  
Sponsor**

Community ties  
Technical knowledge

**Solar  
Contractor**

Solar installations  
Volume discounts

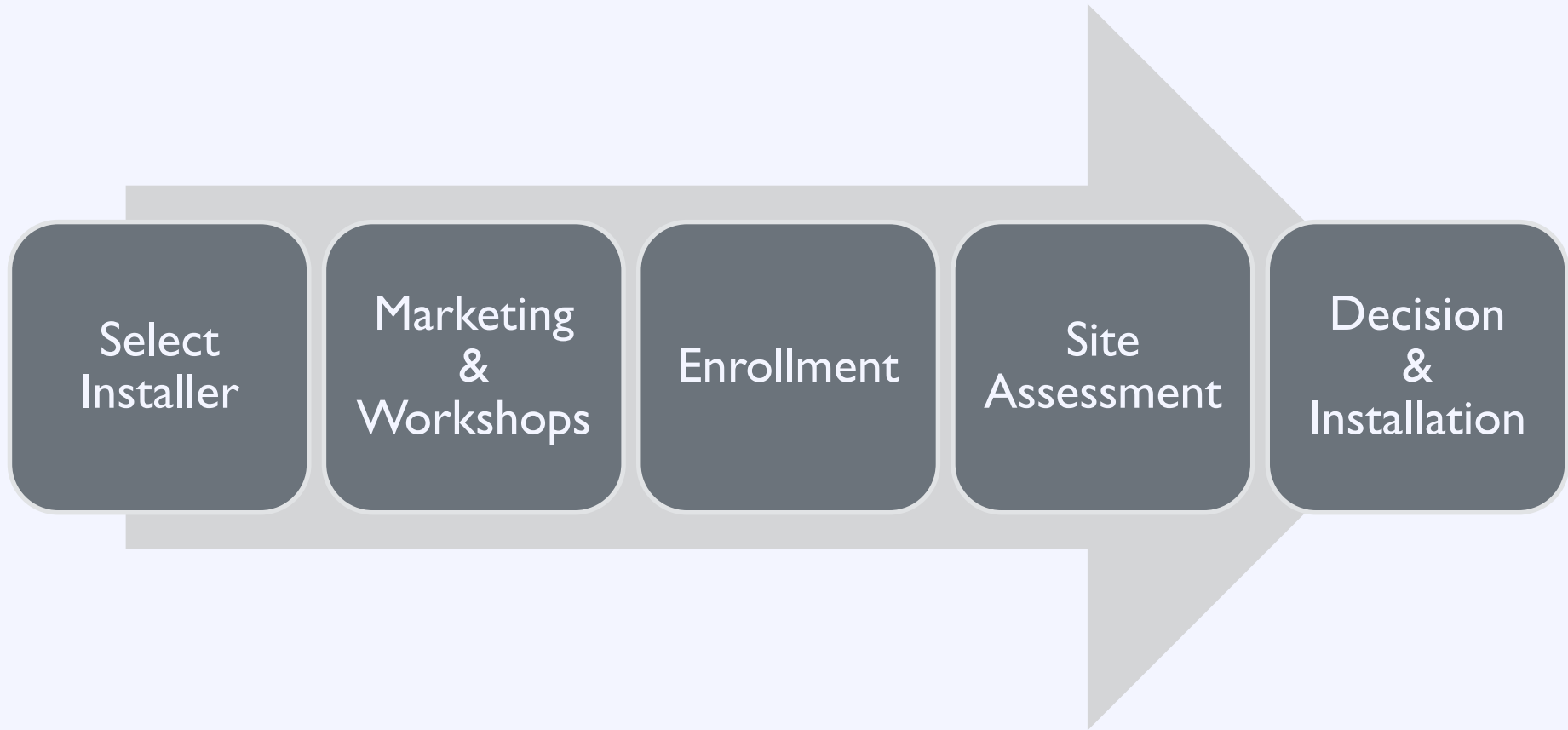
**Citizen  
Volunteers**

Campaign support  
Neighborhood outreach

