

# Sustainability Pioneers: Community Conversations

**#4 The Way Forward: Community Energy Systems**  
February 13, 2017



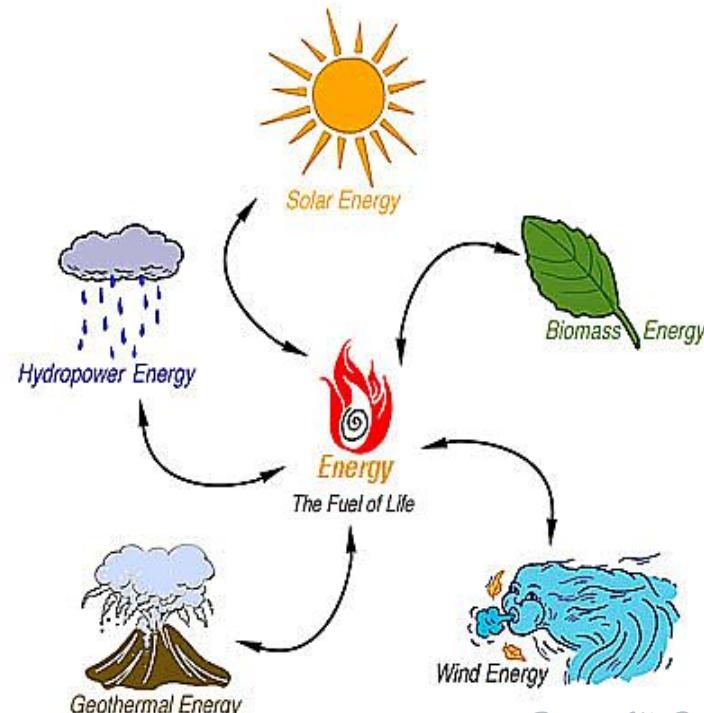


# COMMUNITY ENERGY SYSTEMS

**A Model for Public Ownership**

# Renewable Energy Systems

- Replace the 1800's technologies with renewable and sustainable energy systems
- Focus on meeting the **need for work**, not just replacing fuel sources.

