

Virtual Training: Onsite Energy Generation and Storage

**Considerations for Onsite Energy and Supply Options** 

Session #6 July 8, 2025 10:00am – 12:00pm EST



#### **General Information**

- Schedule: Every Tuesday (June 3<sup>rd</sup> July 8<sup>th</sup>) morning
   @ 10am ET
- Sessions will be recorded
- We want these VT to be interactive!
- We're hoping you finish the VT with some big progress
- There will be homework just try your best!
  - "You'll get out what you put in!"

#### Links:

https://bptraining.ornl.gov/ http://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/better-plants https://measur.ornl.gov







### Training Overview

- 1. 06/03: Introduction to Onsite Energy Generation
- 2. 06/10: Exploring Onsite Energy For Your Facility
- 3. 06/17: Evaluating an Onsite Energy System
- 4. 06/24: Onsite Energy Success Stories and Overview Of Geothermal Systems
- 5. 07/01: Overview of Combined Heat and Power, Onsite Biomass, and Small Modular Reactors
- 6. 07/08: Considerations for Onsite Energy and Renewable Energy Supply Options





#### Agenda

- Homework Review
- 2 Siting Considerations For an Onsite Energy Project
  - Paul Lemar, ORNL
- **3** Other Renewable Energy Supply Options
  - Indraneel Bhandari, ORNL







1. Which prime movers are better suited to provide high pressure steam for a Combined Heat and Power System?

- Combustion Turbines
- Reciprocating Engines
- Fuel Cells

**Ans: Combustion Turbines** 





2. What are some of the sources for sourcing Renewable Natural Gas or RNG? (Select all)

- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Landfills
- Municipal WWTP (using Anaerobic Digesters or AD)
- Livestock farms (using AD)
- Stand-alone organic waste management operations (using AD)

Ans: All





3. In the DOE CHP eCatalog, list two of the four thermal outputs and three of the five prime movers available as search functions. DOE-CHP eCatalog

#### Ans:

- Thermal Outputs (2 of 4)
  - Steam
  - Hot Water
- Prime Movers (3 of 5)
  - Reciprocating Engines
  - Gas Turbines
  - Fuel Cells

#### THERMAL OUTPUTS ()

- O Hot Water (331)
- O Chilled Water (4)
- O Steam (21)
- Direct Process Heat/Drying (4)

#### PRIME MOVERS ()

- O Reciprocating engines (257)
- O Combustion turbines (5)
- O Microturbine (74)
- Back Pressure Steam Turbine

   (4)
- Organic Rankine Cycle (6)

#### FUEL TYPE ()

- Natural Gas or Pipeline RNG (278)
- O Propane (3)
- O Digester Gas (46)
- O Landfill Gas (4)
- O 100% Hydrogen (5)
- O Low Temperature Heat (6)
- Hydrogen Blend Capable (63)(63)

#### **GRID CONNECTION TYPE (1)**

- O Grid Parallel Only (55)
- O Grid Island, Black Start, Auto Transfer (277)





4. CHP provides multiple attributes that increase energy resilience for manufacturers, utilities and communities. One such attribute is that CHP provides a continuous supply of electric and thermal energy. Which of the following additional attributes of CHP support energy resilience

- CHP can be configured to island from the grid and black start without grid power.
- CHP can operate without grid power support for multiple days.
- CHP enhances grid stability and relieves grid congestion.
- CHP supports a hybrid microgrid deployment for balancing renewable power and providing a diverse generation mix;
- CHP systems maintain critical facilities such as hospitals and emergency services operating and are responsive to community needs (any four of these).

All the above





5. When compared to a back-up generation source, CHP systems typically have a higher initial capital cost but over time they represent better capital investment. Why is that?

Ans: This is due to CHP's ability to run continuously (with or without grid power) compared to backup generation that operates only when the grid is down. This typically results in CHP having a lower payback when compared to backup systems that sit idle for most of the year





- 6. What does SMR stand for in nuclear technology?
- Small Mass Reactor
- Standard Modular Reactor
- Small Modular Reactor
  - Simplified Medium Reactor





- 7. SMRs are typically designed to generate how much power?
   Less than 300 MW
  - 1,000 MW
  - 10,000 MW
  - Over 5,000 MW







- 8. How do SMRs enhance safety compared to traditional nuclear reactors?
- By using fossil fuels
- By eliminating all radioactive waste
- Through passive safety systems
  - By operating at higher pressures







#### **Paul Lemar**

*Technical Account Manager, Oak Ridge National Laboratory* 





# Siting Considerations For an Onsite Energy Project

Paul Lemar Indraneel Bhandari Oak Ridge National Laboratory





#### Roadmap for Implementing Renewable Energy Projects







### **Project Checklist**



- Potential Team Members
  - Leadership, staff, community
  - Engineers, energy team
  - Utility, legal, regulatory
  - Government, local entities

- Selection Criteria
  - Project cost effectiveness
  - Technical approach/system design
  - Implementation schedule
  - Experience and preferences





### Financing Navigator – Industrial Sector



The industrial sector is a significant consumer of energy, accounting for <u>neerly addition</u> of energy consumption in the US. Industrial facilities are often energy intensive due to their size and the energy consumption of process and cross-cutting industrial technologies such as furnaces and compressed air systems. There are important opportunities to save energy by implementing best practices and energy saving technologies. Manufacturers are using a variety of financing strategies to fund energy efficiency, some of them quite innovative.