**Community  
Residents**

Program participation  
Word of mouth

# Solarize: Process



# Solarize Plano: Case Study

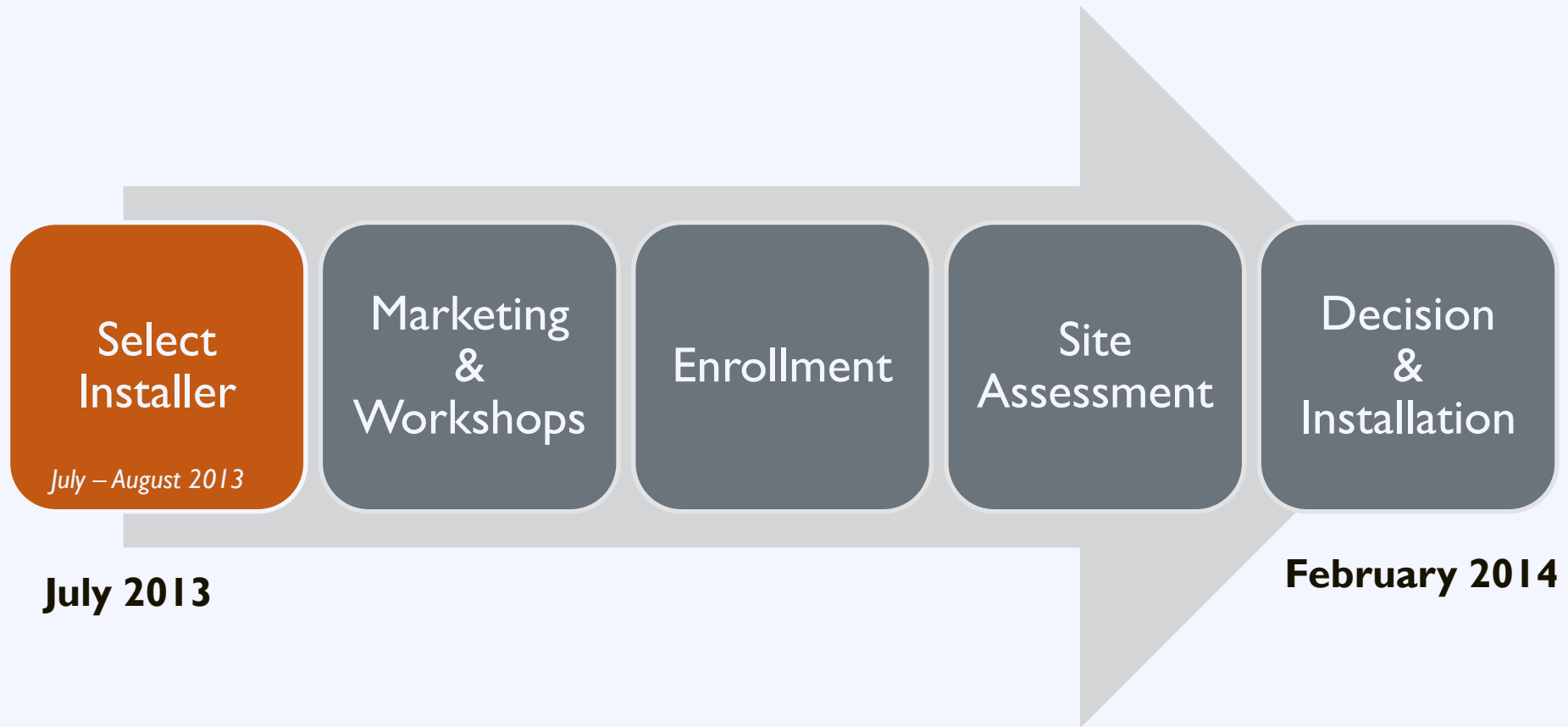
---



**Plano, Texas**

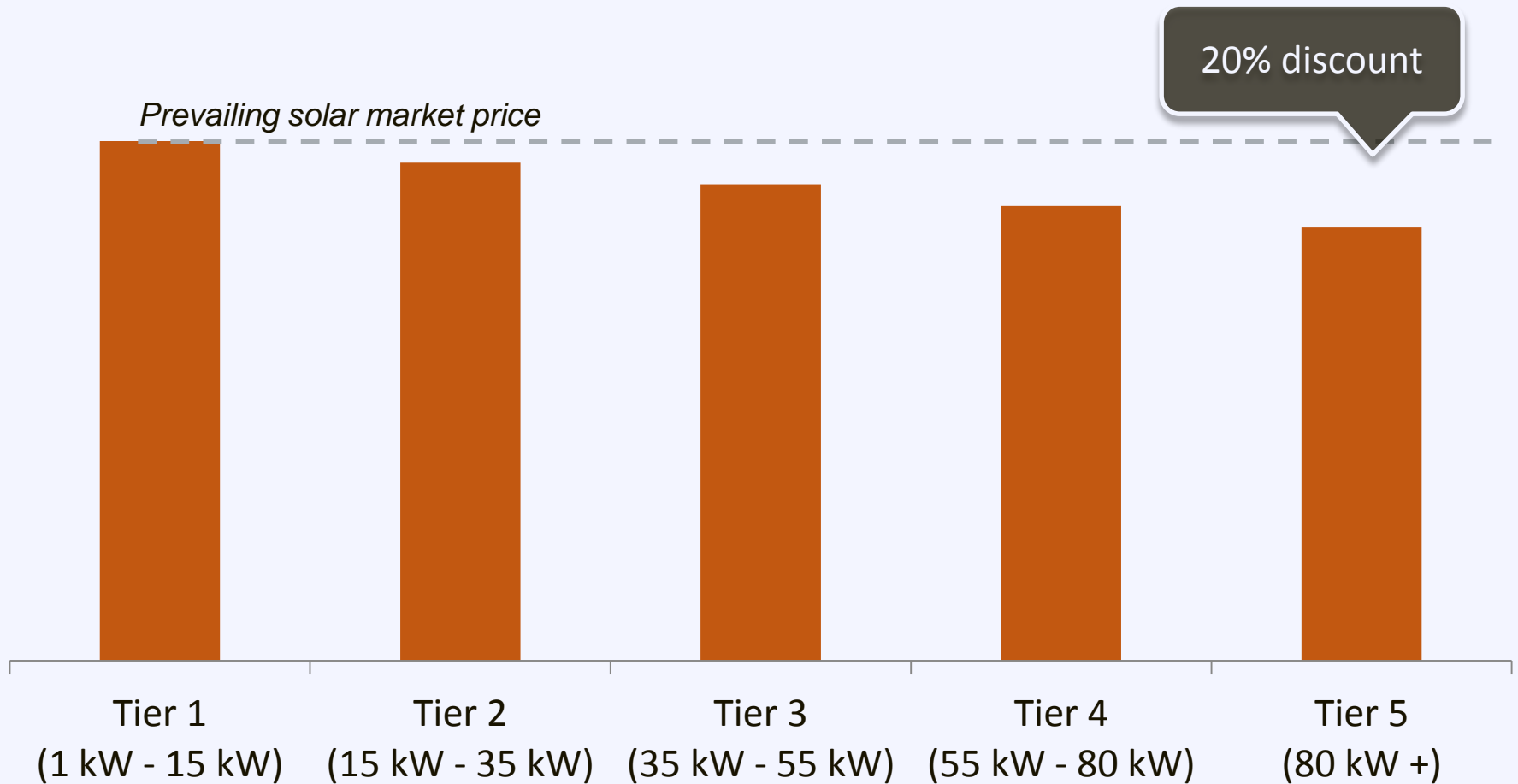
