

DOE Challenges Local Governments to Help Improve Solar Market

DOE's Rooftop Solar Challenge calls for coalitions of local and state governments, utilities, installers, NGOs, and other stakeholders to drive measurable improvements in the market conditions for rooftop PV across the United States.

It represents an expansion of DOE's efforts to empower local stakeholders to develop solutions that make solar energy more accessible and affordable for Americans.

The challenge calls for improvement in the following action areas:

- Permitting and Interconnection Processes
- Net Metering and Interconnection Standards
- Financing Options
- Planning and Zoning

For more information and to get involved, visit www.eere.energy.gov/solarchallenge.



Capturing the Sun, Creating a Clean Energy Future



Through partnerships with industry, academia, and national laboratories, the DOE Solar Energy Technologies Program sponsors research and development (R&D) in addition to activities designed to accelerate solar market development and reduce the cost of solar power.

www.energy.gov/sunshot

To learn more about DOE's work to engage and support utilities in the expansion of solar energy solutions, visit www.energy.gov/sunshot and www.solar.energy.gov.

*Front photo by Dennis Schroeder, NREL/PIX 19125;
inside photo from Meet Minneapolis 1, NREL/PIX 18700*





The SunShot Vision: Cost-Competitive Solar Energy

The solar energy that reaches the Earth in one hour is about as much as the total energy used by everyone on the planet for an entire year. Capturing just a small portion of that energy could power homes and businesses with a clean, renewable resource and would ensure a secure energy future for America.

DOE's SunShot Initiative aims to make large-scale solar energy systems cost-competitive with other energy sources by the end of the decade. SunShot addresses technical and non-technical barriers to nationwide deployment through a comprehensive portfolio of research, development, and deployment activities that target cost reductions along the entire solar PV and CSP value chains. Removing these barriers will reduce the total installed cost for utility-scale solar electricity to roughly 6 cents per kilowatt hour and make solar accessible across the nation.

Engaging Utilities on Key Issues

Utilities are vital partners in achieving the SunShot Initiative's objectives. In support of SunShot, the Systems Integration and Market Transformation subprograms engage and support utilities—and the state decisionmakers that regulate the market—on a wide range of issues, including:

- Distribution and transmission grid integration;
- System-level testing and demonstration;
- Hardware evaluation and reliability testing;
- Solar resource assessment;
- Codes and standards development;
- Interconnection standards, net metering rules, and third-party ownership models;
- Permitting and inspection procedures; and
- Policy, market, and regulatory challenges facing the industry.

DOE Supports High Penetration Efforts

DOE's High Penetration Solar Portal is a website where the utility community, high penetration project teams, national laboratories, and other stakeholders share results, information, and expertise on integrating high penetrations of solar into the existing electric grid. The site offers information about the impact of high penetrations of solar on distribution and transmission systems and assists the expansion of the utility solar market. Join the conversation at solarhighpen.energy.gov.

