

# Solar in Low-Income Communities

An Update From the LMI Solar Working Group

LIFE Conference  
May 28, 2014

# Agenda

- Intro to LMI Solar Working Group
- Summary of activities and findings to date
- Low-income solar examples
- Feedback/Breakout

# Background

- LMI Solar Working Group organized by NYSERDA in 2014.
- To evaluate and address underutilization of solar incentive programs by low and moderate households.
- Three meetings/web conferences since March.
- One-on-one and small group interviews.
- Participation by over 80 stakeholders.

# Past PV Project Analysis

- Analysis of all residential PV projects that have received NYSERDA incentives
- Income and geographical disparities and trends
- **Goal: Better understand LMI solar market and target resources effectively**

# NYSERDA NY-Sun Petition Approved

- Approved by PSC on April 24, 2014
- \$961 million total budget
- \$3.5 million for consumer education; first authorization of RPS PV funds for this purpose
- **Based on stakeholder input, up to \$13 million of program funds for expanding participation of low-moderate income households**
- Includes requirement for study on costs/benefits of current net metering policies

# Stakeholder Outreach

- Solar Installers/NYSEIA
- Community based organizations
- NYSERDA outreach contractors
- Affordable housing organizations
- Local governments and agencies
- Multifamily
- Long Island

# Barriers Identified

- Cost
- Tax credits
- Access to financing (for customers and installers)
- Affordability/constructability of some projects
- Customer education and perception
- Education for housing organizations, CBOs, local governments, etc.

# Ideas and Proposals

- Additional incentives
- Special financing
- Portfolio/aggregation approach
- “Solarize” (community-based programs)
- Shared solar
- Education and training
- **Integrate efficiency and workforce development**

## Q&A/Discussion

- Making solar more affordable (incentives and financing)
- Organizing for solar (portfolios and community projects)
- Solar education and outreach