**Population: 272,000**

# Solarize Plano: Case Study

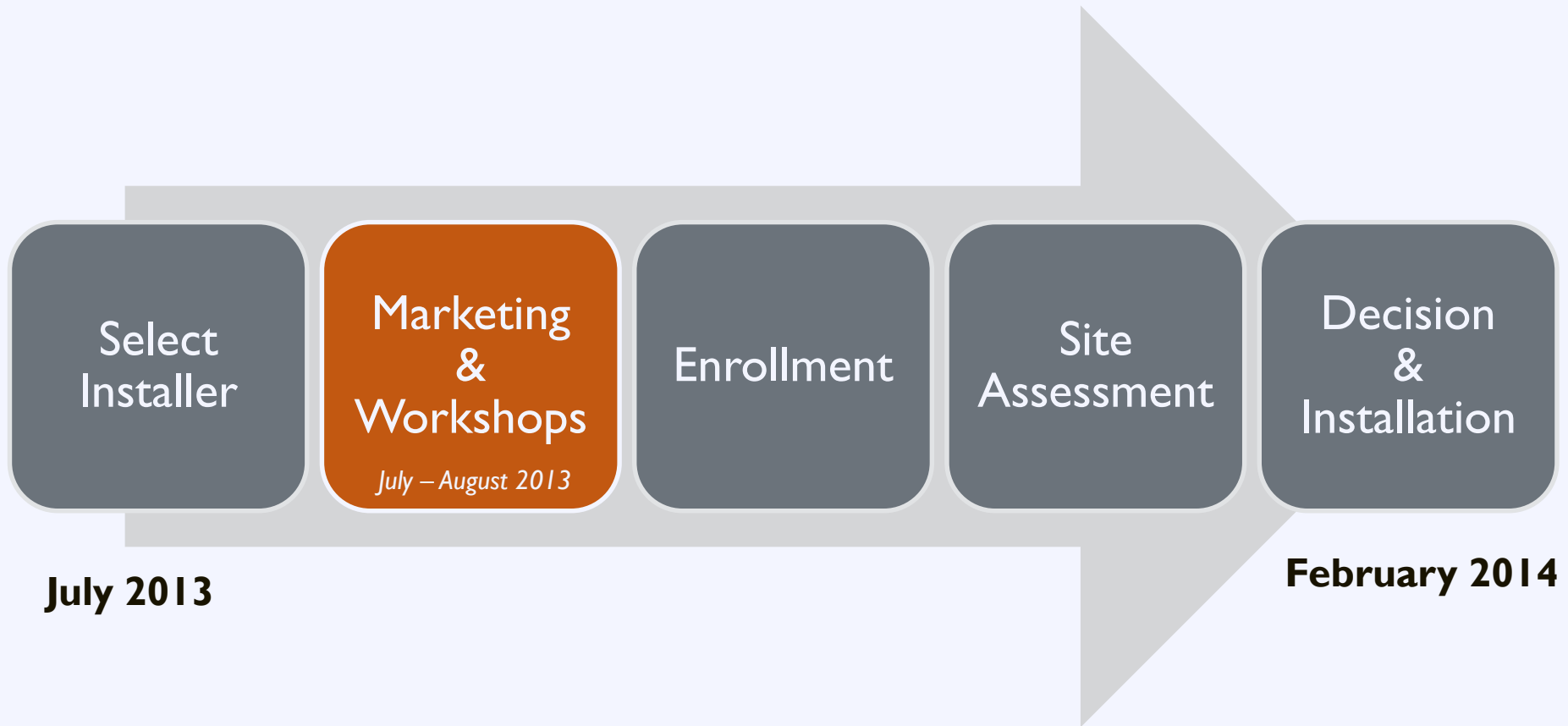


# Solarize Plano: Case Study

## Pricing Tiers



# Solarize Plano: Case Study



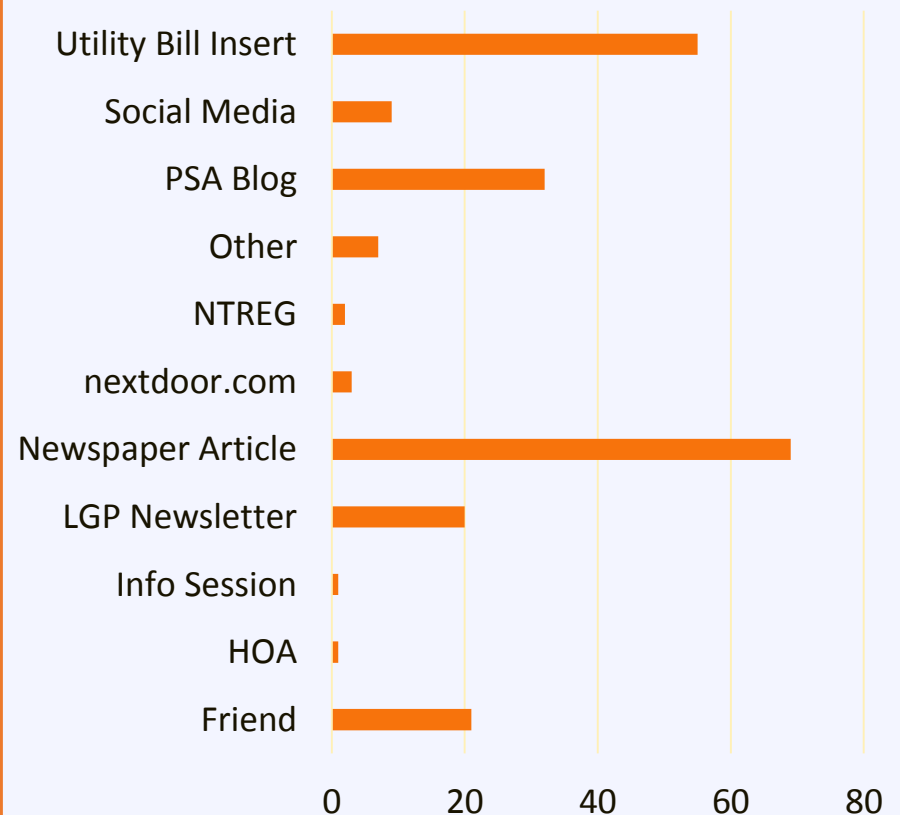