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SEE CASE STUDIES

#### CONNECT WITH PROVIDERS

>





### **Financing Options Included**







### Financing Navigator – Example of Financing Options (250 kW renewable energy, \$1million project size, minimal complexity)

		OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3	OPTION 4	OPTION 5	OPTION 6	OPTION 7	OPTION 8
		COMMERCIAL LOAN	POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT	SOLAR LEASE	CAPITAL LEASE	OPERATING LEASE	COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY	ON-BILL FINANCING / REPAYMENT	GREEN BONDS
		CONNECT WITH PROVIDERS	CONNECT WITH PROVIDERS	CONNECT WITH PROVIDERS	CONNECT WITH PROVIDERS	CONNECT WITH PROVIDERS	CONNECT WITH PROVIDERS	CONNECT WITH PROVIDERS	CONNECT WITH PROVIDERS
BASIC ATTRIBUTES	Applicable Sectors ①	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	~
	Building Ownership ()	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
	Typical Project Size 🛈	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	0	Х
	Project Type 🛈	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	0	✓
CONTRACT STRUCTURE	Contract Complexity	√	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	Х
	Performance Risk ①	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TAX & BALANCE SHEET	Balance Sheet ③ Treatment	√	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	~
	Tax Deductions 🛈	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CONTRACT TERMS	Typical Duration ①	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Typical Close Time 🛈	$\checkmark$	~	✓	~	~	~	✓	✓

✓ MATCH O PARTIAL MATCH X NOT A MATCH – NOT IMPORTANT





### Financing Options – Industrial Sector



Capital Stack:	A layered representation of the different sources of capital that contribute to a project.	
Performance Agreements:	Refers to agreed requirements on the energy performance of a project.	
Cash-flow Positive:	A positive cash flow results when the project savings exceed the expenses.	
Energy Service Companies (ESCO):	These companies provide a range of services for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects including design and implementation.	
Green Bank:	A bank that provides financing mechanisms for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.	
ITC, PTC:	Investment Tax Credit (one-time) and Production Tax Credit (available annually, based on performance).	
Off-taker:	The purchaser of energy from installed generation assets.	





# Financing Options: Direct Ownership

- System fully purchased and owned by the organization
  - Internal capital or financing
  - Grants
  - Incentives and depreciation
- Organization utilizes energy
  - Over time, investment is recouped from utility savings and/or renewable attributes
  - Utility provides remaining energy needs
- O&M responsibilities fall to organization as owner (can enlist third party)





Manufacturing Plant









# Financing Options for Direct Ownership

# Equity

- Critical for preconstruction
- Owner takes risks
- At-risk capital raised through equity

# Tax Equity

- ITC and PTC
- US Specific
- Cash for credits
- Expanded to Tax Credit Transfer

Debt
<ul> <li>Assets are collateral</li> <li>Construction phase liquidity</li> </ul>





# Financing Options: Third-Party Ownership

- Third-Party developers install and owns the system
  - Customer agrees to "off-take" power at fixed price over time
- Power Purchase Agreements and Financial agreements
  - No up-front capital
  - Long-term price certainty
  - Contractual obligations
- Capital Leases, Operating Leases
  - Customer leases the system from a third party, with or without option to own
  - No Up-front costs





## **Financing Options**

- Special Purpose Vehicles/Entities (SPV/SPEs)
  - Dedicated Entity: Formed solely to own and operate a specific renewable energy project
  - Risk Isolation: Shields parent companies from project-related financial and legal risks
  - Simplifies Financing: Enables project-specific debt and equity investment
  - Holds Assets & Contracts: Owns the project's assets, PPA, permits, and liabilities
  - Captures Incentives: Facilitates use of tax credits and depreciation benefits
  - Revenue Channel: All project revenues and payments flow through the SPV
  - Limited Liability: Creditors' claims are restricted to the SPV's assets only





### Solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)

 Large customers can often serve as "anchor" to community solar projects

 Check with state utility commission for confirmation on Third Party PPA







# Financing Options: Specialized Financing Solutions

#### Green Tariffs

- Utility offers a special rate for renewable electricity sourced from a dedicated project
- Energy-as-a-Service (EaaS)
  - Turnkey service model where a provider designs, finances, owns, and operates energy systems, delivering outcomes (e.g., cost savings, emissions reduction)
  - Performance based
  - Offloads technical complexity
  - Longer contracts





# Financing Options: Specialized Financing Solutions

- Commercial PACE (C-PACE)
  - Long-term funding source that can be used for projects with long payback periods
  - Payback mechanisms are linked to the property tax assessments for a specific facility (they remain with the building, not the owner).
- On Bill Financing/Repayment
  - Utility or private lender supplies capital to a customer to fund energy projects and is repaid through regular payments on an existing utility bill
- Green Bonds
  - Bonds that specifically fund environmental projects
  - Have a flexible term to serve a wide range of project payback periods





### Industrial Sector: Material Financing Considerations



#### **Industry Sub-sector**

The life expectancy of an asset affects the volume of potential energy savings from an energy measure and that can affect its return on investment and how it can be financed.



#### **Facility Ownership**

Privately held companies often have greater flexibility in return-on-investment requirements than publicly traded companies.



#### **Savings Opportunities**

Energy-intensive or outdated equipment and systems are often good opportunities for alternative financing.



#### **Bundling Projects**

Rather than fund only projects with the greatest return on investment, bundle a mix of high- and low-return projects to create a portfolio with an acceptable average return.



#### **Incentives and Rebates**

State and utility energy efficiency programs may be available to support financing or provide other services (technical assistance, etc.) based on jurisdiction.





# Industrial Sector: Common Barriers to Energy Financing



#### **Competing Budget Priorities**

Competing priorities that all seek funding from operating and capital budgets, and executives may place a higher priority on capital investments that increase production and sales.



#### **Balance Sheet Concerns**

Industrial companies may be hesitant to add liabilities to the balance sheet, particularly if they already have a heavy debt load.



#### **High Hurdle Rates**

Industrial companies may require a high minimum rate of return on certain investments (including energy improvements) because they could also deploy the capital into other high-return investments.



