

SunShot Solar Outreach  
Partnership:  
[Everything About Solar]

October 6, 2014

*Prepared by*



*With the support of*



## Solar Outreach Partnership

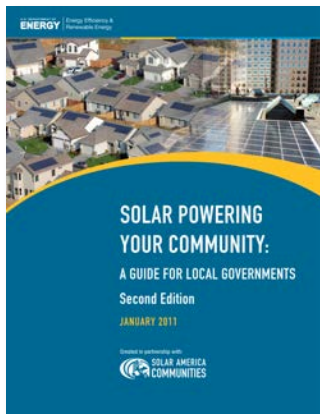
The U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership (SolarOPs) Program is empowering local governments to go solar. Comprised of experts in solar soft cost reduction strategies, the team's depth of expertise delivers actionable solar policies, programs and best practices specifically designed for local governments.

Working with local governments is a fundamental component of the SunShot Initiative. Through partnership workshops and e-learning activities, the SolarOPs team has reached more than 4,000 individuals in all 50 states, representing more than 1,500 local government entities. The partnership provides timely and actionable information to local governments and their key stakeholders in the forms of technical resources and complimentary technical assistance.

To find out more about the partnership or receive complimentary technical assistance, contact the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership by visiting <http://solaroutreach.org/ta> or emailing [solar-usa@iclei.org](mailto:solar-usa@iclei.org) with your request for assistance.

## Key Resources

SolarOPs in collaboration with California Center for Sustainable Energy (CCSE) has put together the following list of key resources that are featured in or highly relevant to the workshop.



**Solar Powering Your Community: A Guide for Local Governments**, by U.S. Department of Energy, January 2011 (view the full document at <http://tinyurl.com/n8ery9a>)

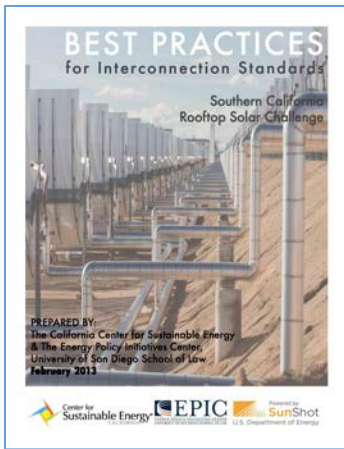
The U.S. Department of Energy developed this comprehensive resource to assist local governments and stakeholders in building sustainable local solar markets. The guide introduces a range of policy and program options that have been successfully field tested in cities and counties around the country.



**Brighter Future: A Study on Solar in U.S. Schools** by The Solar Foundation, September 2014 (view the full document at <http://tinyurl.com/l7l19fs>)

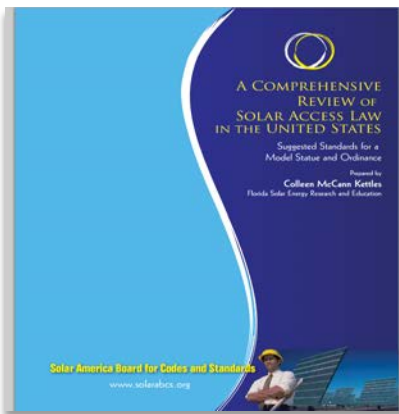
This is the first nationwide assessment of how solar energy helps to power schools in communities across America. Most importantly, the report shows that thousands of schools are already cutting their utility bills by

choosing solar, using the savings to pay for teacher salaries and textbooks. What's more, the report estimates that more than 70,000 additional schools would benefit by doing the same.