# Solarize Plano: Case Study

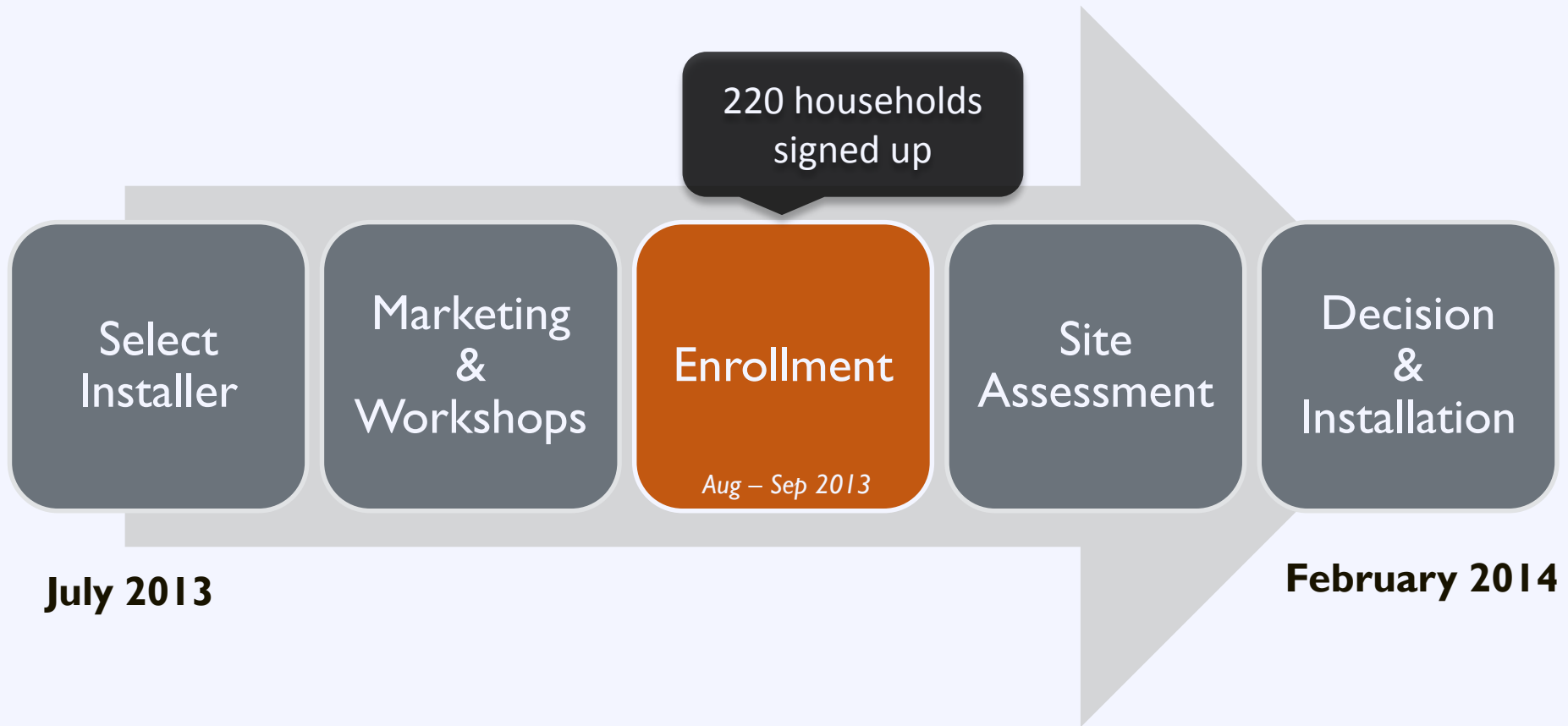
## Marketing Strategy:

- Used Google for online communications
- Online Solar 101 presentations and videos
- Local newspaper and media
- Utility bill insert

