

Community Solar

What is it and Why does it matter?



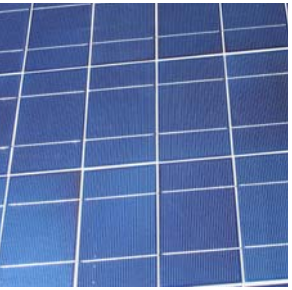
Leslie Moynihan

Harvesting the Sun

October 31, 2008

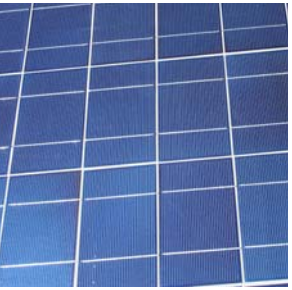
Scale

- Individual
- Community
 - multiple owners or project that serves multiple community members
- Utility



Other Characteristics

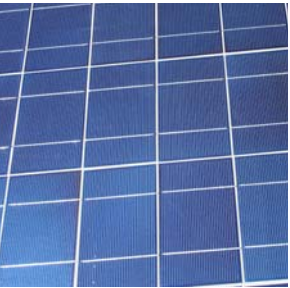
- Locally-owned
- Benefits stay within the community
- Shared-ownership and/or creative financing.



CE projects have been demonstrated to...



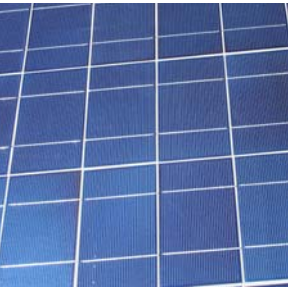
- Provide economic benefits to communities.
- Generate enthusiasm and pride.
- Connect with hard-to-reach consumers.
- Test new models of marketing, project financing, and service delivery.



Specific Opportunities of Community Solar



- Reduce installation / transaction costs
- Improve public access to solar energy
- Take advantage of best siting practices
- Adapt to new market realities with new business models and financing structures



Barriers to Community Renewables



- Higher cost for energy produced than utility scale.
- Zoning, permitting, interconnection and NIMBY attitudes pose greater challenges than at individual scale.

A barrier to RE on all scales: The societal costs of conventional energy are not monetized.