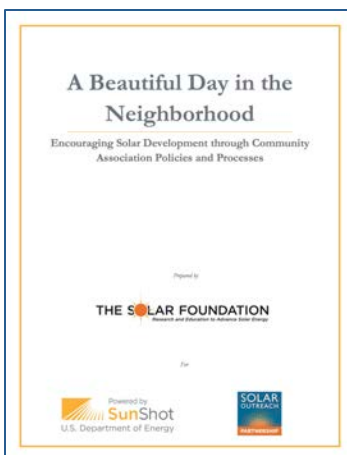
**Best Practices for Interconnection Standards** by The California Center for Sustainable Energy & The Energy Policy Initiatives Center, and University of San Diego School of Law, February 2013 (view the full document at <http://tinyurl.com/pwbqaf3>)

This report provides a summary of the best practices in the Net Energy Metering Standards and Interconnection Standards categories among the local utilities in the Southern California Rooftop Solar Challenge (SCRC) team.



**A Comprehensive Review of Solar Access Law in The United States: Suggested Standards for a Model Status and Ordinance** by Solar America Board for Codes and Standards, October 2008 (view the full document at <http://tinyurl.com/4ynpgpx>)

This report reviews the ability of existing law and regulation to protect solar access and recommends specific measures to improve solar access.



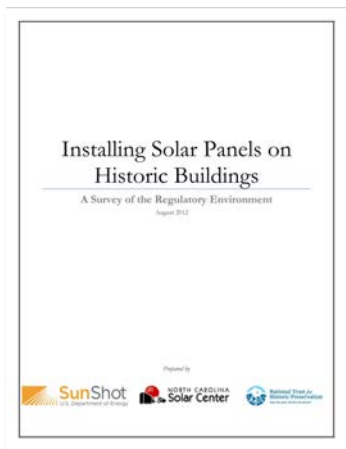
**A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood: Encouraging Solar Development through Community Association Policies and Processes** by The Solar Foundation, June 2013 (view the full document at <http://tinyurl.com/lb5vhbq>)

This guide, written for association boards of directors and architectural review committees, discusses the advantages of solar energy and examines the elements of state solar rights provisions designed to protect homeowner access to these benefits. It then presents a number of recommendations associations can use to help bring solar to their communities,



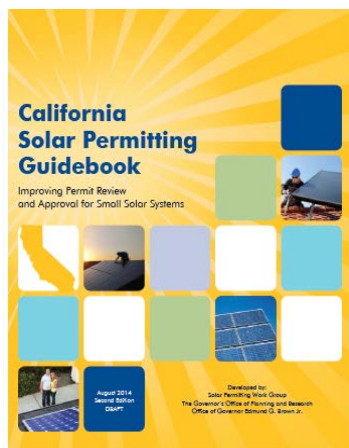
**Planning for Solar Energy** by the American Planning Association, April 2014 (view the full document at <http://tinyurl.com/ngn539b>)

Cities and counties looking for ways to promote solar energy use through planning and zoning is that there's no need to reinvent the wheel. The newly updated Planning Advisory Service(PAS) Essential Info Packet Planning and Zoning for Solar Energy from SolarOPs team member the American Planning Association shows precisely how communities across the country are putting the principles discussed in *Planning for Solar Energy* into practice.



**Installing Solar Panels on Historic Buildings: A Survey of the Regulatory Environment** by North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, August 2012 (view the full document at <http://tinyurl.com/ks8k4bv>)

Cultural resources such as historic buildings and districts occupy important place in the nation's built environment. This report provides a pathway to better integration of solar energy systems onto historic resources.



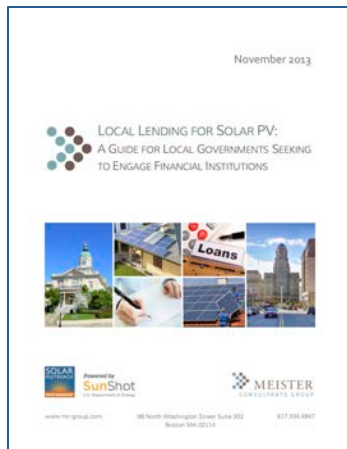
**California Solar Permitting Guidebook: Improving Permit Review and Approval for Small Solar Systems** by Solar Permitting Work Group, California Governor's Office of Planning and Research, August 2014 (view the full document at <http://tinyurl.com/lj2p5pp>)

The guidebook explains current requirements for solar PV installations, describes key steps in the permitting process, and recommends ways to improve local permitting. It also includes several template documents that local governments can customize for their own use to improve permitting. The guidebook can be helpful to a wide variety of parties, including local agency staff, solar contractors and property owners.



