



# Community Solar Overview

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June 9, 2026



# Who is CCSA?

The [Coalition for Community Solar Access \(CCSA\)](#) is a national business-led trade organization that works to expand access to clean, local, and affordable energy nationwide through community solar.

CCSA, in partnership with a thriving network of nonprofits, affiliate trade associations, and allied stakeholders, serves as the central voice for the community solar industry in developing vibrant and sustainable markets for community solar.

Having led community solar project development and customer engagement across the country, we and our members are uniquely positioned to comment on the challenges and opportunities for the development of community solar in state markets.

# Types of solar

## ROOFTOP SOLAR

Installed on the roofs of homes and businesses, rooftop solar offers people control over where their electricity is produced and lowers their monthly utility bill

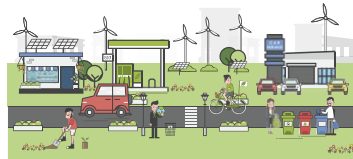
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## COMMUNITY SOLAR

The fastest-growing segment within the solar industry, community solar refers to local solar facilities shared by multiple subscribers who receive credits on their electricity bills for their share of the power produced.

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## UTILITY SCALE SOLAR

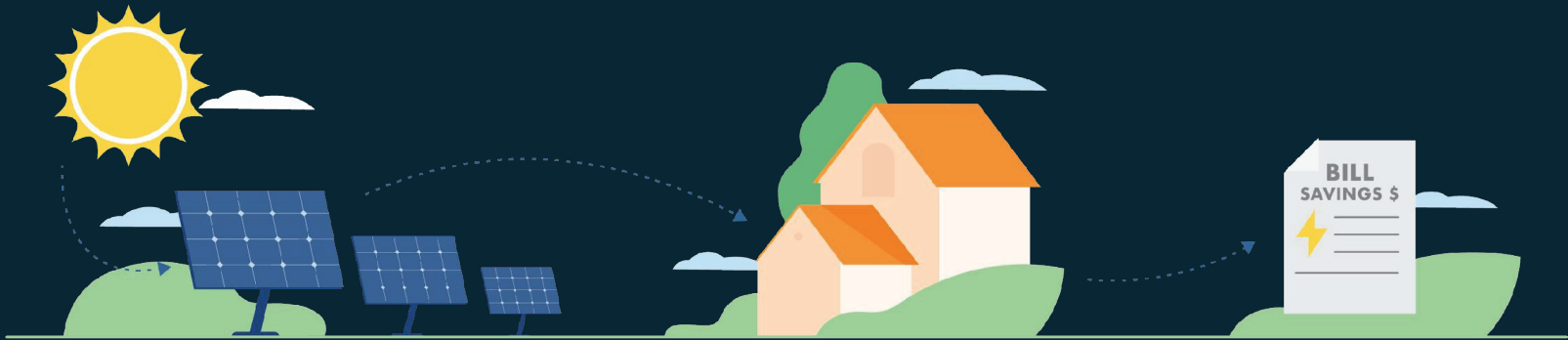
The largest scale of solar installation typically sized over 25 megawatts (MW) often situated on large swaths of land (50+ acres)

