

# MSEIA SOLAR REPORT FOR NEW JERSEY JULY 2016 SUMMARY

#### **Strategic Highlights**

**Pennsylvania bill seeks to "close the border" on SREC purchases.** Senate Bill <u>SB1343</u> was introduced into the Senate on July 28. This bill directs electric utilities and competitive suppliers to purchase their credits created within Pennsylvania, thereby limiting the available supply of these SRECs. For solar developers, this legislation will have a positive economic impact for projects within Pennsylvania, but may harm projects located outside the state...

**District of Columbia bill altering RPS Standards becomes law.** District of Columbia Mayor Bowser <u>signed</u> Bill No. <u>B21-0650</u> into law on July 25. Of note, and among other actions, the law raises the renewable portfolio and solar requirements to 50% and 5% by the year 2032, respectively; increases financial penalties for electricity suppliers who fail to comply with the renewable energy portfolio standard for the applicable year; and establishes a program within the Department of Energy and the Environment to assist low-income homeowners with installing solar systems on their homes. The law will take effect upon a 30-day period of congressional review...

**The Obama Administration's new initiative to promote community solar**. On July 19, the Administration, in partnership with six federal agencies, <u>announced</u> the Clean Energy Savings for All Americans Initiative in an effort to increase installations of solar power for low-income households 10-fold to one gigawatt by 2020. Among other actions, the initiative establishes the "Community Solar Challenge." Through the Department of Energy, low-income communities will receive up to \$100,000 to develop their own models to increase solar access...

A first-of-its-kind consumer guide to community solar is released. On July 1, the Solar Energy Industries Association and the Coalition for Community Solar Access jointly released the Residential Consumer Guide to Community Solar, a primer for consumers informing them about the benefits of community solar as well as tips on how to be an informed consumer, questions solar consumers should ask before entering into an agreement and links to other resources...

**Nevada approves net metering for the ballot**. On July 12, the Nevada Secretary of State's Office qualified the Solar Rate Restoration Referendum for the ballot for November of 2016. Voters may have the opportunity to restore Nevada's net metering program to more favorable rates for all rooftop customers. This measure still must proceed through a legal challenge currently in process before the state Supreme Court...

**State legislature calendar update:** The Delaware General Assembly adjourned on July 1, 2016. All pending bills are effectively now dead and may or may not be re-introduced in the next session. The Legislature will convene its next session in 2017...





Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
NJ Utilities SREC II Financing Program Opened on 12/17/2015	Utilities Atlantic City Electric, Jersey Central Power & Light, and Rockland Electric Company have issued a Request for Proposals ("RFP") to select solar projects with which to enter into contracts for the purchase of SRECs.	Opportunity to sell SRECs in the NJ market.	Consolidated bid applications were due (7/8/16).  The program manager was directed to submit Round 4 recommendations to the BPU (7/28/16).	A BPU order is expected by 8/24/16, with final awards from Round 4 to be announced over the following days.



Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
NJ Office of Clean Energy Programs (NJCEP) Net Metering and Interconnection Standards (NMIX) Working Group  Opened on 09/16/2015	Stakeholder working group that meets regularly to discuss and resolve issues related to net metering and interconnection standards.	Opportunity to gain insight into net metering and interconnection issues in NJ, and propose other issues for discussion and resolution.	Electric utilities released a position statement on the handling of mixed generation (net-metering eligible and ineligible generation types) behind a single meter (9/16/15). Installation of mixed generation can be accomplished by: (1) installing operation controls on the generation or (2) installing metering on the noneligible generation to algorithmically differentiate between eligible and non-eligible generation.  Working group meeting held (9/17/15). Among other issues, the following was discussed: (1) an update on the implementation of the EDC's "Mixed Generation Proposal for Interconnection with NJ Class I RE"; (2) utility ACE's efforts to maintain established timelines for interconnection and permission to operate rules; and (3) EDC update on draft revised interconnection agreement forms.  Working group met (12/15/15).  Meeting handouts now available here.	Awaiting next action.





Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
NJ Office of Clean Energy Programs (NJCEP) New Jersey Solar Installation Update  Opened on 09/01/2015	NJCEP's monthly update on the state's solar installation capacity.	Market intelligence.	NJ Clean Energy Program issued solar activity reports for 6/16 (7/25/16 Installation Report, Pipeline Report).	Awaiting next solar activity reports.
NJ Office of Clean Energy Programs (NJCEP) New Jersey SREC Trading Statistics  Opened on 09/01/2015	New Jersey monthly reporting on SREC pricing data based on prices reported by registered SREC account holders.  The value of the solar alternative compliance payment for Energy Year 2016 is \$323.	Intelligence on SREC pricing.	Monthly SREC trading statistics issued for June 2016:  209,720 SRECs were issued; 300,044 SRECs were traded; The weighted average SREC price for Energy Year 2016 so far is \$229.90/ MWh.	Awaiting next month's (July) New Jersey SREC Trading Statistics.



Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
SREC Reporting Program Stakeholder Announcement Opened on 06/23/2016	Applied Energy Group (AEG), in its role as the SREC Reporting Program (SRP) administrator has scheduled a meeting to seek input regarding future solar reports. The goal of the meeting is to have an open discussion on the current reporting structure and to receive input from the solar industry on the data that would be most useful to include in the future reports.	SREC reporting gives solar developers a clear understanding of the current market in New Jersey.	Meeting held (6/28/16).	Awaiting next action.



Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
BPU Docket Nos. Q016040352 and Q016040353  Opened on 05/31/2016	BPU Clean Energy Staff has made its annual straw proposal, recommending the funding level for FY17 to be \$344.645 million, the same level as FY16. Proposed programs include: residential energy efficiency (including HVAC), low income customer energy conservation, commercial and industrial energy efficiency, state building energy efficiency, economic development initiatives (including Edison Innovation Clean Energy Manufacturing Fund, Green Growth Fund, and Large Scale CHP program), distributed energy resources (including CHP/fuel cells, biomass, and microgrid), and the SREC registration program.	Insight into FY17 clean energy programs managed by the state.	Docket was on the agenda for 7/29/16 board meeting. No orders were issued in this matter.	Awaiting next action.



Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
Senate Bill S2276 (Bob Smith)  Opened on 05/23/2016	Would establish the "New Jersey Solar Energy Study Commission" and modify the State's solar renewable energy portfolio standards. The commission would include the BPU President, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, and the Director of the Division of Rate Counsel; a representative of the BPU Clean Energy Program; two members of the Senate; two members of the General Assembly; one public member appointed by the President of the Senate; one public member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and 13 public members appointed by the Governor, representing various interests including the State's four electric public utilities, environmental conservation, residential solar energy development, grid-connected solar energy development, grid-connected solar energy development, solar energy development, energy storage, the academic and business communities, and the Retail Electric Supply Association.  Continued on next page	Would provide a small but meaningful increase in midterm solar requirements, improving the market for new solar projects and likely SRECs, but perhaps more significantly, the proposed commission could make dramatic longterm changes to the state solar market.	A3918 was introduced into the Assembly and referred to the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee (6/20/16).  S2276 was passed by Senate (6/27/16).  S2276 was received in the Assembly and referred to Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee (6/27/16).	Awaiting a vote from the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee on S2276 and on A3918.





Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
Senate Bill S2276 (Bob Smith) (cont.)	The commission would study all aspects of New Jersey's solar energy generation industry, and make findings and recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on how the use of solar energy could be expanded.  Would also raise the solar carveout under the state RPS, from 3.20% in Energy Year 2018 to 3.28%; from 3.29% in Energy 2019 to 3.55%; from 3.380% in Energy Year 2020 to 3.83%; and 3.470% in Energy Year 2021 to 4.10%. Additionally, the commission would be required to recommend carve-out percentages for 2022 and beyond.			
	Cross-filed with <u>Assembly Bill A3918</u> .			



Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
Senate Bill S2275 (Bob Smith)  Opened on 05/23/2016	This bill establishes the "Neighborhood Solar Energy Investment Program," effectively allowing community solar projects. Consumers that seek to invest in a solar project would be compensated by a bill credit (kWh), provided that the credit could not exceed 100% of the customer's previous year annual usage.	Would allow the development of community solar projects in New Jersey, though the bill leaves a number of key policy decisions unmade and left to the BPU.	Introduced and referred to Senate Environment and Energy Committee (5/23/16).	Awaiting committee hearing.



Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
Assembly Bill A3746 (McKeon)  Opened on 05/19/2016	This bill expands net metering aggregation to all customers and provides a credit for excess electricity generated by net metering aggregation customers at the full retail electricity rate. Under current law, net metering aggregation is only available to a customer that is a State entity, school district, county, county agency, county authority, municipality, municipal agency, or municipal authority. In addition, under current law, net metering aggregation customers are credited for the excess electricity they generated at the lower, wholesale electricity rate is the rate at which a basic generation service provider or electric power supplier purchases electricity. The full retail electricity rate is the rate at which an electric power supplier or electric public utility sells electricity to its customers. Finally, the bill requires the board to create a standard agreement for net metering aggregation and make the agreement available on its Internet website.	Net metering aggregation allows customers with multiple meters (e.g., a corporate campus with multiple buildings) to use excess electricity generated behind one of its meters to offset usage behind another of its meters. For larger customers, allowing net metering aggregation improves the economics of distributed generation.	Introduced and referred to Assembly Telecom and Utilities Committee (5/19/16).	Awaiting action from the Assembly Telecom and Utilities Committee.



Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
BPU Docket No. E016050412  Opened on 05/10/2016	PSE&G filed petition for approval by the BPU of an extension of its "Solar 4 All" program, which the utility says would result in the addition of 100MW of new solar capacity constructed in New Jersey over the next four years. the focus would be on building capacity on landfill and brownfield sites in the state. PSE&G is seeking recovering of almost \$300 million over a five-year period. According to the utility, "the NJBPU initially approved the program in 2009 for 80MW-dc and extended it in 2013 for an additional 45MW-dc of solar capacity. The program currently has 115MW-dc in service through 174,000 pole attached solar units and 28 centralized solar projects, which is enough to power just over 18,000 average-size homes annually. The remaining 10MW-dc of the currently approved 125MW-dc total will be in service by the end of 2016."	PSE&G connects solar to the grid on behalf of all ratepayers, effectively creating a situation in which it is acting as a generator and getting full cost recovery from ratepayers. This program, while in force for several years, nevertheless remains a concerning example of skewed competitive markets that favor utilities over third-party suppliers.	PSE&G filed petition (5/10/16).	Awaiting next action.



Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
Senate Bill S2109 (Smith, Bob)  Opened on 05/02/2016	This bill expands net metering aggregation to all customers and provides a credit for excess electricity generated by net metering aggregation customers at the full retail electricity rate. Under current law, net metering aggregation is only available to a customer that is a State entity, school district, county, county agency, county authority, municipality, municipal agency, or municipal authority. In addition, under current law, net metering aggregation customers are credited for the excess electricity they generated at the lower, wholesale electricity rate. The wholesale electricity rate is the rate at which a basic generation service provider or electric power supplier purchases electricity. The full retail electricity rate is the rate at which an electric power supplier or electric public utility sells electricity to its customers. Finally, the bill requires the board to create a standard agreement for net metering aggregation and make the agreement available on its Internet website. <i>Cross-filed with Assembly Bill A3746</i> .	Net metering aggregation allows customers with multiple meters (e.g., a corporate campus with multiple buildings) to use excess electricity generated behind one of its meters to offset usage behind another of its meters. For larger customers, allowing net metering aggregation improves the economics of distributed generation.	S2109 was introduced into the Senate and referred to Senate Environment and Energy Committee (5/2/16).  A3746 was introduced into the Assembly, and referred to the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee (5/19/16).	Awaiting the committees' action on both bills.





Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
Senate Bill S2029 (Smith, Greenstein)  Opened on 04/18/2016	This bill makes clear that homeowners' associations in common interest communities cannot prohibit the installation of solar collectors on the roof of any single family home or any townhouse located within such a community.	Would ensure that potential customers are not restricted from solar panel installation by homeowners' associations.	S2029 was introduced into the Senate and referred to the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee (4/18/16).	Awaiting committee action.
Senate Bill S1887 (Doherty) Opened on 03/10/2016	This bill narrows the definition of "inherently beneficial" in municipal land use law so that wind and solar facilities are only included under the definition if located on or above a parking lot, rooftop, or brownfield, and not within agricultural land or open space.	This bill would significantly limit the availability of greenfield opportunities for renewable energy projects.	Introduced and referred to Senate Environment and Energy Committee (3/10/16).	Awaiting committee hearing.
Assembly Bill A3072 (Bucco)  Opened on 02/18/2016	Requires establishment of regulations for solar panel installation, maintenance, and education, to be developed by the Commissioner of Community Affairs.	Regulatory barriers to solar panel deployment.	A3072 introduced and referred to Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee (2/16/16).	Awaiting committee hearing.





Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
Senate Bill S1570 (Smith)  Opened on 02/16/2016	This bill, as amended on 6/16/16, authorizes municipalities to provide for public or private financing of renewable energy systems, energy produced by such systems, energy efficiency improvements, energy storage, microgrids, water conservation, storm shelter construction, and flood and hurricane resistance projects through the use of voluntary special assessments on real property, thereby expanding the "clean energy special assessment," and renaming it the "PACE special assessment. "Under the bill, owners of industrial, agricultural, commercial, residential property with five or more dwelling units, and property owned by a tax-exempt or nonprofit entity such as a school, hospital, institution of higher education, or religious institution may participate in the program.  Cross-filed with Assembly Bill A2080 (Mukherji as primary sponsor and seven co-sponsors).	Would provide additional support for large-scale distributed generation for C&I and multifamily customers, as well as CHP and microgrid projects.	A2080 passed the Assembly with amendments (6/27/16). See the amendments here. Of note, and among other amendments, this amended bill now includes: (1) a change in the definition of PACE project to include financing of energy storage and microgrid projects and also eliminates purchase contracts, leases, and power purchase agreements; (2) it change the definition of "property" to limit the residential aspect of the program to residential properties with five or more dwelling units, and to include property owned by tax-exempt or nonprofit entities such as schools, hospitals, institutions of higher education, and religious institutions; A2080 was introduced into the Senate (6/30/16).	S1570 was reported out of a Senate Committee and awaits consideration by the Senate floor.  A2080 awaits assignment to a Senate Committee.



Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
Senate Bill S1441 (Bucco) Opened on 02/16/2016	Requires establishment of regulations for solar panel installation, maintenance, and education, to be developed by the Commissioner of Community Affairs.  Cross-filed with Assembly Bill A3072.	Regulatory barriers to solar panel deployment.	S1441 introduced and referred to Senate Environment and Energy Committee (2/16/16).	Awaiting committee hearing.
Senate Bill S1707 (Smith, Bob)  Opened on 02/16/2016	Would increase state RPS requirements, Class I renewable energy requirement would increase once every five energy years between energy years 2015 and 2050, from 11% to 80%.  As amended: As amended, the percentage of electricity sold in the State that is from Class I renewable energy is to increase once every five energy years between energy years 2017 and 2052, still from 11% to 80%.  Cross-filed with Assembly Bill A1759.	Would significantly increase demand for renewable energy in the state.	Passed Senate 23-15 (3/14/16).  Introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee (3/14/16).	Awaiting Assembly committee hearing.



Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
BPU Docket No. Q016020106 Opened on 02/10/2016	BPU's consideration of implementing Section 48:3-87(r) of the Solar Act (signed into law in 2012), this section directs the BPU to govern grid supply solar applications submitted on or after 6/1/16.	Makes substantive changes to solar regulations in New Jersey.	Comments on the proposed amendments were due (5/6/16).	Awaiting next action.
BPU Docket No. Q016020130  Opened on 02/10/2016	BPU's consideration of implementing Section 48:3-87(r) of the Solar Act (signed into law in 2012), this section directs the BPU to govern grid supply solar applications submitted on or after 6/1/16.	Makes substantive changes to solar regulations in New Jersey.	Proposed amendments published in the <i>New Jersey Register</i> (3/7/16).  Rate Counsel filed comments (5/6/16).  BPU issued order (5/25/16) approving Staff-recommended process for parties to indicate their interest in building grid-level solar projects.	The new process is in effect as of 6/1/16.  Potential applicants should send email to Staff by 4:00 p.m. ET on 7/15/16 with their contact information and facility identification with the one-page expression of interest form (p.8 of the document at the link) attached as PDF.



Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
Assembly Bill A2788 (Benson) Opened on 02/08/2016	Provides that solar and photovoltaic energy facilities and structures on farmland are not an inherently beneficial use, for purposes of zoning approvals.  Cross-filed with Senate Bill \$865	This bill could raise barriers to deployment of solar PV panels on farms and other land zoned for agricultural use.	A2788 was introduced and referred to Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee (2/8/16).	Awaiting committee action.
Senate Bill SB984 (Smith, Bob)  Opened on 02/04/2016	This bill establishes a Solar Roof Installation Warranty Program within the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. The purpose of the program is to provide a source of indemnification to commercial, industrial, and institutional building owners who install solar photovoltaic equipment on their building roofs but are unable to obtain sufficient warranty coverage against damage to those roofs resulting from such installations.  Cross-filed with Assembly Bill A2446.	Provides assurance to property owners concerned about the risk from rooftop PV installations.	Passed by the Senate, 23-11 (2/11/16).  S984 was received in the Assembly and referred to the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee (2/16/16).	S984 is awaiting a hearing in the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee.



Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
Assembly Bill 1672 (Schaer) Opened on 01/27/2016	This bill establishes the "Neighborhood Solar Energy Investment Program," effectively allowing community solar projects. Consumers that seek to invest in a solar project would be compensated by a bill credit (kWh), provided that the credit could not exceed 100% of the customer's previous year annual usage.	Would allow the development of community solar projects in New Jersey, though the bill leaves a number of key policy decisions unmade and left to the BPU.	Reported favorably from the Assembly Telecommunications & Utilities Committee (2/4/16).	Awaiting Senate floor vote.



Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
Assembly Bill A594 (Lagana)  Opened on 01/27/2016	This bill amends current law concerning the exemption from taxation of property with a renewable energy system serving onsite buildings to establish a uniform property tax exemption rate for "commercial renewable energy systems," defined in the bill as systems producing renewable energy onsite for uses other than to provide the electrical, heating, cooling, or general energy needs of onsite residential, commercial, industrial, or mixed use buildings. Under the bill, real property on which a certified commercial renewable energy system is located is exempt from property taxation, and instead is subject to a uniform tax rate. The bill provides that the property has an assessed value equal to the assessed valuation of the real property without the commercial renewable energy system included, with the assessment due for the commercial renewable energy system calculated as follows:	Relates to property taxation of commercial renewable energy systems.	Introduced and referred to Assembly Telecommunications & Utilities Committee (1/27/16)	Awaiting committee hearing.





Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
Assembly Bill A594 (Lagana) (cont.)	\$7,000 for each 1,000 kilowatts of direct current capacity, or its equivalent, for the first year of commercial operation of the system, increasing by one percent in each subsequent year of commercial operation and until decommissioning of the system. The bill does not apply to commercial renewable energy systems that were commercially operational or conditionally approved by the Board of Public Utilities prior to the date of enactment of the bill.			
Senate Bill S612 (Addiego)  Opened on 01/27/2016	This bill provides priority status to a solar generation system that is installed on the property of a NJ state or municipal entity (including school districts).  Cross-filed with Assembly Bill A1686.	Would be a boon for projects that are for public customers, but could put significant blockages in the queue for interconnection by residential systems.	Introduced and referred to Senate Energy & Environment Committee (1/12/16).	Awaiting committee hearing.





Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
Assembly Bill A210 [DeAngelo, Gusciora, Benson]  Opened on 01/27/2016	This bill makes clear that homeowners' associations in common interest communities cannot prohibit the installation of solar collectors on the roof of any single family home or any townhouse located within such a community.  Cross-filed with Senate Bill \$2029.	Would ensure that potential customers are not restricted from solar panel installation by homeowners' associations.	A210 was favorably reported by the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee (2/4/16).	Awaiting Assembly floor vote.
Assembly Bill A1686  Opened on 01/27/2016	This bill provides priority status to a solar generation system that is installed on the property of a NJ state or municipal entity (including school districts).  Cross-filed with Senate Bill <u>S612</u> .	Would be a boon for projects that are for public customers, but could put significant blockages in the queue for interconnection by residential systems.	A1686 introduced and referred to Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee (1/12/16).	Awaiting committee hearings.



Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
Senate Bill S865 (Greenstein)  Opened on 01/12/2016	Provides that solar and photovoltaic energy facilities and structures on farmland are not an inherently beneficial use, for purposes of zoning approvals.  Cross-filed with Assembly Bill A2788.	This bill could raise barriers to deployment of solar PV panels on farms and other land zoned for agricultural use.	S865 was introduced and referred to the Senate Environment and Energy Committee (1/12/16).	Awaiting committee action.
Senate Bill S364 (Codey) Opened on 01/12/2016	Would allow municipal electric utilities to install solar generation systems on land reserved for conservation and recreation purposes, subject to significant conditions.  Cross-filed with A2412	Marginally expands potential opportunities with municipal customers for solar developers.	S364 was introduced and referred to the Senate Energy & Environment Committee (1/12/16).	Awaiting committee hearings.



Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
Senate Bill S772 (Smith)  Opened on 01/12/2016	<ul> <li>Would require an electric utility to enter into long-term (10-20 year) contracts for the purchase of Class I renewable energy certificates (RECs). The Class I RECs purchased would be equal to:</li> <li>10 percent of the Class I RECs that the electric utility is required to purchase in energy year 2016;</li> <li>20 percent of the Class I RECS that the electric utility is required to purchase in energy year 2018, and</li> <li>30 percent of the Class I REC that the electric public utility is required to purchase in energy year 2020 and in every energy year 2020 and in every energy year thereafter.</li> <li>Any cost or revenue loss incurred by an electric utility under these requirements would be recoverable in base rates.</li> </ul>	Mandated, long-term, rate-recoverable contracts between utilities and REC generators would significantly undermine the competitive energy market in New Jersey, but also could provide opportunities to sell RECs.	Introduced and referred to Senate Energy and Environment Committee (1/12/16).	Awaiting committee hearing.



Reference No.	Description	Why It Matters	Most Recent Action	Next Action
Senate Bill S151 (Madden) Opened on 01/12/2016	Requires BPU to provide grants (from Societal Benefits Charge funds) to customers for the cost of purchase and installation of "revenue-grade system output" electric meters, which have been required since 2012 for customers that want to install solar PV systems on their property.	Would remove an existing disincentive for customers to seek solar PV for their homes.	Introduced and referred to Senate Energy & Environment Committee (1/12/16).	Awaiting committee hearing.



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