

## CEEPF Factsheet:

# New Administration Initiatives to Increase Solar Access & Jobs

Announced July 7, 2015

Since 2010, the average cost of a solar electric system has dropped by 50 percent, and in 2014, the solar industry added jobs 10 times faster than the rest of the economy. However, half of all US households and business rent or do not have adequate roof space for solar. These announcements will help scale deployment and expand access to solar for all Americans, particularly low- and moderate- income communities.

## Expanding Access to Solar Power:

### **National Community Solar Partnership**

- Support and technical assistance for states developing community solar programs from national laboratories, non-profit organizations, industry, financial institutions and other public-sector partners.
- New guide for community solar programs from DOE SunShot and NREL.
- Shared Renewables HQ website from Vote Solar provides state-by-state policy analysis and resources

### **Tripling the Renewable Energy Goal for Federally Subsidized Housing to 300 MW**

- Direct technical assistance from HUD and new online resources for affordable housing organizations.
- Toolkit for using Section 108 Community Development Block Grant funds for clean energy projects.
- New commitments from 22 affordable housing providers including Mercy Housing in Washington, DC.

### **Expanding Homeowner Access to Federal Loans for Solar and Energy-Efficiency Improvements**

- FHA will streamline and increase flexibility of the PowerSaver Policy for loans up to \$25,000.
- FHA clarifying policy to enable larger loans for solar systems, and increasing lender awareness.

### **\$520 million Committed by Philanthropic and Impact Investors, States, and Cities**

- To scale up solar and energy efficiency for low- and moderate- income households.

- DDOE commitment \$6 million in community solar for low-income residents this fall. Today's announcement builds on their existing initiative to install 130 solar panels on low-income homes in 250 days by September 30, 2015.

### **260 Solar Energy Projects Focused on Low- and Moderate- Income Communities**

- RE-volv aims to finance 200 community-based solar projects over 3 years through its crowd-funded "pay-it-forward" solar lease model.
- 30 new rural electric co-ops committed to install community solar projects by the end of 2016

## Solar Job Training:

### **Expansion of GRID Alternatives' SolarCorps Program**

- Through SolarCorps, 40 AmeriCorps members gain hands-on training for solar jobs, while helping low-income families reduce energy bills with on-site solar. SolarCorps will now be active nationwide, with additional federal funding and a matching commitment from SunEdison.
- Expands the previous goal of training 75,000 workers to enter the solar industry by 2020.

### **Expanding Solar Energy Education and Opportunities for Job Training**

- The new STEM, Energy, and Economic Development (SEED) initiative will include a focus on solar jobs.

### **Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA) Goal to be the Most Diverse Sector of the US Energy Industry**

- Numerous independent actions by solar companies to build a more inclusive solar workforce.