



NYSERDA

NY-Sun Initiative Quarterly Performance Report to the Public Service Commission

Quarter Ending June 30, 2017

Final Report

NYSERDA's Promise to New Yorkers:

NYSERDA provides resources, expertise, and objective information so New Yorkers can make confident, informed energy decisions.

Mission Statement:

Advance innovative energy solutions in ways that improve New York's economy and environment.

Vision Statement:

Serve as a catalyst – advancing energy innovation, technology, and investment; transforming New York's economy; and empowering people to choose clean and efficient energy as part of their everyday lives.

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1 Overview of NY-Sun

1.1 Introduction

NY-Sun is a \$1 billion initiative to expand solar capacity throughout New York State by utilizing public funds in a strategic manner to build a self-sustaining solar market. NY-Sun provides financial support to qualified solar installation contractors as well as a comprehensive approach to reducing solar costs and barriers. NY-Sun's goal, referred to as the 3 Gigawatts Goal, is to install three gigawatts (GW) of solar electric capacity by 2023 while building a self-sustaining solar industry.

Through June 30, 2017, 861 megawatts (MW) of solar have been installed statewide with NYSERDA funding, and an additional 1,096 MW are in the pipeline. The NYSERDA-funded solar capacity installed statewide as of June 30, 2017 generates approximately 995,155 megawatt-hours (MWh) of electricity each year, reducing annual carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions by 523,766 metric tons (MT).¹

1.2 High Level Accomplishments during this Quarter

- The Residential/Small Commercial Program requirements were updated to reduce unnecessary administrative steps by solar contractors and NY-Sun staff. At the same time, the Residential/Small Commercial Program Manual was completely revamped to convey program rules and processes in a much more clear and user-friendly way. Specific changes included eliminating customer signatures on invoices for most residential projects, eliminating the requirement for contractors to upload the electrical inspection certificate with the invoice submission, and extending the project completion timeframe from 210 days to 365 days. These changes were made with input from many active solar contractors and have reduced delays in project closeouts and incentive processing.

¹ The Clean Energy Fund Investment Plan Budget Accounting and Benefits Chapter was submitted on February 22, 2016, in which NYSERDA adopted the NYS Public Service Commission's recommendation in its January 21, 2016 Order Establishing the Benefit Cost Analysis Framework. NYSERDA fulfilled the recommendation that New York State's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions factor methodology shift from an average grid emission profile to a marginal grid emission profile. Due to this shift, New York State's factor to calculate GHG emissions reductions has changed from 625 pounds CO₂e/MWh to 1,160 pounds CO₂e/MWh. The emissions reductions calculated for this quarterly report reflect the new factor of 1,160 pounds CO₂e/MWh.

- The Commercial and Industrial MW Block Program increased the project completion deadlines from 18 to 30 months from the approved date. This change was applied to all projects and NYSERDA's database was updated to reflect the new project completion deadline. Utility delays in review of Coordinated Electronic System Interconnection Review (CESIR) and construction timelines made the project completion deadline unattainable for the project pipeline. This change was in part due to the New York State Interconnection Ombudsmen and the Interconnection Policy Working Group through their efforts to assist developers and reduce obstacles to distributed generation interconnection.
- Green Jobs - Green New York financing is still available for Long Island residents. As of the second quarter of 2017, 635 "financing only" projects have been completed and 205 additional "financing only" project applications have been received or approved.
- Uptake for the Affordable Solar program, which provides additional incentives for on-site residential projects for low- and moderate-income homeowners, increased for customers and contractors during the first quarter of 2017. Through Q2 2017, 188 installations were completed with 52 more in the pipeline. Over 40 NY-Sun contractors have completed Affordable Solar projects to date.
- Progress continues to be made on the program design and initial planning for the Solar Market Accelerator (SMA). The SMA will provide solar soft cost solutions and technical assistance that are critical for commercial-scale solar projects across New York State, particularly community solar projects. In Q2, NY-Sun held preliminary meetings of the SMA Soft Cost Working Group and established internal processes to administer technical assistance. Progress was also made on the 2017 version of the New York Solar Guidebook, which is planned for public release in August.
- During Q2, NY-Sun presented preliminary program plans for a Low-Moderate Income Community Solar Initiative at the Value of DER Technical Conference and other stakeholder forums. This initiative is scheduled to advance through the planning process during Q3 and launch in Q4.
- 17 NYSERDA-supported Solarize campaigns launched during the second quarter of 2017. Additional campaign launches are planned for the second half of the year, with all launched and planned campaigns expected to be completed by the end of 2017. The 2017 campaigns include efforts being led by local governments with support from local Clean Energy Community Coordinators, campaigns led by regional nonprofit organizations, and a campaign focused on commercial and manufacturing properties.

