



# Community Solar: Best Practices for Consumers

Presented to NASUCA Annual Meeting  
November 13, 2018

# So your state wants to do community solar?



# Community solar can occupy a “sweet spot” for achieving policy goals

Policy Goals	Net Metering	Community	Utility
Direct Bill Savings to Participants	+ (direct retail offset)	+ (bill credit)	- (none)
Participation Availability	- (not suitable for all locations)	+ (all customers can elect participation)	+ (participation by default)
Local Resource	+ (none)	+ (none)	- (none)
Economies of Scale	- (none)	+ (none)	+ (none)
Cost Shift to Non-Participants	- (yes)	-/+ (limited; de-linked to retail rate)	+ (none)

Success depends on good program design

# Consumer Protection Best Practices

MA  
D.P.U.  
17-140

## Compensation Rate

- Unlink compensation from retail rate to take advantage of economies of scale.
- Minimize cost shift through competitive solicitation with gradual step downs.



## Cost Recovery

- Ensure good rate design for program cost recovery (e.g. avoid fixed charges in lieu of “non-bypassable” that can be assessed to participants).



## System Value

- Encourage development & operation of systems that maximize reduction in utility system costs (e.g. on-peak performance).
- Consider wholesale market interactions & default ownership rights.



## Low Income

- Consider options to broaden participation, including low income (e.g. additional compensation for systems with >50% low income subscribers).



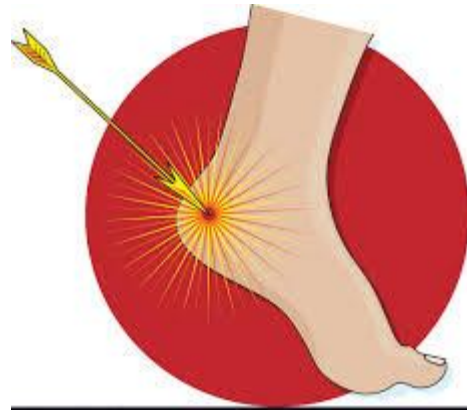
## Metering

- Developer to pay incremental metering costs (e.g. production meter).
- Costs vary based on desired functionality (value of AMI increases as penetration increases).

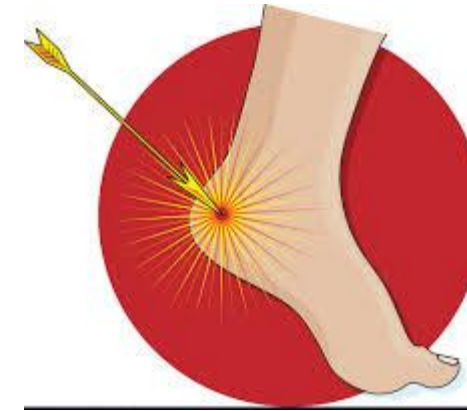


Success depends on good program design

# Achilles Heels of the Clean Energy Transition



**1. Reliability**



**2. Costs to Customers**