#### Limited Staff Bandwidth

Limited staff capacity and/or lack of financing/technical expertise in energy efficiency and renewable energy may prevent industrial companies (especially those smaller in size) from exploring potential projects.



#### Planning Cycle Timing

Lengthy and complex capital planning cycles can make it difficult to leverage incentives, rebates, or tax credits that may change or expire over time.





### Case Study

- Cummins Rocky Mount Engine Plant Solar Project
  - 3.62 MW solar farm installed on 14 acres at the Rocky Mount Engine Plant in North Carolina
  - Powered the plant operations with 1,800+ employees, directly reducing grid energy consumption
  - Generates ~5.6 million kWh/year







# **Poll Time**



#### **Federal Tax Credits**

- Tax credits expanded in 2022 but recently modified by OBBBA
- 2. Investment Tax Credit (ITC)
- 3. Production Tax Credit (PTC)
  - Available for projects <u>placed in service in 2022</u> and until 2027 (wind/solar) or 2036 (other).
  - Project owners <u>cannot claim both tax credits</u> for the same system.
  - Bonus credits for:
    - I. Domestic Content
    - II. Low-Income Communities
  - Additional incentives: <u>Depreciation deductions</u>
    - (Accelerated and Bonus Depreciation)

ITC	PTC
30% of the system cost	2.75 ¢/kWh of total annual production
One time tax credit for the tax year when the system was installed	Annual tax credit for electricity generated for the first 10 years (until 2027)
Reduces the federal income tax liability	Reduces the federal income tax liability and adjusted annually for inflation.
10%+ Bonus eligible	0.3+ ¢ Bonus eligible





### Prevailing Wage and Apprenticeship Requirements

Increased tax benefits are available for businesses satisfying certain prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirement:

#### Prevailing Wage Requirements

• Any laborers and mechanics employed by the taxpayer, or any contractor or subcontractor are paid wages at rates not less than the prevailing rates

#### Apprenticeship Requirements –

- Apprenticeship Labor Hour Requirements
- Apprenticeship Ratio Requirements
- Apprenticeship Participation Requirement





# One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) Impact on Wind and Solar Project Tax Credits

- Clean electricity tax credits (PTC 45Y and ITC 48E) generally would be unavailable for wind and solar projects placed in service after December 31, 2027
- Grandfather rule preserves eligibility of credits for wind and solar clean electricity projects that start construction before 12 months following Bill enactment
- Non-wind/solar clean electricity projects will begin to phase out after 2032 (nuclear, geothermal, and clean-hydrogen, potentially energy storage technology, qualified biogas property, and microgrid controllers)
- Applies more restricted conditions regarding application of domestic content bonus
- Transfers of credits to SPEs are not permitted, but transferability conditions are generally otherwise preserved
- Restrictions on foreign entities of concern (FEOC) are in place
- More details to follow, pending Treasury/IRS guidance





#### **Other Incentives**

Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency - DSIRE Database









### **Policy and Market Factors**

- 1. State Renewable Portfolio Standards
  - 1. Other State level targets
- 2. Federal Policies
  - Investment Tax Credit (ITC) and Production Tax Credit (PTC) for renewable developers.
  - 2. Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act 1978 (PURPA)
    - Encouraging non-utility generation and clean energy development.
    - 2. Laid the groundwork for competition in electricity markets
- 3. FERC Order 2222
- 4. Other State Level Program and Incentives





Image Source: https://www.dsireusa.org/

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF**
### Policy and Market Factors: PURPA 1978

- Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act 1978 (PURPA)
  - 1. Encouraging non-utility generation and clean energy development.
  - 2. Laid the groundwork for competition in electricity markets by allowing non-utility generators
  - Promoted independent power generation by requiring utilities to purchase power from qualifying facilities (QFs) at avoided cost rates
  - 4. Avoided cost pricing ensured QFs received fair compensation without burdening ratepayers
- Key Additions
  - Energy Policy Act of 2005
    - Eased mandatory purchase obligations for utilities if competitive markets existed
  - FERC Order 872 (2020)
    - Allowed states more control over QF and avoided costs calculations





#### Traditional Representation of the Power System



This is a representation. Other voltage levels may vary.





### **Qualifying Facilities**

- Qualifying Facility (QF) is a generation facility that meets requirements specified by federal law under the PURPA
- QFs obtain certain rights
  - 1. The right to sell energy or capacity to a utility
  - 2. The right to purchase certain services from utilities
  - 3. Relief from certain regulatory burdens
- Two general classifications of QFs:
  - Cogeneration facilities which sequentially produce electric energy and another form of energy, such as heat or steam, using the same fuel source
  - Small Power Production (SPP) facilities which use biomass, waste, renewable resources (water, wind or solar), Energy Storage System (ESS) or geothermal as a primary energy source
- QFs may be created by self certifying with FERC if 1MW or greater, smaller generators may not file
- Non-Qualifying Facility is a generation facility that does not qualify under the provisions of PURPA, such as the typical merchant power plants that sell their output on the wholesale market or enter into Power Purchase Agreements with a local utility or industrial customer. Independent Power Producers frequently fall into this category.





### Policy and Market Factors: FERC 2222

- **Traditional Use:** Distributed resources have mainly provided individual benefits to the customers who own them
- FERC Order No. 2222:
  - Enables participation of distributed resources in wholesale markets (capacity, energy, ancillary)
    - Potentially reduce cost for bulk power system
  - Allows aggregation of onsite resources
    - Utilize these resources virtually in combination, conditional to physical and operational characteristics
  - Value is based on the total reliable MW output/input, not the specific type of DERs

#### Distributed Energy Resource - FERC 2020b



RTO's transmission network and markets



#### DER aggregation in the RTO/ISO network



Image Source: FERC; Zhou, Ella, David Hurlbut, and Kaifeng Xu. 2021. A Primer on FERC Order No. 2222: Insights for International Power Systems. Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory. NREL/TP-5C00-80166. https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy21osti/80166.pdf.