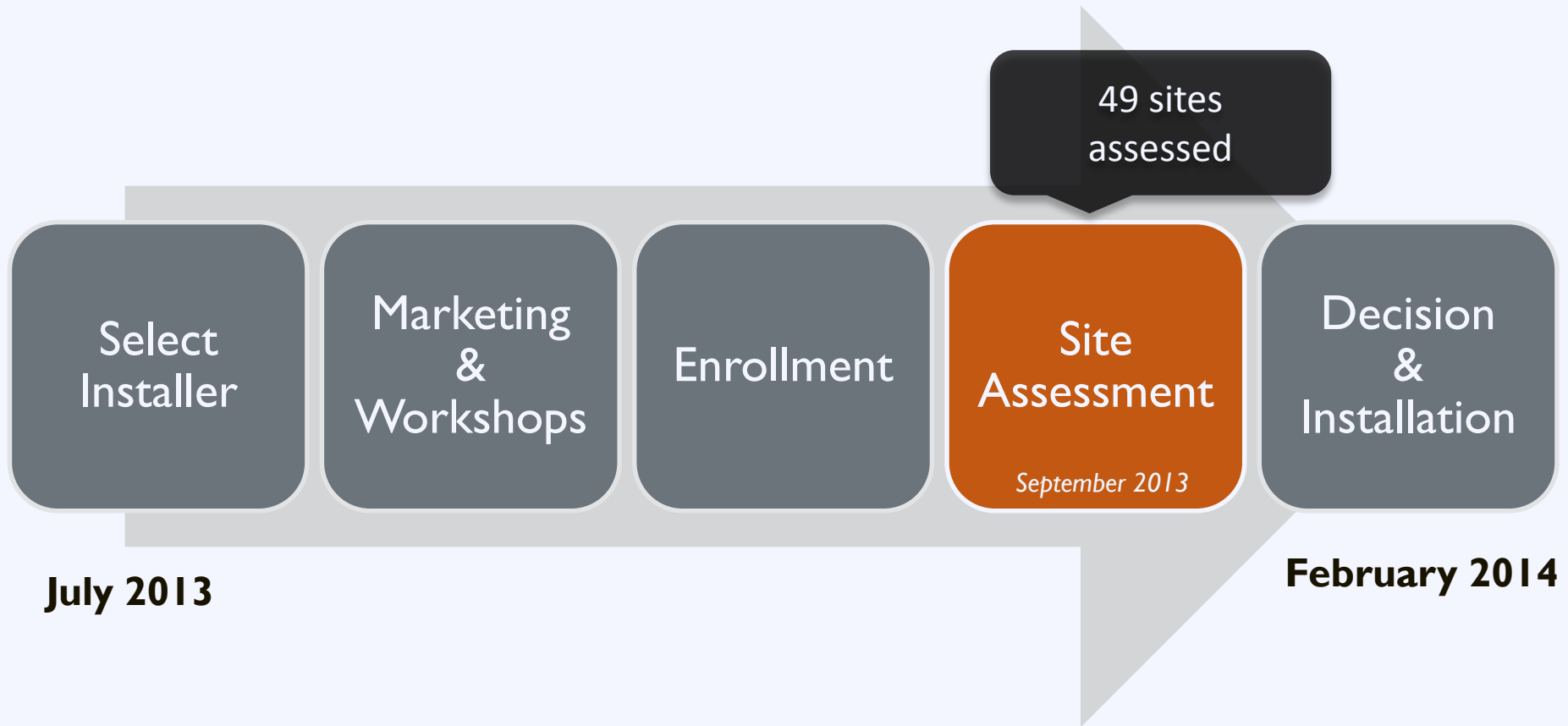
How did you learn about Solarize Plano?



