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

- 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
• 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