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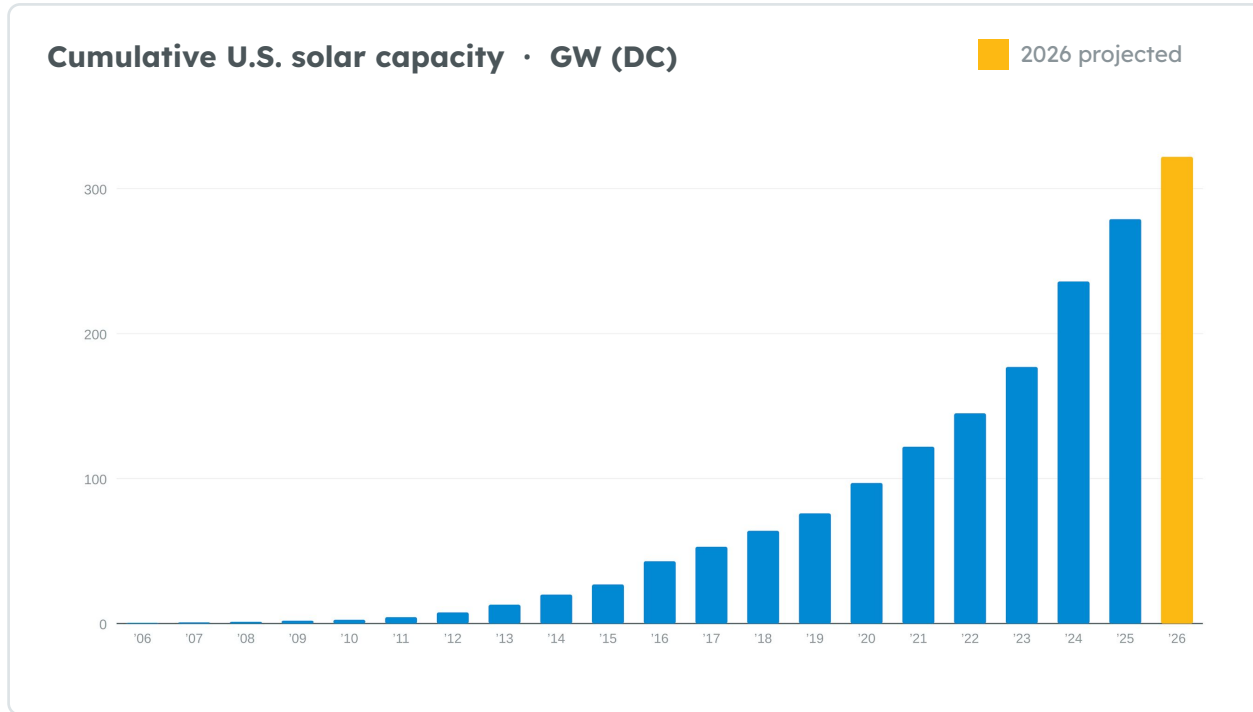


# What is community solar?

- Projects are developed at a site in your community
- Projects are 1-5 MW (200-1,000 homes) and take up 5-25 acres of land
- Multiple subscribers sign up for a portion of the energy produced - small businesses, churches, schools, government buildings, renters, other households
- Subscribers receive a credit on their utility bill for portion of power produced



# Two Decades of Growth



**~40 GW**

Total U.S. solar in 2016, when  
CCSA was founded

**279 GW**

Total U.S. solar installed today  
(2025)

**0.15 GW**

Community solar on the grid in  
2016

**10 GW**

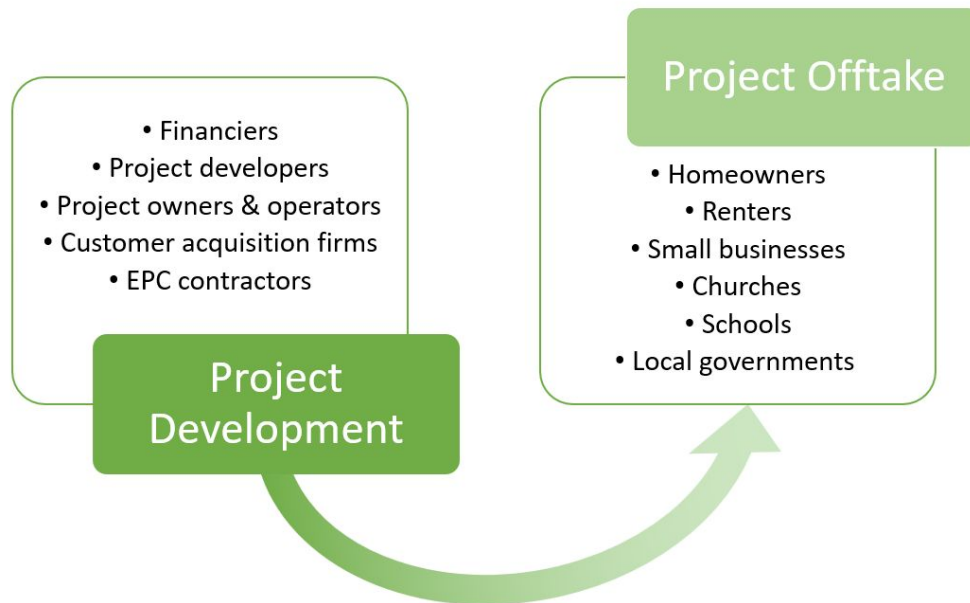
Community solar today – 1M+  
households