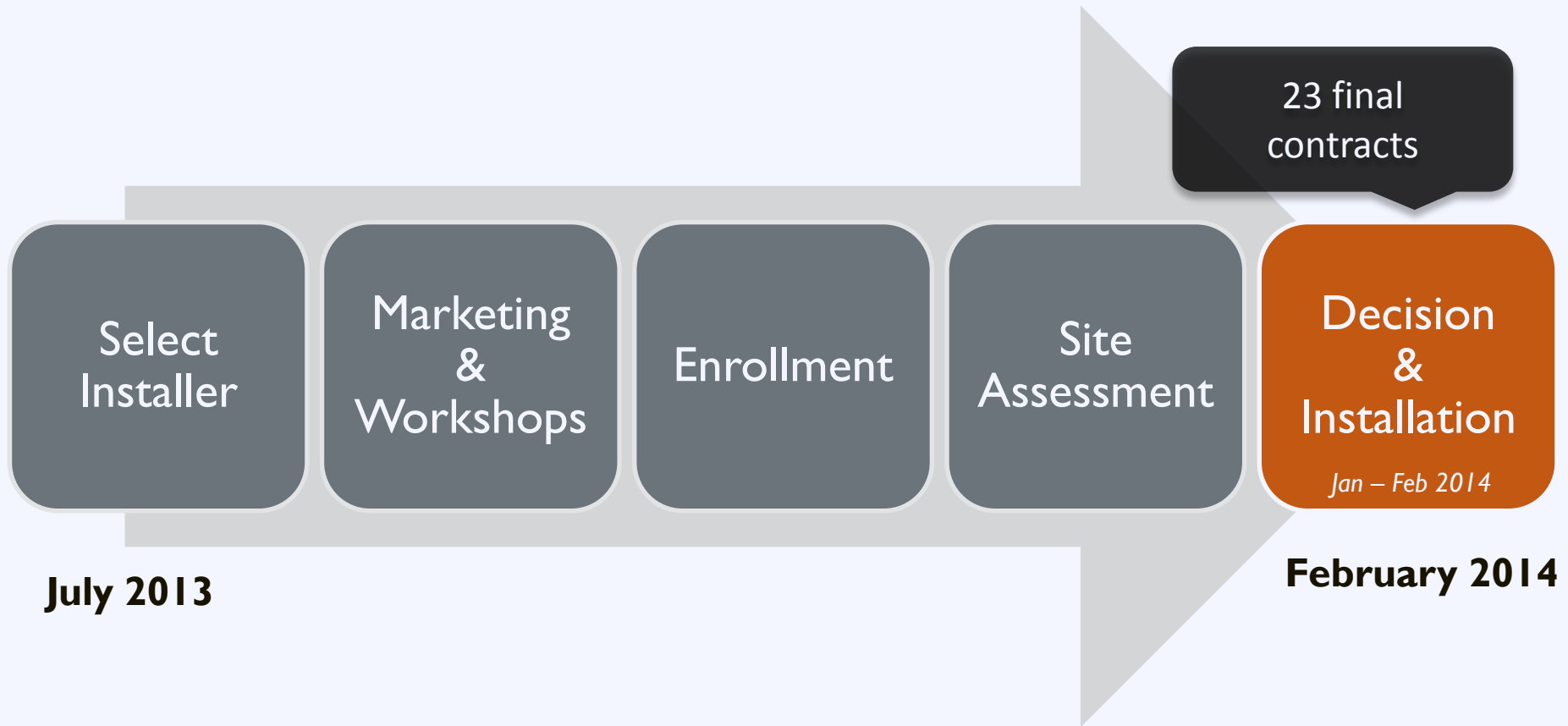
# Solarize Plano: Case Study



# Solarize Plano: Case Study



# Solarize Plano: Case Study



# Solarize Plano: Case Study

---

## Results:

**23** new installations totaling **112 kW**

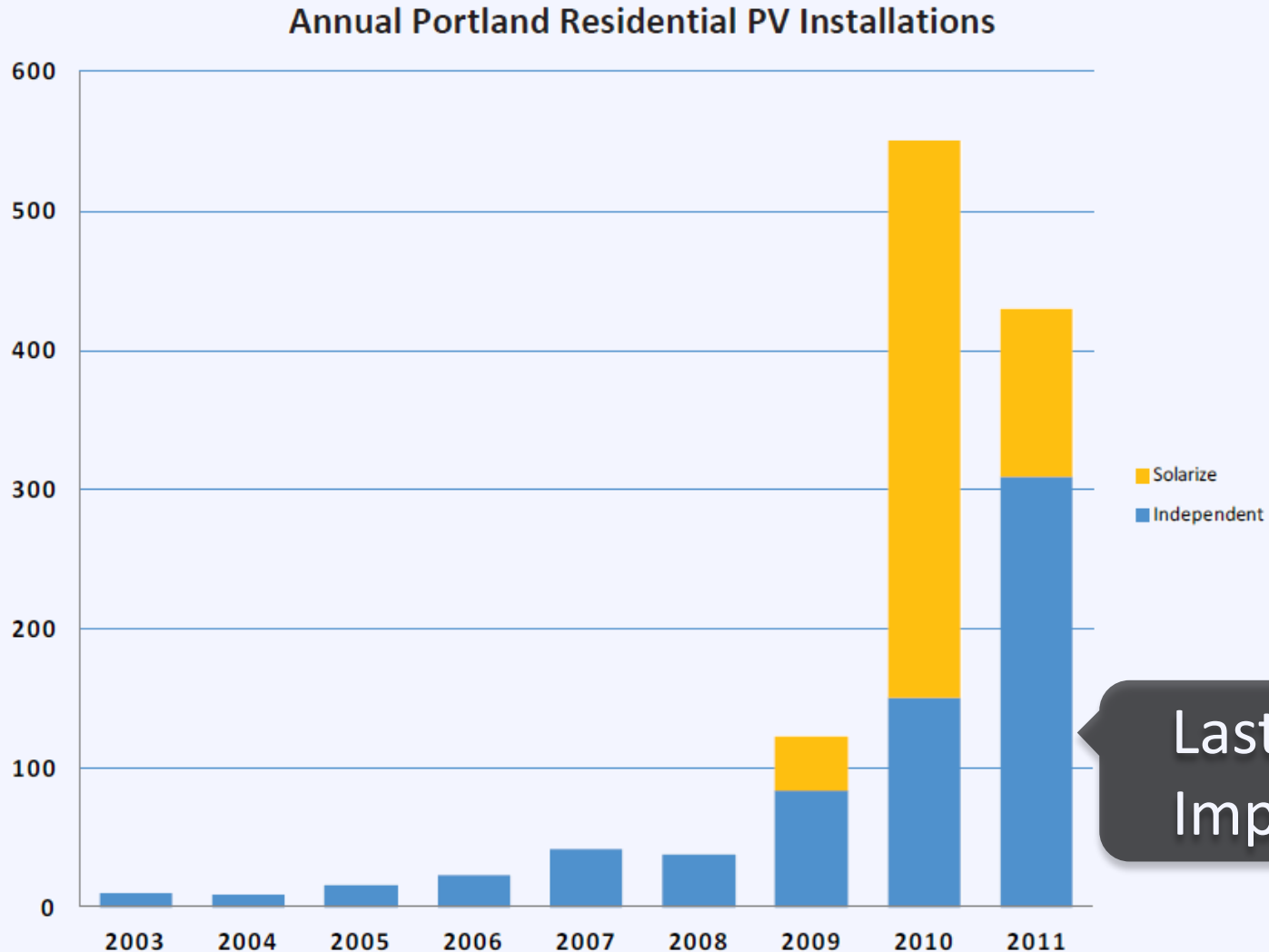
**45%** of assessed sites signed contracts

