

# Best Practices in the Design of Utility Solar Programs



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#### **Webinar Presenters**

- Welcome/Background
  - Lori Bird, Andy Reger, NREL
- James Loewen, CPUC CSI
- Eran Mahrer,
  Solar Electric Power Association
- Karl Rábago, Rábago Energy (formerly Austin Energy)
- Dana Levy, Frank Mace, NYSERDA

#### **What Defines Success?**

- Market stimulation through cost reduction
- Increase long-term viability of solar
  - Market longevity and stability
  - Predictability for sustainable market growth
- Minimize ratepayer costs
- Consumer protection and transparency

## **Key Challenges**

- Highly variable solar costs, difficult to predict
  - Modifying incentive levels in response to installed solar cost changes
- Program longevity, predictability and stability to aid solar market growth
- New business models (leasing, PPA)
- Cost-effective incentive disbursement

## **Design Considerations**

### **Setting and managing incentive levels:**

- Encouraging multiple market segments
- Form of incentives
  - Rebates vs. PBIs (term, level)
- Modifying incentive levels
  - Incentive step-down schedules
  - Competitive procurement or auctions
- Differentiating incentive levels
  - Higher incentives for strategic locations

## **Design Considerations**

#### **Consumer Protection and Administrative:**

#### Consumer protection measures

 Encouraging efficiency; transparency; program data (cost); up-to-date communications

#### Administrative issues

 Equitable access to programs – fair queuing processes; inspections; frequency of offerings; fees, etc.