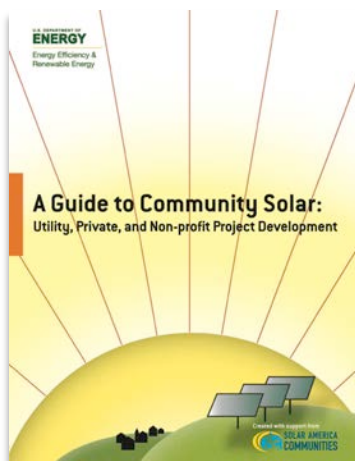
**Solar Energy & Resilience Planning: A Practical Guide for Local Governments** by Resilient Communities for America and ICLEI-USA, 2014 (view the full document at <http://www.icleiusa.org/solar-and-resilience-guidebook>)

This guidebook reviews various solar technologies that can be used in climate resiliency and emergency management contexts and dispels some of the most commonly held myths that can be a barrier to using solar to enhance resilience, while also covering finance mechanisms. The guidebook provides a host of examples of communities that have used solar to help prevent disruptions to the grid, improve emergency response capabilities in the event of a crisis, and recover more sustainably from disaster.



**Local Lending for Solar PV: A Guide for Local Governments Seeking to Engage Financial Institutions** by Meister Consultants Group, Inc., November 2013 (view the full document at <http://tinyurl.com/oehv92p>)

There is a growing opportunity for residents and small businesses to save money and mitigate the risks of fluctuating energy prices through the installation of on-site solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. However, the associated high upfront equipment and labor costs can prohibit more widespread adoption of the technology. Lending institutions have a significant opportunity to provide competitive debt financing options that offset this upfront cost and make solar installations accessible to a wider customer base. This guide aims to assist local governments in engaging lending institutions on financing residential and small commercial solar PV projects to increase the adoption of solar power in their communities



**A Guide to Community Solar: Utility, Private, and Non-profit Project Development** by National Renewable Energy Laboratory, November 2010 (view the full document at <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy11osti/49930.pdf>)

This guide is designed as a resource for those who want to develop community solar projects, from community organizers or solar energy advocates to government officials or utility managers. By exploring the range of incentives and policies while providing examples of operational community solar projects, this

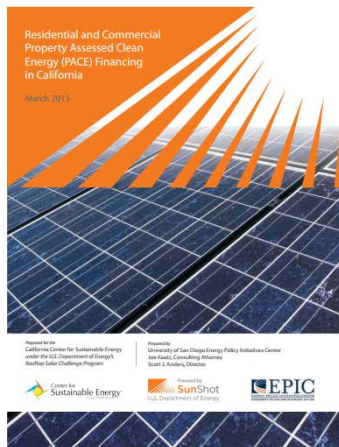


guide will help communities to plan and implement successful local energy projects. In addition, by highlighting some of the policy best practices, this guide suggests changes in the regulatory landscape that could significantly boost community solar installations across the country



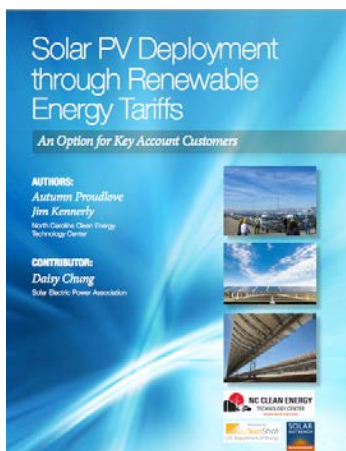
**The Solarize Guidebook: A Community Guide to Collective Purchasing of Residential PV Systems** by National Renewable Energy Laboratory, May 2012 (view the full document at <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy12osti/54738.pdf>)

This guidebook is intended to be a roadmap for project planners and solar advocates who want to create their own successful Solarize campaigns. It describes the key elements of the Solarize Portland campaigns and variations from projects across the country, along with lessons learned and planning templates.