**20%** reduction in solar price

**Round 2** of Solarize Plano in 2014

**5** new Solarize communities in Texas

# Solarize: Lasting Impact



Lasting Impact

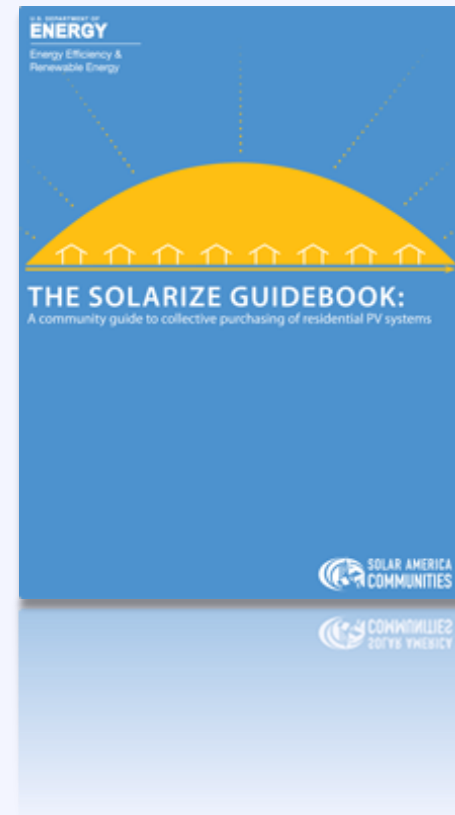


# Solarize: Resources

## Resource The Solarize Guidebook

A roadmap for project planners and solar advocates who want to create their own successful Solarize campaigns.

[www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov)





# Agenda

---

10:20 – 10:50 Putting Solar Energy on the Local Policy Agenda

10:50 – 11:20 State of the Local Solar Market

11:20 – 11:50 Federal, State, and Utility Policy Drivers

11:50 – 12:15 *Break & Lunch*

12:15 – 12:45 Planning for Solar: Getting Solar Ready

12:45 – 01:20 Solar Market Development Tools

**01:20 – 01:30** *Break*

01:30 – 02:30 Solar in Iowa: A Local Perspective

02:30 – 02:50 Developing Solar Policy for Your Community

02:50 – 03:00 Next Steps

# Agenda

---

10:20 – 10:50 Putting Solar Energy on the Local Policy Agenda

10:50 – 11:20 State of the Local Solar Market

11:20 – 11:50 Federal, State, and Utility Policy Drivers

11:50 – 12:15 *Break & Lunch*

12:15 – 12:45 Planning for Solar: Getting Solar Ready

12:45 – 01:20 Solar Market Development Tools

01:20 – 01:30 *Break*

**01:30 – 02:30 Solar in Iowa: A Local Perspective**

02:30 – 02:50 Developing Solar Policy for Your Community

02:50 – 03:00 Next Steps

# Agenda

---

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 10:20 – 10:50        | Putting Solar Energy on the Local Policy Agenda   |
| 10:50 – 11:20        | State of the Local Solar Market                   |
| 11:20 – 11:50        | Federal, State, and Utility Policy Drivers        |
| 11:50 – 12:15        | <i>Break &amp; Lunch</i>                          |
| 12:15 – 12:45        | Planning for Solar: Getting Solar Ready           |
| 12:45 – 01:20        | Solar Market Development Tools                    |
| 01:20 – 01:30        | <i>Break</i>                                      |
| 01:30 – 02:30        | Solar in Iowa: A Local Perspective                |
| <b>02:30 – 02:50</b> | <b>Developing Solar Policy for Your Community</b> |
| 02:50 – 03:00        | Next Steps  |

# Activity: Solar in Your Community

---

1. Recognize successes
2. Identify opportunities
3. Select strategies & best practices
4. Outline implementation plan
5. Discuss barriers to implementation

# Activity: Solar in Your Community

---

**Part I:** Take 5 minutes to complete the questions in the *Developing Effective Solar Policies in Your Community* handout.