### Forecasted Growth in PV, Wind, and Storage continues

#### BERKELEY LAB



Queued Up: 2024 Edition Characteristics of Power Plants Seeking Transmission Interconnection As of the End of 2023 Joseph Rand, Nick Manderlink, Will Gorman, Ryan Wiser, Joachim Seel, Julie Mulvaney Kemp, Seongeun Jeong, Fritz Kahi

- Developers are still interested in solar, wind, and battery storage
  - Approximately 11,600 projects seeking interconnection
- Completion rates are generally low (~20%); wait times seen increasing
  - ~14% for solar
  - ~11% battery
- FERC Order 2023 included queue reform ٠ measures



Source: Rand, Joseph, et al. "Queued Up: 2024 Edition, Characteristics of Power Plants Seeking Transmission Interconnection As of the End of 2023 [Slides].", Apr. 2024. https://doi.org/10.2172/2335720





#### Interconnection

- Interconnection is an agreement required to connect your generation system to the grid
- Distribution-level interconnection is largely the domain of state policy
  - Rules are variable amongst states
- Involve your utility early and often in the project development
  - Many utilities have their interconnection procedures, and the necessary contacts posted on their website
- Time, Technical Requirements and Cost





#### **Example Levels of Generator Interconnection**

 Capacity "breakpoints" for various review standards

Standard of Review	FERC Order 792 (Small Generators)		
10 kW Inverter Process	Up to 10 kW		
Fast-Track Process	Voltage-Differentiated (see below)		
Study Process	Through 20 MW		
≥ 30 kV and ≤ 69 kV	4 MW		

 Voltage-differentiated breakpoints for the newlyadopted "fast track" process in FERC 792

Applicable Delivery System Voltage Levels for Fast Track Process (FERC Order 792)	Applicable System Size (Regardless of Location)	Applicable System Size (Location- Specific*)
< 5 kilovolt (kV)	500 kW	500 kW
≥ 5 kV and < 15 kV	2 MW	3 MW
≥ 15 kV and < 30 kV	3 MW	4 MW
≥ 30 kV and ≤ 69 kV	4 MW	5 MW





#### **Utility Interconnection Process**







#### **Utility Interconnection Process**





Source: Abbas, A., Price, C., Nandy, P., Wenning, T., 2022, Renewable Energy Guidance for Industry, ORNL/SPR-2021/2026, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.



#### **Utility Interconnection Process**

## System Information

Technology Type

Rate Capacity (kW or MW)

Storage Capacity (kWh or MWh)

IEEE 1547 Reactive Power Category

IEEE Std 1547 Disturbance Category

Location

# Utility Generated Information

Queue Position

Agreement Date

System Impact Study Start/End Dates

Commissioning Date or COD

**Operational Status** 

**Technical Screen Results** 

Cost of Study

Cost of Utility Upgrades

Final Cost of Interconnection





#### Interconnection Standards and Procedures

- State Small Generator Interconnection Procedures provides
   procedures for interconnecting with utility systems
  - FERC, IREC, and PJM have published model rules with best practices for states to adopt
  - Includes references to other standards
    - IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) 1547 Standard
    - IEEE Standard for Interconnection and Interoperability of Distributed Energy Resources with Associated Electric Power Systems Interfaces
    - UL 1741 standards for inverters and converter equipment
    - National Electric Code (NEC) ensures compliance with safety and operational standards

LINE VOLTAGE	FAST TRACK ELIGIBILITY		
	Regardless of location	On <u>&gt;</u> 600-amp line and <u>&lt;</u> 2.5 miles from substation	
<u>&lt;</u> 5 kV	< 1 MW	< 2 MW	
5 kV – <u>&lt; 1</u> 5 kV	< 2 MW	< 3 MW	
15 kV – <u>&lt; 3</u> 0 kV	< 3 MW	< 4 MW	
30 kV – 69 kV	<u>&lt;</u> 4 MW	<u>&lt;</u> 5 MW	

Fast Track review is available to any DER that has an Export Capacity that does not exceed the limits identified in the table.

Source: IREC Model Interconnection Procedures 2023





#### **Other Provisions and Requirements**

- Technical interconnection requirements may vary by state Three
  - States like California (Rule 21), New York (NY-Sun Interconnection), and Massachusetts (SIR) have developed detailed interconnection procedures
- Anti-islanding protection, voltage regulation, and grounding are typically required
- Rely heavily on standards such as IEEE 1547
- Thresholds evaluated to comply with these requirements (see figure)

#### Thresholds

Criteria	Description	Threshold	
Primary Over- Voltage	High voltage exceeds nominal voltage by threshold	105% 3% 50%	
Primary Voltage Deviation	Change in Voltage from no DER to full DER		
Regulator Voltage Deviation	Change in bandwidth from no DER output to full DER output at a regulated node		
Thermal for Discharging DER	Element rating		
Additional Element Fault Current	Deviation in feeder fault currents	10%	
Breaker Relay Reduction of Reach	reaker Relay Deviation in breaker reduction of Reach fault current		

Source: Xcel Energy





#### Interconnection Cost Responsibility Issues

- Total associated costs with interconnection can include interconnection facilities and system upgrades
- "Cost-Causer-Pays" model is conventional approach to determine who bears costs
  - Entity responsible for causing a cost is the one that should bear the financial burden
  - Generator that triggers the distribution upgrade may be liable to pay for interconnection costs and distribution upgrade costs
  - Prevent DER costs to not be distributed amongst other customers
- Some states have initiated cost-sharing mechanisms, developments are evolving
- Impact to system reliability and deferring capacity investments may be a factor





