

# Model Legislation for a Balanced and Effective Community Solar Program

## June 2024

The Coalition for Community Solar Access released a comprehensive and adaptable framework for legislators, policymakers, and stakeholders involved in community solar program design and implementation. The framework aims to support the creation of community solar programs that are inclusive, sustainable, and beneficial to all customers. **CCSA’s model legislation** provides clear legislative language for the technical and financial aspects of program design, while maintaining strong consumer protection and equitable access features throughout. Importantly, the model is adaptable and modular for states, allowing decisionmakers to easily choose the program design features that best address the goals of their particular state.



### Key Sections and Summaries

<p><b>Preamble</b></p>	<p><b>Intent and Vision:</b> Establishes the overarching goals of promoting clean energy, enhancing grid resilience, and ensuring that solar benefits are accessible to all, including low-income and underserved communities. It sets the stage for the legislative framework by highlighting the importance of community solar in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fostering economic growth.</p>
<p><b>Definitions</b></p>	<p><b>Clarity and Consistency:</b> Provides precise definitions for key terms used throughout the legislation, such as “Community Solar Facility,” “Subscriber,” and “Bill Credit.” This section ensures that all stakeholders have a common understanding of the terminology, which is crucial for effective implementation and regulation.</p>
<p><b>Establishment of a Community Solar Program</b></p>	<p><b>Program Structure:</b> Outlines the creation of a state-administered community solar program under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission. It specifies program goals, participation targets, and the roles of different stakeholders in developing, financing, and managing community solar facilities.</p>

<p><b>Billing and Crediting</b></p>	<p><b>Financial Mechanisms:</b> Describes the methods for allocating bill credits to subscribers based on their share of the community solar facility’s generation. It includes provisions for dual billing and net crediting, ensuring that subscribers receive the financial benefits of their participation.</p>
<p><b>Facilitation of Program Operations</b></p>	<p><b>Operational Efficiency:</b> Details the processes for efficient program administration, including subscriber data management, utility reporting requirements, and ensuring timely and accurate bill crediting. This section aims to streamline operations and reduce administrative burdens.</p>
<p><b>Project Siting</b></p>	<p><b>Location and Scale:</b> Sets guidelines for the siting of community solar facilities to maximize their benefits while minimizing land use conflicts. It includes provisions for colocation and the options available for preferred siting, such as brownfields, agrivoltaics and commercial rooftops.</p>
<p><b>Credit Value</b></p>	<p><b>Economic Viability:</b> Establishes the methodology for determining the value of bill credits, incorporating factors such as avoided energy costs, grid resilience benefits, and environmental impacts. This section ensures that the financial incentives are sufficient to attract investment and participation.</p>
<p><b>Market Monitoring and Consumer Protection</b></p>	<p><b>Transparency and Accountability:</b> Introduces measures for market monitoring, consumer protection, and enforcement of regulations. It includes requirements for subscriber organization registration, consumer disclosures, and regular reporting to ensure a fair and transparent market.</p>
<p><b>Interconnection Standards</b></p>	<p><b>Technical Requirements:</b> Addresses the technical and procedural requirements for connecting community solar facilities to the electric grid. It aims to streamline interconnection processes, reduce delays, and ensure compatibility with existing grid infrastructure.</p>
<p><b>Low and Moderate Income Program Guidelines</b></p>	<p><b>Equity and Inclusion:</b> Specifies guidelines for ensuring that low- and moderate-income households can participate in community solar programs. It includes income verification methods, participation targets, and minimum benefits to promote equity and inclusivity.</p>

**For assistance in using and adapting this model for your state, please contact CCSA at: [info@communitysolaraccess.org](mailto:info@communitysolaraccess.org)**

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