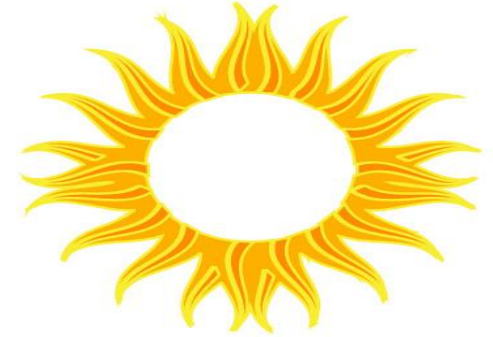NEW YORK STATE
ENERGY
DEMOCRACY
ALLIANCE

CoShareNYS – A Member-based Network of Community Organizations and Local Energy Practitioners Moving Community Shared Solar Forward in New York State

Adam Flint, Coordinator

Community Owned Shared Renewables (CoShare)

NY Energy Democracy Alliance

CoShare NYS

Cosharenys.org

The NY Energy Democracy Alliance (NYEDA)

- Began on the eve of 2014 NYS climate march
- 15+ member organizations, 25+collaborating groups
- Focuses on leveraging & influencing Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) process.
- Advances a just and participatory transition to a resilient, localized, and democratically controlled clean energy economy in New York State.
- Envisions a renewable energy system that is led by and prioritizes solutions for low- and moderate-income communities and communities of color who are most impacted by our current energy and economic system.
- Transforms our communities' relationship to power through advocacy, organizing, job creation, coalition-building, policy research, and public education for an equitable, sustainable energy future.

CoShareNYS.org
Community Owned Shared Renewables

Image from http://votesolar.org/campaigns/shared-solar/

Overview

1. What is CoShare and what do we do?

2. Business models: key questions, examples

3. Phases of community shared solar (CSS) project

4. CoShare work spaces – focus on CoShareNYS

5. How you can get involved in CoShare

What is CoShare?

- An initiative of the New York Energy Democracy Alliance (NYEDA).

- A member-based network of community organizations and local energy practitioners

- Working to advance locally controlled, community-based shared renewable energy projects across New York State.

- Currently focused on supporting community shared solar (CSS) development.

Why did NYEDA create CoShare?

- NYEDA and many of its members worked with the coalition led by Vote Solar that successfully advocated for regulation to enable CSS in NY.

- No business model development by NYS for CSS.

- Begin CoShare to create a shared knowledge base and support for community based development.

Why Community owned?

- Our existing energy system is corporate controlled, with most benefits going to shareholders.

- New York's emerging clean energy transformation could easily go the same way.

- Community owned energy projects create more local jobs, economic benefit, and can be a cornerstone of a just transition to an affordable and climate friendly energy system.

What CoShare Does

- Disseminate & Discuss CSS
  - Best practices, case studies, development support
  - Lessons learned& Cautionary tales
  - Participate in other CSS spaces: e.g. National Community Solar Partnership

- Collaborate and partner with key stakeholders, agencies, and organizations.

- Advocate for policies and regulations to support community ownership or control of CSS projects that broaden access to solar.
  - e.g. DPS - CDGLI collaborative

CSS Development Elements

- Project finance options (task force, webinar, resources)

- Navigating Interconnection (task force, webinar, resources)

- Choosing a cloud customer management partner

- Choosing your business model.

- Project sites – Identifying, Screening, leasing.

- The shared solar development process, step by step.

Business Model Choice is key

- Who will be the owners of the system?

- Where will development & construction capital come from?

- What size will the project be?

- Do you have an effective early viability screen for property?

- Who will the members be and on what terms?

- Who will operate and maintain the system and serve the members over 20 years?

Examples - CoopPower.Coop

Cooperatively-Owned Shared Solar

Model 1	Model 2
"Multi-Class Member Financed"	**"Tax Equity Flip"**
Tax Credit: To Members	**Tax Credit:** To Investors
Project Size: Small or Large	**Project Size:** Large. 500 kW+ bundled with others
Accessibility: > Moderate Income. Low Income w/ peer financing.	**Accessibility:** Low and Moderate Incomes.
Electricity Discount: Significant. 20 – 40% over 20 years.	**Electricity Discount:** Good. 10 – 20% over 20 years.