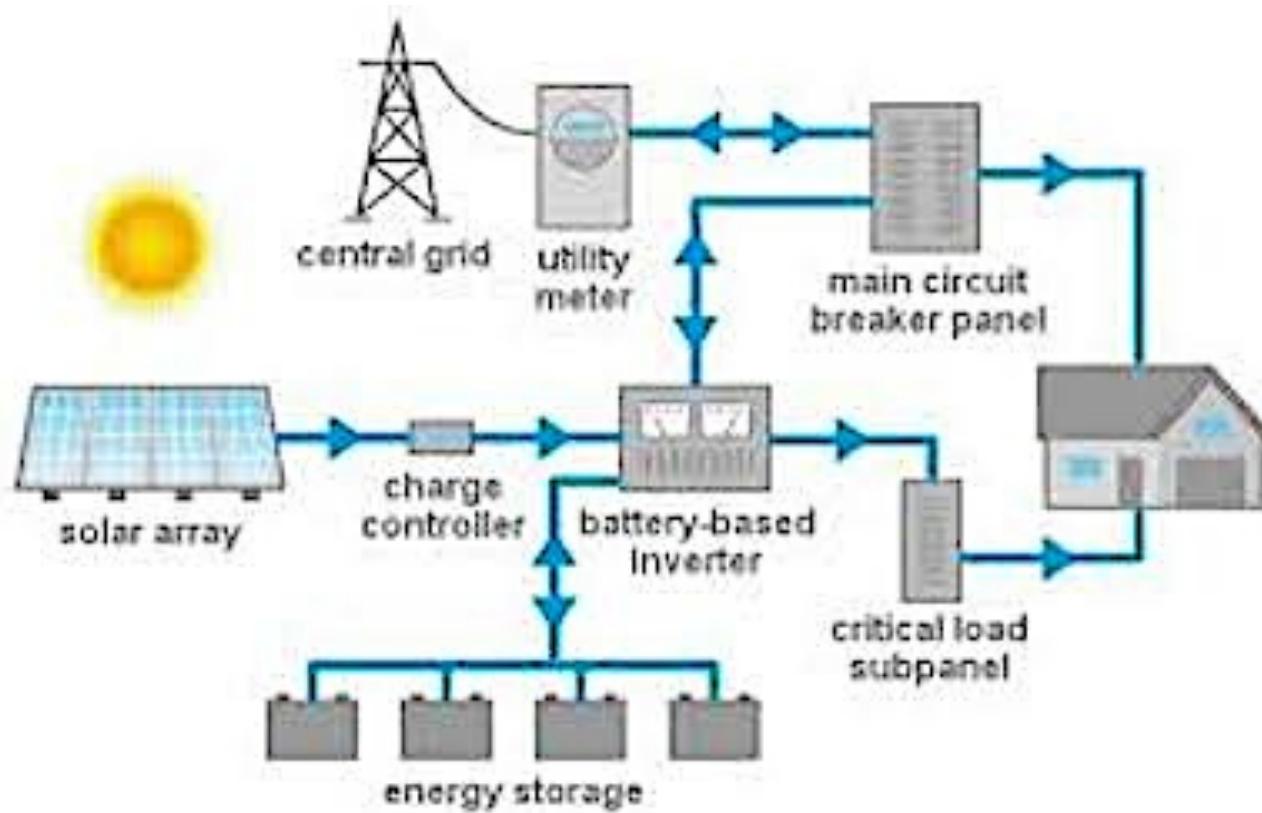


# What is Community Solar?

- A voluntary program provides power and /or financial benefit to multiple community members who may or may not also own the system
- Allows participation from customers whose residence may not be suited for solar installation, or for whom financing is a barrier

[www.solaramericacommunities.energy.gov](http://www.solaramericacommunities.energy.gov)

# Community Energy Systems





Drake Landing Solar Community – Okotoks, Alberta, Canada

<http://inhabitat.com/a-unique-solar-powered-community-in-canada/>

# Why Community Solar?

- ▶ Improved economies of scale
- ▶ Optimal project siting
- ▶ Increased public understanding of solar energy
- ▶ Generates local jobs
- ▶ Opportunity to test new models of marketing, project financing and service delivery

# Where it is working already:

- Solar services co-ops such as Cooperative Community Energy, CA



• [www.energy.gov/sunshot](http://www.energy.gov/sunshot)



**THE SAN FRANCISCO  
ENERGY CO-OP**

*Power is Everyone's Business*

# Where it is working already:

- Bulk purchasing efforts in Portland, OR (Solarize Portland!) and nationwide (1Block Off the Grid)
- Consolidates orders and work to gain better pricing



Solar American Cities program  
[www.doe.gov](http://www.doe.gov)

# Why a Cooperative?

voluntary  
and open  
membership

democratic  
member  
control

member  
economic  
participation

autonomy  
and  
independence

education,  
training and  
information

cooperation  
among  
cooperatives

concern  
for  
community



# Voluntary and Open Membership

- Tax-payers and ratepayers finance this so everyone should have ability to participate
- Access even for people who do not own homes
- Access for people whose homes are not suitable



# Democratic member control

- Members are the shareholders
- Members are the Board of Directors
- Representative operation



# Members Participate Economically

- Members contribute equitably to the capital for the operation of the cooperative
- Members own shares which are usually reinvested in the capital requirements of the operation
- When leaving the system, Members receive a cash value



# Autonomous

- Independent self-help organization
- Maintain independence in contracts with other entities, even governments
- Members control external funding agreements



Kodiak Energy Association 95% renewable

# Education and Training

- Cooperative success depends on informed participants
- Education of customers/ members ongoing
- Customers have a vested interest in efficiency and conservation



# Cooperation among Cooperatives

- National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
- American Public Power Association
- Share emergency response
- Share purchasing
- Share information and training



