



AB 1990 Solar for All:

Community based renewable energy projects that create local jobs, build strong neighborhoods, and gives communities control over their energy future.

Frequently Ask Questions

What does AB 1990 do?

Solar for All (AB 1990) is a pilot program that will do three things:

1. Build 375 megawatts (MW) of solar projects specifically in disadvantaged communities – through on-site distributed generation (DG).
2. Provide opportunities to building owners to be energy producers – through a Feed in Tariff (FiT).
3. Create local employment opportunities – through a local hire clause.

How does Solar for All work?

AB 1990 is designed to grow in scale over time, utilizes proven and tested policy and regulatory mechanisms, specifically Distributed Generation and a Feed in Tariff.

What is a Feed in Tariff and how will it work in AB1990?

Generally FiT's require utilities to offer long-term, fixed-rate contracts to renewable energy producers. Under AB 1990, utilities would purchase electricity from commercial building owners with rooftop solar in disadvantaged communities at a price sufficient to cover the costs of installing and maintaining the solar system.

What is Distributed Generation?

DG or on-site distributed generation is electricity generated close to where it is used. DG is electricity that feeds into the local grid, rather than the bulk transmission grid. AB 1990 will promote on-site distributed generation systems that are operated by customers themselves to boost on-site power reliability and improve power quality.

DG reduces the amount of energy lost through transmission, the size and number of power lines and associated corridors that need to be constructed and the number of new power plants that need to be built.

How much will the program cost ratepayers?

The average ratepayer will have an energy bill cost increase of about 5 cents per month.

How many jobs will AB 1990 create?

A 600 MW FiT program under development for the Los Angeles region is estimated to create 11,000 job-years over a 10-year period. Using similar modeling, AB 1990's 375 MW pilot program should produce between 4,000 to 6,000 job-years over a six-year period.

Why is local hiring important and does it work?

There are many graduates of green job training programs in underserved communities but there are few employment opportunities. There is both a lack of demand for solar installers locally and a lack of access to jobs through traditional hiring pathways. A local hiring requirement would ensure that trained graduates in these communities have the access and opportunity to install the solar systems going up in their backyards.

Why isn't solar being developed in disadvantaged communities?

Most residents in California's disadvantaged communities do not own their home nor have high enough energy bills to qualify for solar financing under existing policies. California's existing solar programs are mostly focused on larger scale systems outside of the urban core. The California Solar Initiative (CSI), the signature million solar roofs program, has a very small fund (MASH/SASH) for low-income homeowners and multifamily buildings, but mostly targets single-family homeowners with a monthly energy bill of \$150 or more. Solar for All is complimentary to CSI's MASH/SASH program.