

# Why Solar is a good investment for New York's Communities

Solar plays an important role in supporting New York's energy vision, generates jobs and increases local spending in cities and towns.

## 300% Growth of Solar in New York State from 2011 to 2014

146% growth in U.S. as a whole during same time period

### 538+ Solar Companies at work In New York State

Employing 7,000+ people

7,284 Solar Jobs in New York State in 2014 Up 40% from 2013

#### NY-SUN.NY.GOV 1-866-NYSERDA

#### **Powerful change**

Right now, New York State is undertaking a significant change in how it generates and delivers energy. Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) is Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's strategy aimed at building a next-generation energy system that is clean, resilient, and affordable for all New Yorkers. Today, NY-Sun, which now includes the Shared Renewables initiative, brings affordable solar power to New York's cities, towns, and schools.

Solar is good for New York State's environment and economy. More solar projects create a cleaner environment, more jobs, and more local spending to New York communities.

#### Improving the future

Solar power helps keep electric rates low, saving money for all New Yorkers. Communities that encourage residents and businesses to install solar will ultimately see increased economic development. According to an analysis by solar industry experts, spending \$1 million on solar power installations brought up to \$850,000 in localized spending, up to \$330,000 in increased wages, and six to eight new local jobs.

#### Benefits of encouraging solar installations

Many homeowners, business owners, and municipal/non-profits are saving on their electric bills by going solar. Local governments that choose to offer financial advantages now to encourage solar projects in their communities will realize significant opportunities in the long run. This results in lowering your community's carbon footprint while creating jobs and increasing economic development.



fastest growing energy technology in the United States today.

#### NY-Sun brings solar to communities across New York.

#### New York's solar offerings are unified under one initiative called NY-Sun, which includes:

**NY-SUN INCENTIVE PROGRAM** provides financial support for solar electric systems installed by a NY-Sun certified contractor. Residents, businesses, and not-for-profits have three options for acquiring a solar electric system: buying, leasing, or entering into a power purchase agreement (PPA). Through a process known as net metering, your utility will accept your excess solar power when you are producing more than you are using, and will supply you with reliable grid power when the sun is not shining. Your utility company will base your bill on the difference between your solar production and electric use.

**COMMUNITY SOLAR NY** is a comprehensive community solar program that opens the door to more affordable and accessible solar power. NYSERDA works with community leaders, local governments, schools, and organizations to rollout "Solarize" campaigns, where groups of potential solar customers come together to choose a solar installation company that is offering competitive pricing. The Solarize approach has already met success in communities around the country and in New York State.

**K-SOLAR** is a partnership with the New York Power Authority and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority in coordination with the State Education Department. K-Solar provides school districts — at no cost and no obligation — with the tools and expertise necessary to bring solar energy to their facilities and reduce their energy costs.

**SHARED RENEWABLES** provide opportunities for renters, homeowners, low-income residents, schools, and businesses to join together to set up shared renewable energy projects resulting in healthier and stronger communities and solar for all. Under the Shared Renewables initiative (also referred to as community distributed generation), customers with and without feasible roof structures can join together to share in the benefits of local solar, wind, and other renewable energy projects. Each individual member's production would appear as a credit on their monthly utility bill. The first phase of Shared Renewables will focus on promoting low-income customer participation and installations in areas of the power grid that can benefit most from local power production.

NEW YORK'S UNIFIED SOLAR PERMIT standardizes the permitting and inspection processes.

BALANCE-OF-SYSTEM research and development projects reduce the overall cost of going solar.

**NY-SUN PV TRAINERS NETWORK** helps local governments and jurisdictions identify opportunities, mitigate barriers, and create programs that drive the development of solar electric (photovoltaic or PV) markets in communities across New York State. Through education, training, and one-on-one technical assistance, the Network works directly with local officials, including: administrators, planners, code officials, inspectors, first responders, village engineers, and anyone in a locality who has a role in permitting, inspecting and approving a solar electric installation, or might encounter solar electric in their work environment (such as a fire fighter). Visit **training.ny-sun.ny.gov** to view the training calendar, to request a training in your community, or for technical assistance on solar electric.

## Visit NY-SUN.NY.GOV or call 1-866-NYSERDA to learn more about how NY-Sun is significantly expanding the growth of solar energy across all sectors in New York State.

NY-Sun, a dynamic public-private partnership, will drive growth in the solar industry and make solar technology more affordable for all New Yorkers. NY-Sun brings together and expands existing programs administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), PSEG Long Island, and the New York Power Authority (NYPA), to ensure a coordinated, well-supported solar energy expansion plan and a transition to a sustainable, self-sufficient solar industry.

