



# EXPANDING EQUITABLE COMMUNITY SOLAR

Solar energy is an increasingly affordable cleanenergy option. However, many households including low- and moderate-income households and renters — may be unable or less likely than high-income homeowners to go solar. One tool for closing the solar energy equity gap is community solar: projects or purchasing programs that offer solar energy benefits to multiple households and enterprises within a community.

### THE PROJECT

In collaboration with Department of Energy partners and working with thousands of community stakeholders across the nation, researchers at Berkeley Lab coordinate and provide a range of free technical assistance that enables implementation of affordable, sustainable community solar programs. The DOE-led National Community Solar Partnership's goal is to ensure that all Americans can access community solar, which can lower ratepayers' power bills and benefits communities through greater resilience, cleaner air, and job creation. The project, coordinating technical assistance, will support the goal of facilitating a 700% increase in community solar deployment by 2025, serving the equivalent of 5 million households and cutting \$1 billion from power bills.

\$1B

IN ENERGY SAVINGS by 2025 700%

INCREASING COMMUNITY SOLAR DEPLOYMENT by 2025 20 GW

SOLAR CAPACITY by 2025



Over 2,000 National Community Solar Partners and







## 4

## **BACKGROUND**

As a National Laboratory funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, Berkeley Lab is committed to a just and equitable energy transition. We strive to ensure that the impacts of our research benefit all communities, as well as future generations. To meet these goals, we partner with community-based organizations, public, and private agencies to help make clean energy technologies and resources accessible to all.

The National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP) brings together DOE's Solar Energy Technologies Office, Berkeley Lab, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and over 2,000 community solar stakeholders across the U.S. The NCSP is providing technical assistance, resources, and peer networking opportunities to help partners across the country dramatically expand community solar access, especially in disadvantaged communities.

Visit DOE's National Community Solar Partnership Website ▶







GREG LEVENTIS POLICY RESEARCHER, Electricity Markets and Policy Department

#### ABOUT THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Greg Leventis coordinates technical assistance for the National Community Solar Partnership. As a program manager for Berkeley Lab's Electricity Markets and Policy Department, he conducts research and analysis of demand-side efficiency, solar finance, costs of saving energy, and incentive program design and analysis. Greg holds a master's from the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley and a B.A. in Economics from the University of Florida, and studied at the London School of Economics.

Deason, Jeff, Greg Leventis, and Sean Murphy. *Performance of solar leasing for low- and middle-income customers in Connecticut*. 2021.

Leventis, Greg, and Jeff Deason. "Deferred Payment Loans for Energy Efficiency: Case Study of a Low- and Moderate-Income Home Improvement Financing Model and Potential Application to Energy Efficiency Projects." 2021.

CONTACT AWARD@LBL.GOV

ALECIA WARD | LEADER
Program and Business Development Office