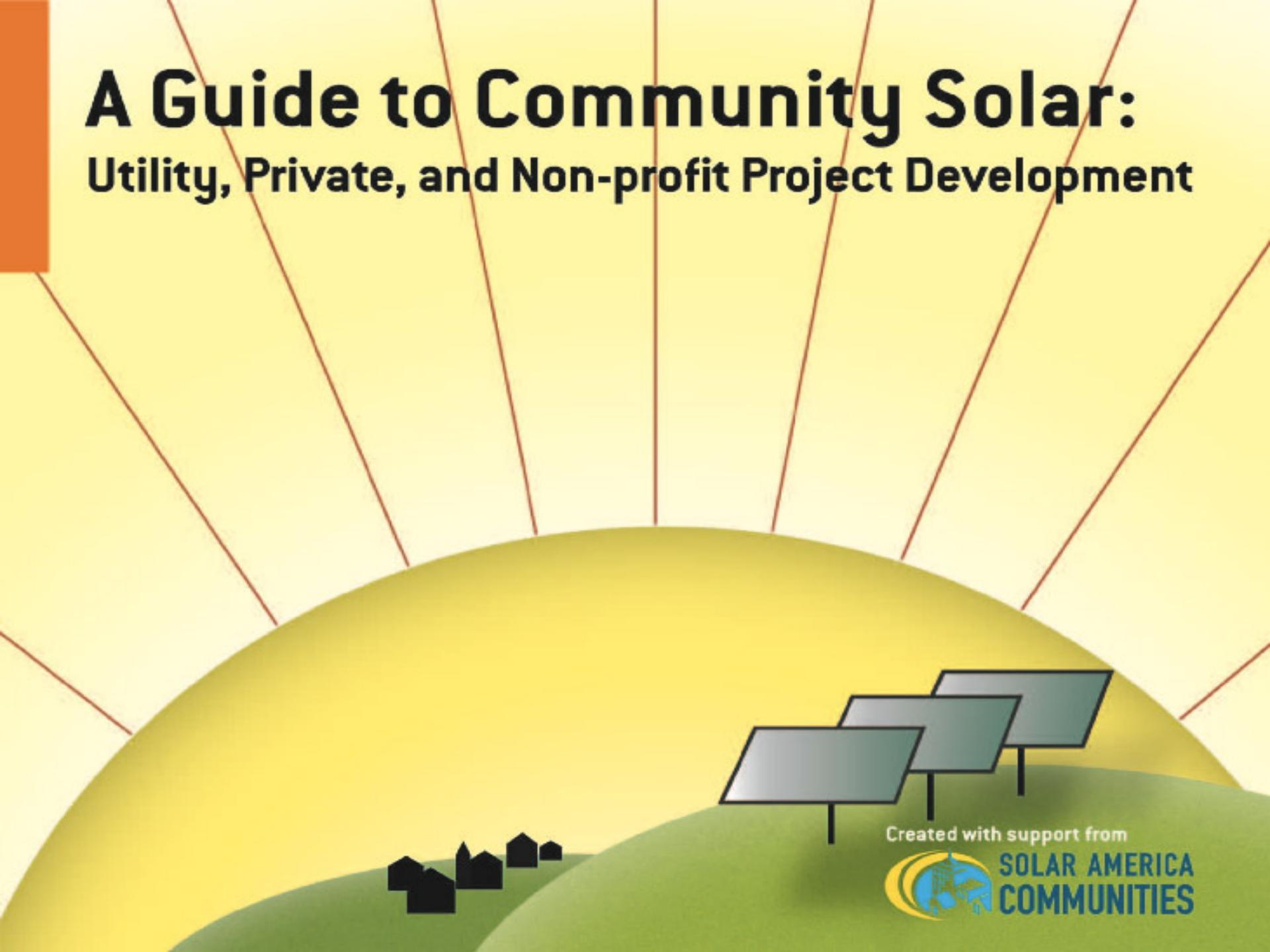
# Concern for Community

- Work for sustainable development of communities
- Connected to people as neighbors
- Mutually benefit



# A Guide to Community Solar:

## Utility, Private, and Non-profit Project Development



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