

## Community Solar for the Southeast Working group plan

The goal of the Community Solar the Southeast project is to support community solar development in service areas of cooperatives and municipal utilities in the southeast states. The Phase I of the project includes a stakeholder driven process to determine specific resource gaps and solutions needed for increased deployment of community solar projects in the southeast.

The project conducted a survey to identify information gaps and challenges for deployment of community solar in the southeast states. It was determined that the project needs to focus developing resources on mitigating following gap and challenges-

1. Program Design for Community Solar Projects Including Storage
2. Solar valuation structure and options (economic analysis of value of solar, avoiding/minimizing cost shift)
3. Getting buy-in from leadership (city council, co-op board); tailoring to local political contexts
4. Rule differences across territories
  - a. State rules compilation
  - b. Utility rules (and utilities/limitations in wholesale contracts)

The stakeholder driven working-groups will identify solutions and provide guidance in creating additional resources for each of the identified challenges. The working groups will be created for each of the topics, and will be led through the staff of the NC Clean Energy Technology Center. The working groups will meet through conference calls and webinars when appropriate on a bi-weekly basis and collect input from all the stakeholders. The deliverable will include a white paper that summarizes the collective opinion. Lessons learned and any derivative work through this working group will be incorporated in next stage of the project while providing technical services.

### **Membership**

Open to all interested parties. Members will sign up via Google Form sent after the Gap Analysis Webinar. Staff will attempt to ensure equal and diverse member counts for each working group.

### **Timeline**

- First call week of 9/25/17 --- Disclaimer of the public nature of the working groups, introductions, presentation of questions, share resources
- Second call week of 10/9/17
- Third call week of 10/23/17
- Wrap up deliverables by 11/3/17

## **Structure**

Each working group will work collaboratively through google tools. Each working group will meet bi-weekly via GoToWebinar with option to call in.

Working group chair shares the list of questions prior to first call

First call:

- Discuss the questions: why are they important, are they relevant, are there missing questions?
- Identify resources that may help answer the questions
- Discuss Google Form process

After first call, Chair shares with the group a Google Form that allows each member to answer the questions by the end of the first week. These responses will be collected and shared with the group prior to the second call.

Second Call:

- Discuss the responses to the questions. Where does the group agree and disagree
- The point is not to have the “one” answer, but ideally a menu of options or possible solutions.

Third Call:

- Further discussion of responses to the questions if needed.
- Reach consensus on the responses to the questions.

After third call, chair has one week to complete the deliverable associated with their working group.

## **Goals**

Compilation of different ideas and opinions raised on the working group to create a menu of options for cooperatives and municipal utilities to consider in process of development their community solar programs.