2 Progress and Results

Table 2-1. Capacity toward 3GW Goal through June 30, 2017 (MW)^{2 3}

Program	Projects Completed (Installed Units) with Adjustments through 3/31/17	Projects Completed (Installed Units) 4/01/17 - 6/30/17	Projects Completed (Installed Units) through 6/30/17	Applications Approved but Not Yet Contracted (Current Pipeline)	Projects Contracted but Not Yet Completed (Current Pipeline)	Total (Current Pipeline + Installed Units) through 6/30/17
Residential / Small Commercial	290.59	30.63	321.22	1.63	88.12	410.96
Commercial / Industrial	26.50	8.32	34.82	2.90	857.55	895.26
Competitive PV	41.26	0.00	41.26	0.00	114.50	155.76
Grand Total	358.35	38.94	397.29	4.53	1,060.17	1,461.98

² 1,000 MW equals one GW.

³ Changes in numbers for previously reported completed projects are due to lagged data and/or QA/QC.

Table 2-2. Production Associated with 3GW Goal through June 30, 2017 (MWh)^{4, 5, 6}

Program	Projects Completed (Installed Units) with Adjustments through 3/31/17	Projects Completed (Installed Units) 4/01/17 - 6/30/17	Projects Completed (Installed Units) through 6/30/17	Applications Approved but Not Yet Contracted (Current Pipeline)	Projects Contracted but Not Yet Completed (Current Pipeline)	Total (Current Pipeline + Installed Units) through 6/30/17
Residential / Small Commercial	341,108	35,950	377,057	1,910	103,438	482,406
Commercial / Industrial	31,105	9,765	40,869	3,405	1,006,621	1,050,896
Competitive PV	48,428	0	48,428	0	134,406	182,834
Grand Total	420,641	45,714	466,355	5,316	1,244,465	1,716,136

⁴ Changes in numbers for previously reported completed projects are due to lagged data and/or QA/QC.

⁵ Note that the megawatt-hours included in Table 2-2 are estimated amounts based on a statewide capacity factor. NYSERDA does not, by filing this report, make any claim to the environmental attributes associated with those megawatt-hours.

⁶ The NY-Sun program does not determine the delivery or use of solar energy (MWh) from projects that receive funding. Generation from NY-Sun-funded projects may be used by customers for their own voluntary use or used toward meeting State requirements to deliver renewable energy to electricity customers in New York, depending on ownership of the environmental attributes and/or renewable energy certificates (RECs) from those projects. Where NYSERDA has not acquired the RECs from a NY-Sun-funded project, NYSERDA makes no claim to the environmental attributes of that energy.

Table 2-3. Budget and Financial Status for NY-Sun Programs as of June 30, 2017 (in dollars)⁷

Program	Pre-encumbrances	Open Encumbrances	Expended Funds	Grand Total	Budgeted Funds 2014-2023
Residential/Small Commercial	729,044	34,798,143	197,031,471	232,558,658	578,409,379
Commercial/Industrial	-	300,946,754	4,125,337	305,072,091	465,384,462
Competitive PV	-	72,219,987	8,558,761	80,778,748	80,778,748
Program Implementation	336,993	347,853	1,790,216	2,475,062	32,600,000
Low-Moderate Income	218,395	120,096	419,187	757,678	13,000,000
Consumer Education	-	3,265,302	234,698	3,500,000	3,500,000
Administration	-	530,963	4,045,515	4,576,477	38,706,000
Evaluation	-	150,000	-	150,000	2,500,000
NYS Cost Recovery Fee	-	-	1,199,648	1,199,648	19,250,000
Total	1,294,432	412,379,097	217,404,833	631,078,362	1,234,128,589

⁷ Administration, Evaluation and NYS Cost Recovery Fee are for NY-Sun funds only.

NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation, offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and support to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. NYSERDA professionals work to protect the environment and create clean-energy jobs. NYSERDA has been developing partnerships to advance innovative energy solutions in New York State since 1975.

To learn more about NYSERDA's programs and funding opportunities, visit nyserdera.ny.gov or follow us on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, or Instagram.

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