#### **Developments in Interconnection Standards**

- States are continuing to update and improve interconnection standards, based on their experience and best practices of others
  - State Level interconnection rules and regulations continue to evolve and improve
  - IREC Model Interconnection Rules are foundational
  - FERC and PJM Small Resource Interconnection Process also serves as baseline
- Focus on making the application process less time consuming, costly, and complex
  - Timeframes have decreased
  - Fees are being reduced or waived (fast-tracked)
  - Screens are better understood and making process more transparent
  - Costly studies are being avoided
- Results show improvement in terms of approval rates and times
- Utilities becoming more adept at evaluating impact on distribution system





### **Capacity Hosting Maps**

- Some regions may have capacity hosting maps
- Gives an indication of how much generation (expressed in kW) can be added to a feeder before the feeder reaches capacity or other limitations that reduce the reliability of service to electric customers on the feeder

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AN EXELON COMPANY

Distribution Feeder Hosting Capacity

PHI defines large DER systems by feeder primary voltage class:

4-13.8kV: 250kW and greater 23-25kV: 500kW and greater 33-34.5kV: 1MW and greater

Feeder restrictions can be confirmed via the Restriction Map.







### **Evolution in Interconnection Standards**

- Many current standards based on 15% of circuit peak load as proxy for circuit capacity
  - Actual circuit capacity may be more or less, but often requires detailed modelling and analysis of distribution system to determine specific circuit limits
  - As penetration increases, the 15% screen becomes limiting factor as screens are failed and costly studies can be triggered
- Power flow analyses can be employed to improve the process
  - Map circuit capacity for potential project developers
  - Evaluate individual projects in lieu of traditional screens
  - Utilities have become more practiced and can speed the analysis process
  - Can be employed to identify lower cost circuit upgrades to accommodate higher levels of DER
- Potential changes in *cost-causer-pays* model





#### Net-Metering

**Net Metering**: Uses one or more bidirectional meters that tracks net usage and sometimes both usage and generation. Consumers may be credited at retail rates, making this method more financially beneficial. Sometimes they may be credited at wholesale.







#### **Net-Metering**





Wrap Up



#### The Better Buildings Financing Navigator

The Better Buildings Financing Navigator is an online tool that helps public and private organizations find financing solutions for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.



The Navigator at a glance:

- Explore options and find solutions
- Dozens of case studies, fact sheets, resources
- Connect with Financial Allies
- 25,000+ users since launch

Available at: https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/financing-navigator





#### Connect with Financial Allies

	Better         Programs &         Events &         Q           US DEMATMENT OF ENERGY         Solutions         Programs &         Leadership         Events &         Join	TELL US ABOUT YOUR PROJECT	
	Financing Navigator	PROJECT TYPE (REQUIRED)	
(	There are many ways to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in buildings that you own or occupy. The Navigator helps you cut through this complexity to secure financing that works for you. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?	YOUR PREFERENCES HOW IMPORTANT IS MINIMIZING COMPLEXITY OF THE FINANCING CONTRACT (E.G. SHORTER DOCUMENTS, FEWER PARTIES INVOLVED)?	HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO MINIMIZE YOUR PERFORMANCE RISK? ①
	Find financing that fits your needs     Explore financing options     About the Financing   Navigator     Factsheets and Resources     See Ally Solutions     Featured: Resilience   Roadmap     Image: Connect with Financial Allies     About the Financing     Factsheets and Resources     See Ally Solutions     Featured: Resilience     Roadmap     Image: Connect with Financial Allies     About the Financing     Factsheets and Resources     See Ally Solutions     Featured: Resilience     Roadmap	- None - C HOW IMPORTANT IS IT FOR YOU TO CLAIM DEPRECIATION ON THE EQUIPMENT? () - None - C SUBMIT	- None -   DO YOU PREFER A SHORTER (1-5 YEARS) OR LONGER (6+ YEARS) FINANCING TERM? () - None -

Available at: https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/financing-navigator/find





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PROJECT COST (REQUIRED) ()

DO YOU WANT THE FINANCING TO BE ON

HOW QUICKLY DO YOU NEED FINANCING?

OR OFF BALANCE SHEET? ()

- Select -

- None -

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- None -

#### **Connect with Financial Allies**



#### CONNECT WITH FINANCIAL ALLIES

Below is a list of the Better Buildings Financial Allies—market-leading financing companies that have committed to funding energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Using the boxes below, you can filter the Allies based on the financial products they offer, sectors they serve, technologies they finance, and locations they serve. Selecting multiple boxes within a single category will expand the list, whereas selecting boxes across categories (e.g. across Products and Sectors) will narrow the list. For example, if you select "leases" and "PACE" under Products and "multifamily" under Sectors, you will see a list of Allies that serve the multifamily sector AND offer either leases or PACE. Click on "learn more" to view an Ally's profile.

	*	Sectors	~	Technologies	~	Locations	Ý
Select All							
Leases		•	Debt or Loans		Bonds		
Energy Performance Cont	racts (EPCs)	•	Efficiency-as-a-service		Property Assessed	Clean Energy (PACE)	
On-Bill Financing / Repayr	nent	•	Grants or Below-Market Loar	15	Power Purchase Ag	greements (PPAs)	
Performance Insurance		•	Secondary Market Investmer	t & Services			

Available at: https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/financing-navigator/allies





#### **Additional Resources**

- Better Plants Financing Navigator
- US Interconnection Queues by Region, State, and County
- A Guide to Residential Energy Storage and Rooftop Solar: State Net Metering Policies and Utility Rate Tariff Structures – <u>Database</u>
- FERC <u>Standard Interconnection Agreements and Procedures for Small Generators</u>
- Toolkit & Guidance for the Interconnection of Energy Storage & Solar-Plus-Storage <u>IREC</u> <u>Toolkit</u>
- State and Local Policy Database
- Statutory References for Legality of 3rd Party Solar PV PPAs
- U.S. Atlas of Electric Distribution System Hosting Capacity Maps