CSS Development Phases

Phase 1 -- Project Development
CSS Project Business Plan
Incorporate Project LLC
Site Identification & Acquisition
CSS Customer & Investor Identification
Engineering, Procurement, Construction (EPC) Company Identification - Preference for Local / Regional Partner
Utility Interconnection: Pre-Application
Initial Environmental Assessment Site Walk
Utility Interconnection: Application - Can take significant time for utilities to turn around -- if risk capital is available sooner, best to start asap.
Utility Interconnection: System Impact Study - Typically only triggered for projects >500 kW
Phase 2 -- Site Development
Select EPC (Engineering, Procurement & Construction)
Geotechnical Review
Wetlands Flagging & Review
Topographical Mapping
Conservation Commission Approval
Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP)
Misc. Documents for Planning Board / Zoning Board Approval
Misc. Documents for Building Permit
Phase 3 -- Project Development & Construction
Project Management
Finalize Project Financing
Finalize Quotes for O&M and Project Insurance
Build Project
Customer Acquisition - Sign subscriber / purchasing agreements
Project Commissioning
Phase 4 -- Project Life Management
Ongoing Customer Management
Ongoing O&M - Preference for Local / Regional Partner

CoShare Work Spaces

- Statewide & Regional Forums & Meetings
  -CNY Solar summit March 18 Led By CNY Regional Planning & Dev. Board

- Webinars
  - Interconnection April 27, 1-2 led by NYSEIA
  - Solar Land leasing late April, with NYSEIA and stakeholders

- Conference calls
  - Twice monthly Wednesdays 1-2. Next one April 13

- CoShare Listserve
  - nys-community-owned-shared-renewables@googlegroups.com

- On-line toolbox
  - Forum, projects, fileshare, chat, more
  - *access currently limited to npf/community orgs*

COSHARE NYS

A COLLABORATIVE NETWORK OF NEW YORK STATE COMMUNITY SHARED RENEWABLE ENERGY PRACTITIONERS

Community Shared Renewables NYS (COSHARE NYS) is a member-based network of civil society organizations and local energy practitioners that are working to advance locally controlled, community-based shared renewable energy projects across New York State. This COSHARE NYS web platform enables members to freely communicate and collaborate around individual projects, and to share experience, expertise and lessons learned for the collective benefit of the entire network.

Organizations and individuals who are interested in joining the growing COSHARE NYS network are encouraged to complete a membership request by clicking on the 'JOIN' page above.

COSHARE NYS is an initiative of the New York Energy Democracy Alliance (NYEDA). The COSHARE NYS web platform is maintained by NYEDA member Solar One, a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Easy-to-use, off-the-shelf social network architecture: Membership, Profiles, Friending and Groups

⚲ MEMBERS AROUND THE WORLD   **👥 SELECT MEMBERS ▾**

EDITOR

CHRISTOPHER NEIDL

active 38 seconds ago

→ Brooklyn, New Yor

k

ADMINISTRATOR

— BEZERBEZER —

active 1 minute ago

→ New York

ADD FRIEND

CONTRIBUTOR

——— TESTER ———

active 2 hours, 11 minutes ago

FRIENDSHIP REQUESTED

Any COSHARE Member can form or participate in multiple **groups** based on areas of interest, related interests, geography, etc.

GROUPS

Search Groups...

👥 **2**
ALL GROUPS

♥ **2**
MY GROUPS

➕
CREATE A GROUP

THE POLICY GROUP ·

active 1 week, 1 day ago

We talk about policy, and try and organize people to do great things here in New York

– LEISURE CAUCUS –

active 1 week, 2 days ago

An important meeting of the minds. Text text text text text text text text text text text text

MEMBERS CAN LEAD DISCUSSIONS ABOUT CSS TOPICS THROUGH THE OPEN **FORUM** PAGE

FORUMS

SEARCH

COSHARE NYS › Forums

FORUM	TOPICS	POSTS	FRESHNESS
FINANCING	0	0	No Topics
PRIVATE: PERMITTING An important meeting of the minds. Text text text text text text text text text text text text text .	0	0	No Topics
TECHNICAL ISSUES This is a forum for the discussion of Technical Issues.	1	1	1 week, 2 days ago bezerbezer

Christopher Neidl:
3:13

Also, I'm not able to download any of those documents

Christopher Neidl:
3:15

TEST

Christopher Neidl:
3:15

Total users: **3**

SEND

Enter message here

──── WHO'S ONLINE ────

The **Sidebar** lets members know who else is online at any given moment, and to live chat in groups
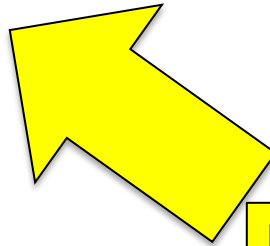
Live chat particularly useful for members to communicate during conference calls. File upload and sharing capability built in.

Members can start **project pages** to post information about existing projects, share project-related documents, and receive comment feedback and inquiries from other members

How you can get involved

- Email nyenergydemocracy@gmail.com to join the COSHARE listserv.

- Join our twice monthly conference calls every other Wednesday, 1-2pm. Next Call April 13

- Join a task force: Interconnection, Finance, more to come. . .

- Join and contribute to the CoShare toolbox.

- Help resource our work: expertise, resources, funding

EnergyDemocracyNY.org

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