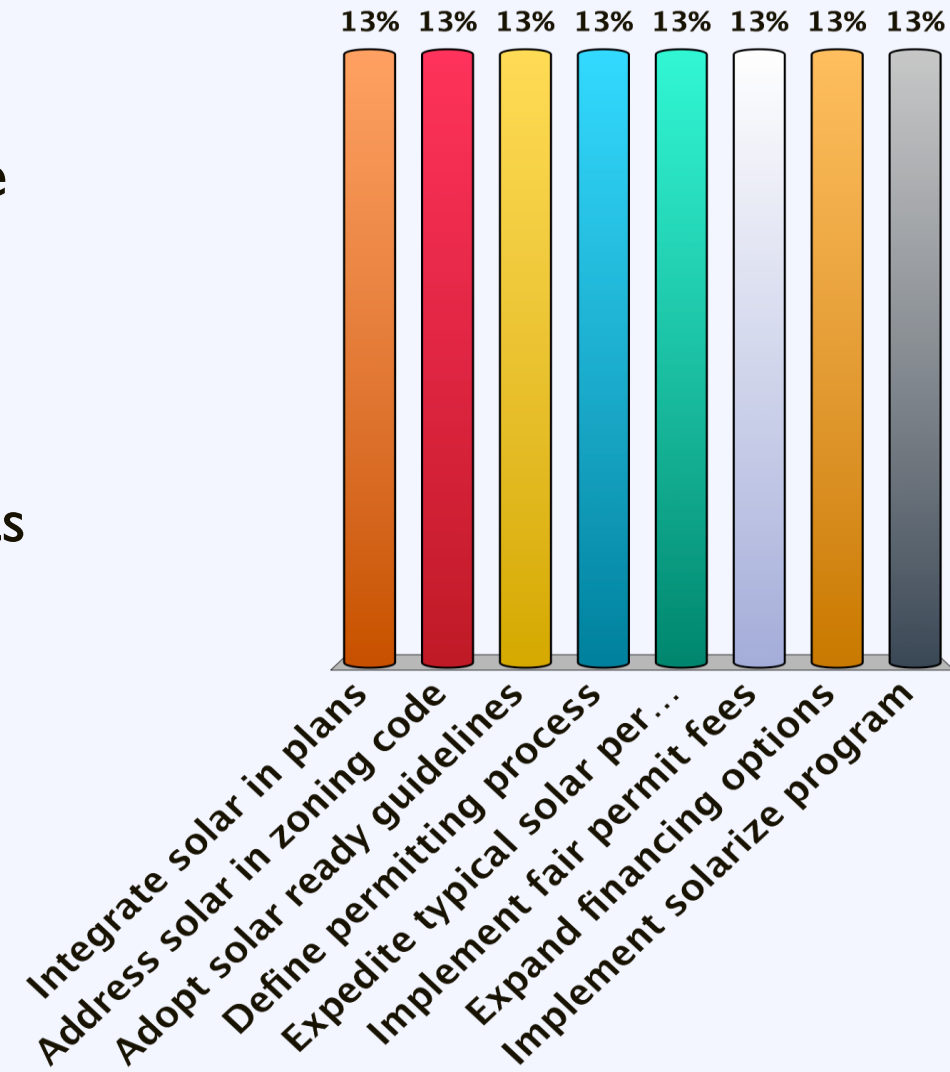
# Activity: Solar in Your Community

**Part 2:** Spend the next 10 minutes discussing your responses to **Questions 8 – 12** with the others at your table. Discuss strategies for overcoming potential obstacles to implementation.



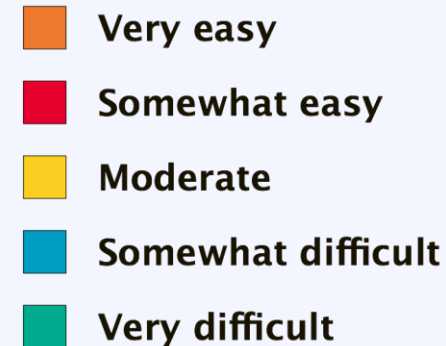
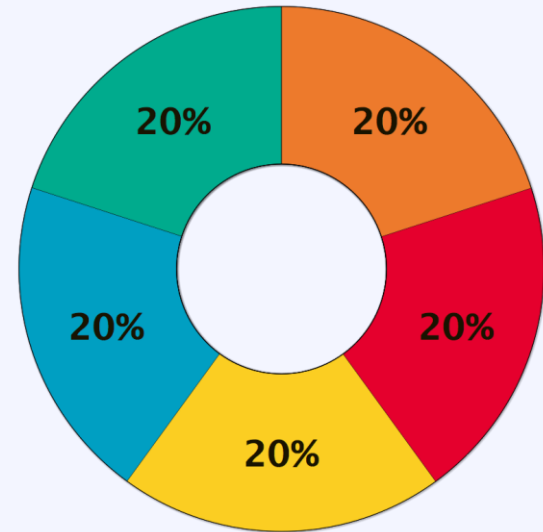
# Which “best practice” did you select to pursue first?

- A. Integrate solar in plans
- B. Address solar in zoning code
- C. Adopt solar ready guidelines
- D. Define permitting process
- E. Expedite typical solar permits
- F. Implement fair permit fees
- G. Expand financing options
- H. Implement solarize program



# How difficult will it be to implement this policy/program?

1. Very easy
2. Somewhat easy
3. Moderate
4. Somewhat difficult
5. Very difficult





# Discussion

**What obstacles stand in the way of implementation?**

# Discussion

**What are possible strategies to overcome those obstacles?**

# Activity: Next Steps

---

**What do you pledge to do when you leave today's workshop? [Colored Index Card]**

# Agenda

---

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 10:20 – 10:50        | Putting Solar Energy on the Local Policy Agenda |
| 10:50 – 11:20        | State of the Local Solar Market                 |
| 11:20 – 11:50        | Federal, State, and Utility Policy Drivers      |
| 11:50 – 12:15        | <i>Break &amp; Lunch</i>                        |
| 12:15 – 12:45        | Planning for Solar: Getting Solar Ready         |
| 12:45 – 01:20        | Solar Market Development Tools                  |
| 01:20 – 01:30        | <i>Break</i>                                    |
| 01:30 – 02:30        | Solar in Iowa: A Local Perspective              |
| 02:30 – 02:50        | Developing Solar Policy for Your Community      |
| <b>02:50 – 03:00</b> | <b>Next Steps</b>                               |

# Next Steps

---

1. Meet with us for 20 minutes
2. Apply for **free Technical Assistance**
3. Complete a DOE solar policy audit
4. Host a in-person strategy session
5. Implement policy changes & programs



Powered by

**SunShot**

U.S. Department of Energy

**Holly Wilson**

Meister Consultants Group

[holly.wilson@mc-group.com](mailto:holly.wilson@mc-group.com)

**Autumn Proudlove**

NC Clean Energy Technology Center

[afproudl@ncsu.edu](mailto:afproudl@ncsu.edu)