# Who Participates in Community Solar?

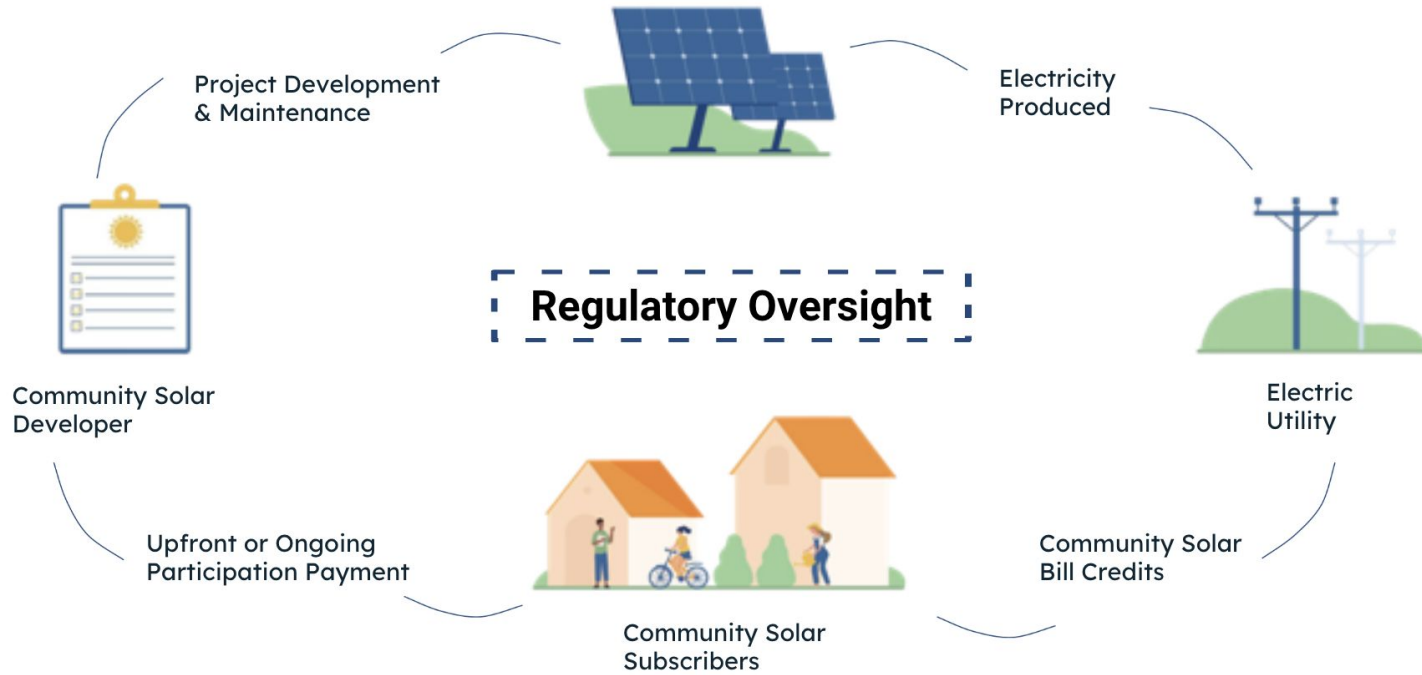
The ecosystem of community solar market participants is extensive, both in the types of companies that develop projects and the end-use customers who subscribe to those projects.

Throughout the development process, projects can be bought and sold by firms specializing in certain development stages.

