

Maddalena, Lesley (ENE)

From: Mike Sarcione <mgsarcione@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 4:34 PM
To: DOER SMART (ENE)
Cc: CBrown@seadvantage.com; tmichelman@seadvantage.com; Julian Cyr
Subject: SMART Review Comments

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Regarding Q1: Could there be incentives for 2nd home owners in seasonal counties, e.g. Barnstable County, who install solar/energy storage that provides greater than 50% of their off season net metering credits for AMI/Environmental Justice qualified households in the same County? There's an untapped opportunity for vacation homes, currently only occupied during the peak season months and possibly weekends, to add solar to support renewable energy for local struggling families to offset their electric bills. Additionally, incentives for adding renewable energy storage for the residence to participate in a virtual power plants program (e.g. Connected Solutions) to offset grid loading during peak usage times.

Regarding Q12: It's unfortunate that the still emerging solar industry model doesn't make consumer protection a priority. Typically, the consumer is guided to use their installer for any post installation issues with the equipment. Many installers support multiple solar manufacturers, which fluctuates year to year. Thus a consumer will have an installation by Company A of Solar Manufacturer B and Energy Storage Manufacturer C (all with separate warranties), that is no longer supported by Company A years later. Company D also installs B and C products, but didn't do the initial installation and won't service B and C because they didn't install it. How can SMART, DOER and maybe AG office help get the industry to be more like the Automotive industry where the Manufacturer supports warranty issues by anyone who installs their products?

Regarding Q13: Do the incentives consider clearing a small (TBD) percentage of natural forested lands in wildfire risk areas, adjacent to dense residential neighborhoods to offer "solar fire breaks?" The breaks could be populated with solar panels and native pollinator plants.

There are areas within the State that have exhausted disturbed land, landfills, parking lots, etc. who still need additional renewable solar energy production to achieve "net zero" electric usage, especially as we migrate to EVs and all electric homes. The only remaining potential is forested lands. Maybe an incentive based on land use parameters for solar production combined with local economic status, such as percentage of community that's below an AMI level, and percentage of forested land cleared? Would be great to support more local/municipal Community Solar for environmental justice, yet available area for additional solar isn't available or cost prohibitive? Concerned that recent position papers and policies aren't bending regarding forest clearing, even if it's a small percentage.

Thanks for letting us share our thoughts.

Mike Sarcione
Eastham, MA