

Community Shared Solar

A Community Shared Solar (CSS) project is a solar photovoltaic (PV) system that provides benefits – such as electricity, net metering credits, and return on investment – to multiple participants. A CSS project is hosted by an entity with a suitable roof or parcel of land and is supported by multiple participants, who invest in the project or purchase the electricity or net metering credits generated. CSS offers an alternative for those who cannot install solar on their own property.

On February 28, 2014, DOER commenced a formal rulemaking process to implement the current community shared solar program. The program defines a community shared solar generation unit and provides the greatest Solar Renewable Energy Certificate ([SREC](#)) II “factor” for these types of units.

Community Shared Solar Resources:

1) [Rooftop Solar Challenge](#)

As part of its [U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative Rooftop Solar Challenge](#) grant work, DOER hired The Cadmus Group to develop community shared solar [recommendations for Massachusetts models](#) as well as [guidelines](#) for Massachusetts communities (including residents, businesses, and municipal governments).

2) DOER META Grants through the [Green Communities Program](#)

In order to help municipalities determine if a community shared solar project is viable in their community, DOER’s Green Communities Division provides funds for applicants to hire their own Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) agents. These META grants have been made available to ALL Massachusetts municipalities, regional school districts, and water/wastewater districts, regardless of Green Community designation status. Future rounds of META will be determined and announced by the Green Communities Division. To review the previous META Program Opportunity Notices, please visit the Program and Opportunities section of the [Green Communities webpage](#).

3) Mass Solar Loan Program

The [Mass Solar Loan Program](#) (currently under development) is proposed to extend credit enhancement to homeowners seeking solar loans for CSS ownership shares. To learn more about opportunities for community shared solar projects in this program, please review the [program manual](#) and contact solarloan@masscec.com. To learn more about the program design and implementation process, please click [here](#).

4) Resources on federal securities regulation and community shared solar

Through [the Sunshot Initiative](#), the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) have partnered to put together a report on the current landscape, market potential and the impact of federal securities regulation on community shared solar projects. This report can be found [here](#).

5) DOER and MassCEC Community Shared Solar RFI

DOER and the MassCEC issued a Community Shared Solar Request for Information to ask for feedback from solar stakeholders regarding general topics and questions related to community shared solar.