

30 Million Solar Rooftops: A Vision for an Equitable Economic Recovery Built on Climate Protection and Energy Democracy

The Impact

- ❖ Provide an immediate economic boost to communities across the country by providing solar to nearly one in four U.S. households
- ❖ Create millions of good-paying jobs installing solar.
- ❖ Cut carbon dioxide pollution by 100 million tons per year, about 1.5 percent of total annual U.S. CO2 emissions.
- ❖ Slash electricity bills by \$20 billion each year for low- and middle-income families, and key community institutions.
- ❖ Lower asthma and other respiratory illness rates caused by pollution from fossil fuel power plants.

The Program

Numerous federal programs and funds would facilitate construction of solar projects focused on serving vulnerable communities, particularly low-income Americans and people of color. The program would coordinate among federal, state, and local programs to remediate structural issues that prevent participation in rooftop solar and energy efficiency programs. It would also support community solar installations serving residential customers who cannot have solar onsite due to building ownership, shade, insufficient rooftop space, or other limitations. At least three-quarters of program investment would focus on these communities and, as possible, would enable solar ownership.

A part of the program would also facilitate solar access for small, independently-owned businesses and community-serving institutions, including nonprofits.

The Financing

To lower upfront costs, the federal government would permanently convert and extend the solar tax credit to a cash grant so that anyone could receive it. The program would expand Pay As You Save on-bill financing to enable solar capital investment and repayment as well as to facilitate coordinated investments in energy efficiency. Through a variety of federal agencies, the government would provide loan guarantees, grants, and subsidized financing. For example, federal energy assistance programs could be expanded to include solar, and U.S. DOE's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program could be expanded to provide capital for any eligible energy efficiency project done through this project, with repayment via electric bills.

The Workforce

Reaching the equivalent of 30 million solar roofs would require a fivefold expansion of existing distributed solar capacity. The program would focus on expanding the solar workforce with targeted training to overcome disparities in employment, including for people of color, low income folks, and formerly incarcerated individuals.

Putting solar on 30 million rooftops across the country (one in four households) would jump-start our economy, create millions of good jobs, save billions in lower energy bills, and promote equitable, thriving American communities.