### Interested in Learning More?

- You can access the Better Buildings Solution Center at the following link:



- Questions?
  - <u>betterbuildings@ee.doe.gov</u>

```
CONNECT WITH FINANCIAL ALLIES
Below is a list of the Better Buildings Financial Allies-market-leading financing companies that have committed to funding energy efficiency and renewable energy
projects
                                                                                                               Bank of
                                                                                                                              Bank of America
               Abundant Power Group
                                                                     Allumia
                                                        ∧ / allumia
 NOUNDANT POWE
                                                                                                               America
              CleanSource Capital, and its
                                                                      Allumia is an efficiency-as-a-
                                                                                                                              Bank of America is one of the
                                                                                                               logo
              parent company Abundant Power
                                                                      service provider focused on
                                                                                                                              world's leading financial
                                                                      making it simple, affordable, and
              Group design, implement, and
                                                                                                                              institutions, serving individual
              administer proprietary financing..
                                                                      painless for small and mid-sized..
                                                                                                                              consumers, small and middle-..
              Learn More »
                                                                      Learn More »
                                                                                                                              Learn More »
  BLOC
              BlocPower
                                                                      BlueFlame Energy Finance LLC
                                                                                                               BoitoniaGroup Bostonia Partners LLC
               BlocPower is a black-owned.
                                                                      BlueFlame Energy Finance LLC is
                                                                                                                              Bostonia Partners ("Bostonia") is a
                                                                      a specialty finance company
              climate tech company founded in
                                                                                                                              leading investment bank
              2014 in Brooklyn to deliver
                                                                      focused on low-cost, low-friction
                                                                                                                              providing innovative thinking and
                                                                      financing solutions for distribute.
                                                                                                                              value oriented solutions to its...
              greener, healthier, smarter.
               Learn More »
                                                                      Learn More »
                                                                                                                              Learn More »
                                                                                                               CITIZEN Citizen Energy
BUDDERFLY
              Budderfly
                                                        citi
              Budderfly is an Energy Efficiency-
                                                                      Citi provides consumers,
                                                                                                                              Citizen Energy increases the
              as-a-Service (EEaaS) company
                                                                      corporations, governments and
                                                                                                                              adoption of energy efficiency
              focused on Small and medium-
                                                                      institutions with a broad range of
                                                                                                                              through its LED Lighting as-a-
              sized enterprises (SMEs) and...
                                                                      financial products and services...
                                                                                                                              Service financing solution for...
              Learn More »
                                                                      Learn More »
                                                                                                                              Learn More »
                                                        Connecticut Green Bank
CLEANFUND CleanFund LLC
                                                                                                                CONTRACTOR NO.
                                                                                                                              Counterpointe Sustainable Real
                                                                                                                              Estate
              CleanFund is a specialty finance
                                                                      The Connecticut Green Bank is
              company providing Property
                                                                      the nation's first green bank and
                                                                                                                              Counterpointe Sustainable Real
              Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)
                                                                      finances projects located in
                                                                                                                              Estate (SRE) provides capital to
              project finance to commercial a..
                                                                      Connecticut
                                                                                                                              fuel the deployment of
                                                                                                                              sustainable and energy efficient.
                                                                      Learn More »
              Learn More »
                                                                                                                              Learn More »
ECOSAVE Ecosave Inc.
                                                                                                                Munich RF 🚎
                                                                                                                             Hartford Steam Boiler
                                                                      Hannon Armstrong
                                                         HANNON
                                                                                                                              Inspection and Insurance
                                                                      Hannon Armstrong Sustainable
              Ecosave specializes in turnkey
                                                                                                                              Company (HSB)
              services that deliver energy and
                                                                      Infrastructure Capital, Inc. (NYSE
               water cost savings
                                                                      HASI) makes debt and equity
                                                                                                                              Hartford Steam Boiler (HSB), part
                                                                      investments in sustainable ...
                                                                                                                              of Munich Re, is a multi-line
                oarn More
```





#### **Onsite Energy Technical Assistance Partnerships (TAPs)**

DOE's 10 regional Onsite Energy TAPs provide technical assistance to end users and other stakeholders about technology options for achieving clean energy objectives. Key services include:



**Technical Assistance**: Screen sites for opportunities to implement onsite energy technologies and provide advanced services to maximize economic impact and reduce risk from initial screening to installation to operation and maintenance.



**End-User Engagement**: Partner with organizations representing industrial and other large energy users to advance onsite energy as a cost-effective way to transition to a clean energy economy.



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Onsite Energy Technical Assistance Partnership

**Stakeholder Engagement**: Engage with strategic stakeholders, including utilities and policymakers, to identify and reduce barriers to onsite energy through fact-based, unbiased education.





### **Questions?**



### **5 Minute Break**





#### Indraneel Bhandari

R&D Associate Staff Member Oak Ridge National Laboratory

<u>bhandarii1@ornl.gov</u> (865) 341-4259





### **Other Renewable Supply Options**

Indraneel Bhandari Oak Ridge National Laboratory







- Energy Attribute Certificates (EACs)
- Renewable Electricity Supply Options
- Resources











#### Renewable Energy Mechanisms







## **Electricity Markets**



#### Status of electricity markets by state

Note: States may be partially regulated/deregulated, regulated only in some utility markets, or deregulated for industrial consumers. Additional information is available at the <u>American Coalition of Competitive Energy Suppliers</u>



Wholesale electric power markets (ISOs/RTOs) Source: ISO/RTO Council (IRC)





#### Renewable Electricity Supply Options







# Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)



#### Renewable Energy Certificates/Credits (RECs)

#### Also know as: Green Tags or Renewable Energy Credits

**RECs** are tradable, <u>non-tangible</u> commodities in the energy market that represent the benefits associated with <u>1 MWh of generated renewable energy</u>.









# Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)


#### Power Purchase Agreements: PPAs & VPPAs

- PPAs are agreement to purchase energy from a third party
- Consumer buys electricity at a set rate and the associated RECs
- Benefits include reduce energy costs, shifted O&M costs, and renewable energy
- There are two main types of PPAs:



- Physical PPA: Energy is delivered directly to consumer
- Virtual PPA: Energy is delivered to the grid through wholesale market
- PPAs are location dependent
  - State regulations can affect your ability to enter into PPAs



#### **Onsite Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)**

- When space available
- Generator is a third party
- Direct cable connection to the facility
- PPA price does not include grid fee which makes it cheaper than offsite PPA







### Offsite Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) – Direct/Sleeved PPA





In a Direct/Sleeved PPA, the generator and partner company must be on the same grid



#### Virtual Power Purchase Agreements (VPPAs)







# Green Tariffs and Green Power Products



#### Green Power/Tariffs

- 1) Competitive Green Power Products
- 2) Utility Green Power Products
- 3) Utility Green Tariffs

**Utility Green Tariff versus Utility Green Power Products:** 

- Both offered by utilities in **regulated** markets
- Consumer receives **bundled** green power through both
- Green Tariff attached to a specific project through utility (long-term agreement)
- Green Power Products, customers pay premium for extra line item on bill to support "off-the-shelf" renewable electricity product from a mix of renewable energy resources.



#### Availability of Green Tariffs and Electric Retail Choice

- Approved green tariff(s)
- Green tariff(s) pending approval
- Approved green tariff(s) and green tariff(s) pending approval
- Customer program(s) that function like a green tariff
- Electric retail choice easily available
- Green tariff pending approval; Electric retail choice easily available
- No known direct large-scale RE access available
- (#) Number of utilities in the state with a green tariff

#### States with Utility Green Tariff Programs, January 2023

Source: CEBA, U.S Electricity Markets: Utility Green Tariff Update, <u>https://cebuyers.org/us-electricity-markets-utility-green-tariff-update/;</u> U.S. Utility Green Tariff Report, January 2023, <u>https://interconnect.cebuyers.org/resources/u-s-utility-green-tariff-report-january-2023-update</u>





### Green Tariff – Program offered by Utilities



Green Tariff – Customer may have a say on RE source, Typical contract period of 4 to 8 years Green Power – Utility determines the RE source, Shorter contract period (sometimes month to month)



In a Green tariff, the utility delivers power from a defined set of power projects within the grid region serving the partner facility



# Other Common Supply Options



### Community Choice Aggregations (CCAs)

- Also known as Municipal Aggregation: Programs that allow local governments to procure power on behalf of their residents, businesses, and municipal accounts from an alternative supplier while still receiving transmission and distribution service from their existing utility provider.
- CCAs are an attractive option for communities that want more local control over their electricity sources.
- CCAs are currently authorized in California, Illinois, Ohio, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Virginia.

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#### CCAs Status in the US, June 2023

Source: Local Energy Aggregation Network (LEAN) Energy US, https://www.leanenergyus.org/cca-by-state



#### Shared Renewables, also known as or Community Renewables or Community Solar

- A procurement model allowing multiple customers to buy, lease, or subscribe to a portion of a shared green power system that is usually located away from their home or business.
- Shared renewables legislation, specifically community solar legislation, has been enacted in 24 states (AZ,CA, CO, CT, DE, HI, IL, LA, MA, MD, ME, MN, NC, NJ, NH, NM, NV, NY, OR, RI, SC, VA, VT, and WA), Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico.



**Community Shared Solar Installation** 







### Comparison of Renewable Electricity Supply Options

		Characteristics						Supply Options Includes			
			\$ <mark></mark>		<b>(\$)</b>				<u>A</u>	*	4
RE Supply Mechanism		Quick Transaction	Hedging Potential	High Capital Investments	Recurring Costs	Length of Contract	Supply Impact	Availability	Emissions Impact	RECs	Commodity Electricity
REGULATED MARKET	Utility Green Power	••••	0000	0000	0000	0000	0000	••00	••••		••••
	Utility Green Tariffs	•000		••00	0000	•••0		•000	••••	••••	••••
AVAILABLE IN BOTH (REGULATED AND UNREGULATED) MARKETS	Virtual (Financial) PPAs	0000	••••	••••		••••	•••0	••00			0000
	Unbundled RECs	••••	0000	0000	••••	0000	0000	••••	••••	••••	0000
	Physical PPAs*	0000	••••	••••		••••	•••0	•000			••••
	Self-Supply*	0000		••••		••••	••••	••••			••••
DEREGULATED MARKET	Competitive Green Power	••••	••00	0000	0000	0000	0000	••00	••••	••••	••••
AVAILABLE IN SELECTED MARKETS	Community Choice Aggregations	••••		••••	••00	0000	•000	•000	••00	•••••	••••
	Shared					••00		0000	<b>●</b> ●OC	••00	••00
* Direct or via utility											



#### **Key Considerations**







### Reporting for Better Climate Challenge Program

- The Better Climate Challenge program
  - RECs are allowed
  - Does not recognize the use of offsets
- Reduced carbon footprint by lowering Scope 2 emissions
  - RECs count towards Scope 2 reduction; important to retain the RECs (and retire)
  - On-site PPAs reduce the site-to-source energy multiplier from 3.0 to 1.0 in a company's energy baseline
  - VPPAs count towards Scope 2 reduction; however, VPPAs are excluded from energy baselines
- Additionality is more commonly accepted for certain REC procurements, as more information is known about the nature of the REC generation

**Better** Plants For more information on energy tracking and GHG inventory reporting, please see the DOE's Energy Intensity Baselining and Tracking Guidance and the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard.



