Solar Technical Assistance Team (STAT) Summer Webinar Series
Webinar 4: Policy for Distributed Solar 101: What Makes a Solar DG Market?
Question & Answer Session
August 22, 2012

1. **Which States currently allow SREC trading?**

   There are currently 10 states that allow SRECs to be traded. These are: New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, D.C., North Carolina, Ohio and Missouri. Each of these states have an RPS with a solar carve out and allow SREC trading to meet compliance with the RPS carve-out.

   SREC markets began when state solar targets took effect in New Jersey and Pennsylvania in 2005 and in Delaware and Washington, D.C., in 2007.

   NREL recently conducted a study for the state of New Hampshire to examine the use of SRECs in meeting their RPS. They were reviewing the state RPS and considering an increase in the solar carve-out requirement. Two of NREL's policy analysts helped New Hampshire look at forecasts for SREC markets and examine how the RPS could be met if they allowed either only in-state SREC trading or SRECs from out of state or some combination of both.

2. **When providing these types of carve-outs in an RPS, do states see a difference in market development? Have these policies resulted in increased deployment of solar?**

   Assuming that electricity suppliers achieve full compliance with the state solar carve-out requirements, installed solar capacity is projected to increase significantly between now and 2025. According to a DSIRE report, installed solar capacity is projected to be around 3,000 MW-AC by 2015, and 10,000 MW-AC by 2025, and almost 13,000 MW-AC by 2035.

   A few states include a credit multiplier for solar or distributed generation in the RPS. And, Nevada, Oregon, and Delaware have both a solar set-aside and a credit multiplier. Credit multipliers have not been as a specific solar requirement in stimulating solar deployment. Both New Mexico and Maryland removed their initial solar multiplier provisions in favor of solar set-asides.

3. **You mentioned QECBs as a niche incentive. Are many states or local jurisdictions using these for solar projects?**

   I don't know the exact numbers but there are a good number of states and localities that have used QECBs to finance distributed solar generation projects. I know the National Association of State Energy Officials and Energy Programs Consortium have been tracking the use and issuances of QECBs.

NREL wrote a Case Study focusing on Yolo County, California - which was the one of the first jurisdictions to use QECBs. They installed a 1 MW solar PV system to supply power to a jail and juvenile center. The NREL Case Study report gives a great summary of the project (their processes and decision making), lessons learned and helpful resources. Again, I think we'll be posting our responses to questions online after the webinar, and I can include a link to this Case Study in the response that gets posted.