**Residential and Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing in California** by the California Center for Sustainable Energy, March 2013 (view the full document at <http://tinyurl.com/lfbhrdz>)

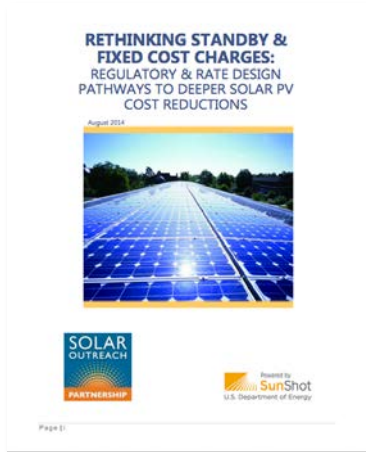
This report identifies and describes the current state of residential and commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing program in California, with an emphasis on the region covered by the Southern California Rooftop Solar Challenge. It focuses on PACE as a mechanism to increase the amount of rooftop solar systems installed, but also recognizes that these programs provide an effective means to finance energy and water efficiency projects.



**Renewable Energy Tariffs for Large Utility Customers: An Emerging Option to Encourage Greater Solar PV Development** by SolarOPs, September 2014 (view the full document at <http://tinyurl.com/ooxucdj>)

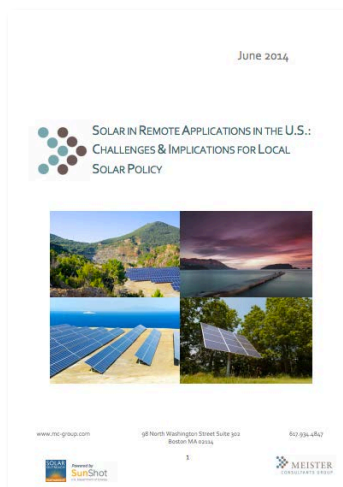
In this report, the NC Clean Energy Technology Center and the Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) examine the potential benefits to solar PV technology customers, utilities, and the public that can be achieved through renewable energy tariffs. They also lay out some key

considerations and emerging practices for renewable energy tariff design that allow these benefits to be realized.



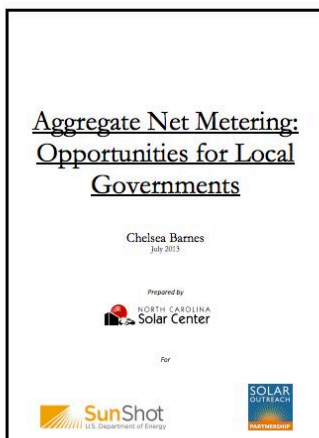
**Rethinking Standby & Fixed Cost Charges: Regulatory and Rate Design Pathways to Deeper Solar PV Cost Reductions** by SolarOPs, August 2014 (view the full document at <http://tinyurl.com/kyz4kfc>)

The report discusses and recommends an integrated utility cost recovery approach that avoids disproportionate burdens on solar PV and SunShot Initiative soft costs reduction efforts.



**Solar in Remote Applications in the U.S.: Challenges and Implications for Local Policy** by SolarOPs, June 2014 (view the full document at <http://tinyurl.com/lupghyc>)

This paper explores how policy makers and planners interested in furthering grid resilience and increasing reliance on renewable energy resources can learn from the opportunities and challenges facing remote communities as they work to shift their generation mix to higher levels of solar PV.



**Aggregate Net Metering: Opportunities for Local Governments** by the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center, July 2013 (view the full document at <http://tinyurl.com/l22ke4r>)

This report summarizes the variations in state laws that determine whether or not meter aggregation is an option for local governments, explores the unique opportunities that it can extend to public-sector PV projects, and describes the important details that must be considered when promoting or pursuing such a policy.