#### Partner Case Studies



100%, 84 GWh/year

Source: U.S. EPA's Green Power Partnership (www.epa.gov/greenpower) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF and https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/ ENERGY



## **Tools and Resources**



#### Better Buildings Renewable Energy Resource Hub





Are you looking for information on working with your utility, accessing incentives, and overcoming regulatory boundaries?



green power into your energy procurement strategy?



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF



#### https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/renewables

### Renewable Energy for Industry Guidance Documents

• Access the full main document <u>here</u>.



Access the supplemental document <u>here</u>.







#### Supplemental Document





#### Renewable Energy Purchasing Factsheets



**Renewable Energy Certificates** 



energy certificates (RECs) from a specific power generation asset at a set price (\$/MW)) that is usually lower than their utility's retail price. Unlike the fluctuating cost of fossil fuels or the market rate for electricity, the fixed energy price of a PPA can help insulate organizations from increasing utility costs. Responsibility for installing, maintaining, and operating equipment usually fails on the developer, reducing liability for the offtaker. Organizations with limited space can use PPAs for renewable energy procurement as the development and their facilities do not need to be in the same location.

OVERVIEW

PPAs promote clean energy on the grid and generate RECs for offtakers to purchase. Organizations can compare renewable energy developers and projects to find the ones that best align with their sustainability goals. The two most common types of PPAs are Physical and Virtual PPAs and their structure dictates how energy is delivered to a facility and its cost. This overview provides information on how the most common types of PPAs operate

#### Physical (PPAs)

In a physical PPA, a renewable energy developer delivers electricity directly to an offtaker's facility or to their local utility electric grid. The developer owns, operates, and maintains the renewable asset for the duration of the PPA contract. The rate offered to the offtaker is usually lower than the local utility retail density of the Fried constant. There is obtained by a set percent shared shared by the set of the s removed from the property. Contract terms purchase the system from the developer, or have the system removed from the property. Contract terms specify whether the offtaker or the developer will own and retire the associated RECs. Note that only RECs that have been retired can be used to claim renewable energy usage for carbon and renewable energy accounting purposes. There are two main types of physical PPAs

1. Onsite Physical PPAs: The offtaker provides physical space onsite or nearby for the developer to build, maintain, and operate renewable energy generation equipment. The generated electricity is delivered to the offtaker "behind the meter" through a direct connection (Figure 1). The offtaker's local



#### Power Purchase Agreements



#### Utility Supply Options





### Other Programs and Platforms for Renewable Energy

EPA's Green Power Partnership (GPP) [https://www.epa.gov/greenpower]	GREEN POWER PARTNERSHIP®	Center for Resource Solutions (CRS) [https://resource-solutions.org]	CRS
Clean Energy Buyers Association (CEBA) [ <u>https://cebuyers.org</u> ]	Clean Energy Buyers Association	Green-e Energy and Green-e Marketplace [ <u>https://green-</u> <u>e.org/programs/energy</u> ]	Green-e
Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DSIRE) [https://www.dsireusa.org]	DSIRE <sup>®</sup> NC CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CENTER	GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance [https://ghgprotocol.org/scope_2_g uidance]	GREENHOUSE GAS PROTOCOL
RE100 [https://www.there100.org]	RE100 CLIMATE GROUP	The Renewable Thermal Collaborative (RTC) [https://www.renewablethermal.org]	RENEWABLE THERMAL COLLABORATIVE
Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) [https://www.seia.org]	SEIA Solar Energy Industries Association®	American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) [https://acore.org]	ACCORE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON RENEWABLE ENERGY



#### Takeaway Notes







### **Questions?**





#### **Utility Bill Analysis Virtual Training** July 30 – September 3, 2025 Wednesdays from 10AM – 12:30PM ET

This training is designed to help manufacturers read, understand, and save money on their utility bills. Over this 6-week course, participants will learn about electricity, natural gas, and water billing. Detail on how each utility is produced, distributed, and sold provides context for rate structures and markets. Additional topics include metering, consumption, demand, demand response, power factor, billing, and analysis. Participants will also learn how to use DOE software tools including MEASUR and VERIFI as they collect and analyze their utility bills.

Week 1 – Electricity Markets, Rate Tariffs, and Consumption
Week 2 – Electricity Demand, Power Factor, and Load Factors
Week 3 – Electricity Demand Interval Data, Demand Management, and Cost
Week 4 – Natural Gas Billing and Markets
Week 5 – Water Billing and the True Cost of Water
Week 6 – Training Review and Case Studies



Register here!



# Renewable Energy Contracting Options and RECs Virtual Training

#### Aug 5 – September 9, 2025, | Tuesdays from 10AM – 12PM ET

This training is intended to help participants learn about the renewable energy markets and procurement strategies by providing background on renewable electricity technologies and inventory, as well as a wide range of products and purchasing options available to manufacturers. It explores purchasing options like PPAs and VPPAs, guidance on navigating voluntary markets, best practices from real-world case studies, and financing models for renewable electricity projects. Participants will also learn about the Procurement Analysis Tool (PAT).

- Week 1 Fundamentals Of Renewable Electricity And Emissions Inventory
- Week 2 Understanding The U.S. Electricity Markets And Procurement Roadmap
- Week 3 Purchasing Renewable Electricity: PPAs, VPPAs, and Other Supply Options
- Week 4 Navigating Voluntary Electricity Markets
- Week 5 Purchasing Renewable Electricity: Best Practices and Success Stories
- Week 6 Renewable Electricity Supply Options: Financing Models and Strategies



U.S. DEPARTMENT of **ENERGY** 







#### Workforce Development: Bootcamps



Feb 24 (Mon) to 27 (Thu) and Optional Science Tours on Feb 28 (Fri) Sep 29 (Mon) to Oct 2 (Thu) and Optional Science Tour on Oct 3 (Fri)

Sign up for 2025 Bootcamps here: https://bpebootcamp.ornl.gov/



### Thank you!