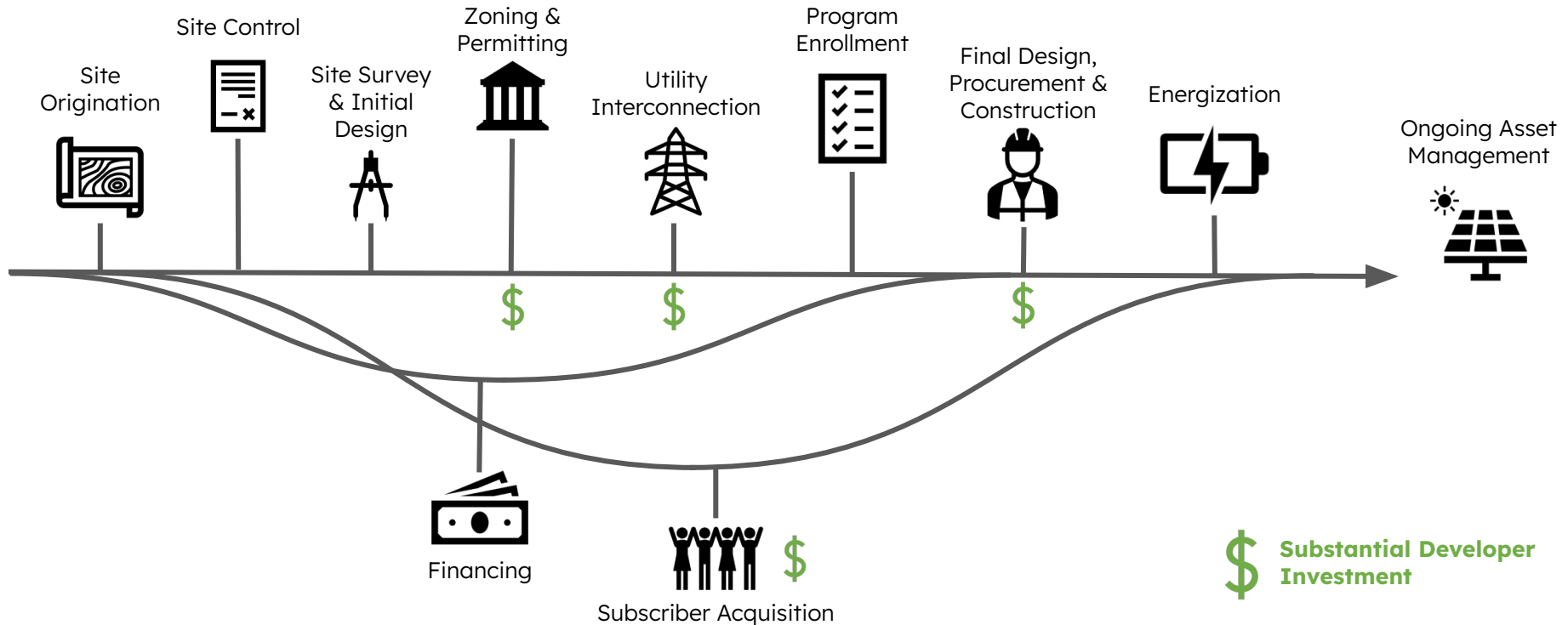
Subscribers to community solar farms can be anyone from homeowners and renters to large commercial operations and governments.



# How does third-party community solar work?



# Typical Project Development Process





COALITION FOR  
COMMUNITY  
SOLAR ACCESS

# Important Policy Elements



# Foundational Policy Elements

## Project Valuation

- Compensate projects for the costs and benefits they bring - when you do, the value will attract sufficient development to meet the state's goals.

## Billing & Crediting

- Evaluation + oversight tools for crediting, two-way customer utility data sharing and unified billing

## Interconnection

- Ensure efficient interconnection processes + DER integration and grid modernization to fully capture the transformative impact of distributed energy on the grid.

## Program Administration

- Ensure implementing agency has enough staff capacity to perform oversight function - typically supported by application fees

# Additional Policy Considerations

## Ownership

- Third-party is the quickest, most efficient, and cost-effective way to scale

## Capacity

- No arbitrary limits, there are natural limits to the development of community solar

## Project Selection

- First-come, first-served is the most efficient use of time and resources. Prioritize viable projects: security deposit, site control, non-ministerial permits & signed IX Agreements

## Project Size

- Take advantage of economies of scale and consider distribution grid - typically 5 MW

# Additional Policy Considerations

## Participation

- Reflective of communities & ensure participation among a broad group of customers

## Income Verification

- Flexible to ensure customers can demonstrate income eligibility w/o sharing sensitive personal info.

## Customer Protections

- Standard disclosures, no FICO or early termination fees, and marketing & customer interface policies

# LMI Participation Considerations

Carve-Outs

Consolidated Billing



Household Eligibility

Income Verification



**LMI  
Considerations**



Regulatory Oversight

Consumer Protection



Coordination with  
Assistance Programs



Guaranteed Discounts

# CCSA Resources

CCSA's aim is to create programs that are **accessible, equitable, and economically viable, ensuring a sustainable future for community solar**. To this end, CCSA has several resources to aid policymakers in program design

1. **Community Solar Policy Guidebook**: Expanding Solar Access through Informed Policy Decisions
2. **Policy Solutions for Inclusive Solar Access**: Designing Community Solar Programs for Low- to Moderate-Income Households
3. **Model Legislation** for a Balanced and Effective Community Solar Program
4. CCSA Recommended Best Practices for Community Solar **Consumer Protection**

Thank you!

