

# Standard Offer For Community Solar

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Customer Renewable Solutions



8/14/2023

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# Community Solar

First Green-e® certified Community Solar program in the country

100% of participants' electric use is offset by renewable energy from local solar projects on the distribution grid

Community Solar Charge fixed for 15 years and replaces Power Supply Adjustment (PSA) on participants' bills

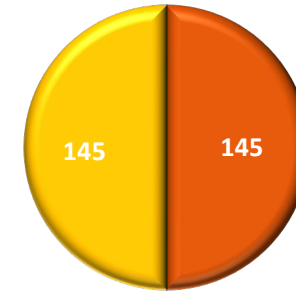
Half of capacity dedicated to Customer Assistance Program (CAP) customers at discounted rate

CAP customers currently receiving a penny and a half/kwh bill discount

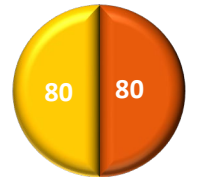
Portfolio cost is higher than program recovery, resulting in cost allocation to non-program participants is required



La Loma 2.6MW



ABIA 1.5MW



Palmer 185kW

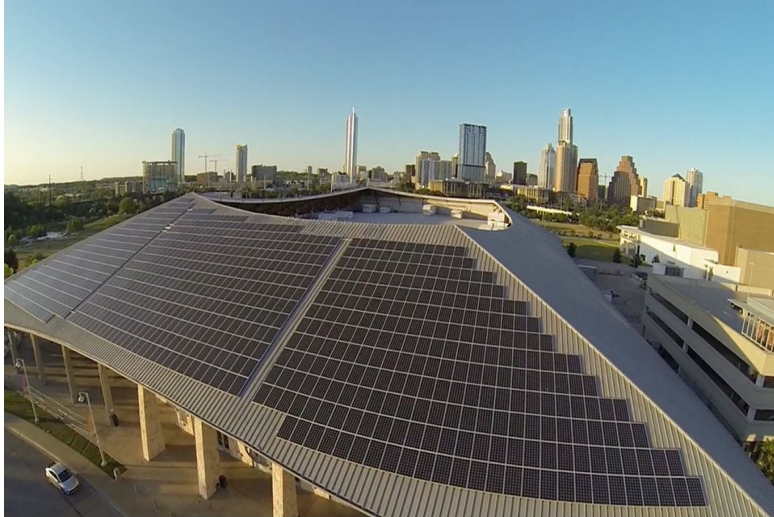


■ Market Rate

■ CAP

<i>Current Program</i>	Market-Rate	Low-Income
<b>Est. # of Participants</b>	270	200
<b>Community Solar Rate</b>	4.27¢/kWh	2.77¢/kWh
<b>Δ vs 2018 PSA</b>	+1.5¢/kWh	0.0¢/kWh
<b>Δ vs 2023 PSA</b>	-0.1¢/kWh	-1.60¢/kWh

# Community Solar in Austin



Clockwise from Top Left: Palmer Event Center, La Loma Community Solar Farm, ABIA Blue Garage Carports



# Standard Offer

## Desired Outcomes

### *Affordability*

- Self-sufficient Community Solar program: Attract lower cost projects that leverage economies of scale into the Community Solar portfolio to reduce the average cost and end the need for contributions from non-participants
- Decrease Community Solar Adjustment (CSA) rate: Once Community Solar portfolio costs have been reduced and the program is self-sufficient, additional benefits can be passed to customers through reduced CSA rate

### *Expansion*

- Increase Community Solar program portfolio
- Increase Community Solar program participation and reach to CAP customers
- Create replicable and scalable model

### *Accessibility*

- Penetrate previously inaccessible split-incentive market by opening alternative payback methods
- Streamline processes for project development
- Increase Community Solar participation opportunity and customer benefits



# Standard Offer Format

- Austin Energy publishes power procurement price(s) to be paid for a set period of years to developers or customers (whoever owns the system) to projects that meet program criteria
- Price may be reevaluated at milestones, such as meeting pre-determined program capacities and time periods
- Standardized contracts and application procedures
- Interconnected on the distribution grid, on the utility side of the meter
- Project requirements will be set to maximize IRA benefits whenever possible
- Leveraging economies of scale and IRA benefits will enable lower prices that can reduce the Community Solar portfolio costs, enabling the program to scale and still provide economic benefits to CAP and potentially market rate customers without the need for subsidization from non-participants



# Standard Offer Format

- Developer builds qualifying project connected to the utility side of customer meter on Austin Energy distribution grid.

Customer  
Sited Solar



System  
Owner & Site  
Host



- System could be owned by the customer who receives payment directly, or a 3rd party who receives the payment and pays hosting fee to customer. System owner also leverages tax benefits. System owner is responsible for O&M

Community  
Solar



- Purchased Energy expands Community Solar Program offering, lowers portfolio costs, and leads to lower costs to all customers.

Austin Energy  
Pays Owner



- Austin Energy pays the system owner fixed \$/kWh for x years through standardized energy procurement contract.



# Standard Offer Update

## Accomplishments to Date

- Preliminary approach and vision developed by Austin Energy
- Three Stakeholder meetings have been facilitated by Austin Energy
- Public Citizen also held a stakeholder meeting
- Austin Energy identified Interconnection process/policy improvement opportunities
- Austin Energy has interviewed other utilities who have attempted similar approaches.
- Austin Energy CRS is receiving additional resource support from Corporate Quality Services (CQS)
- Austin Energy developed a Project Charter to define and formalize the project



# Standard Offer Update

## Work that is underway

- Austin Energy determining acceptable banded price ranges for different size projects considering IRA funding opportunities
- Austin Energy developing initial procurement strategy
- Austin Energy coordinating interconnection process/policy improvements
- Austin Energy identifying approach to data tracking and meter tracking/maintenance





# Standard Offer Phases of Development

## Needs Assessment

- Stakeholder Engagement Plan

## Program Goals & Objectives

## Program Setup

- Program Administration Plan
- Project Monitoring and Reporting Plan
- Financial Management Plan
- Stakeholder Communication Plan

## Standard Offer Guidelines

- Program Criteria
- Project Requirements
- Evaluation Process for Project Proposal
- Utility Power Procurement Price Strategy

## Interconnections Policy and Procedures

## Develop Standard Offer Contract



# Standard Offer Phases of Development

## Standard Offer Intake Process

- Project Proposal Intake
- Intake Process Application

## Meter Data Tracking & Integration

- Meter Data Tracking Tool
- Integration with Existing Systems

## Marketing and Communications

- Develop Marketing Plan
- Develop Program Collateral
- Develop Program Communications

## Develop Payment Process

## Online Application Processing Tool Configuration

## Program Launch

- Identify Participating Contractors
- Accept Applications



Questions?



**Customer Driven.  
Community Focused.<sup>SM</sup>**

