



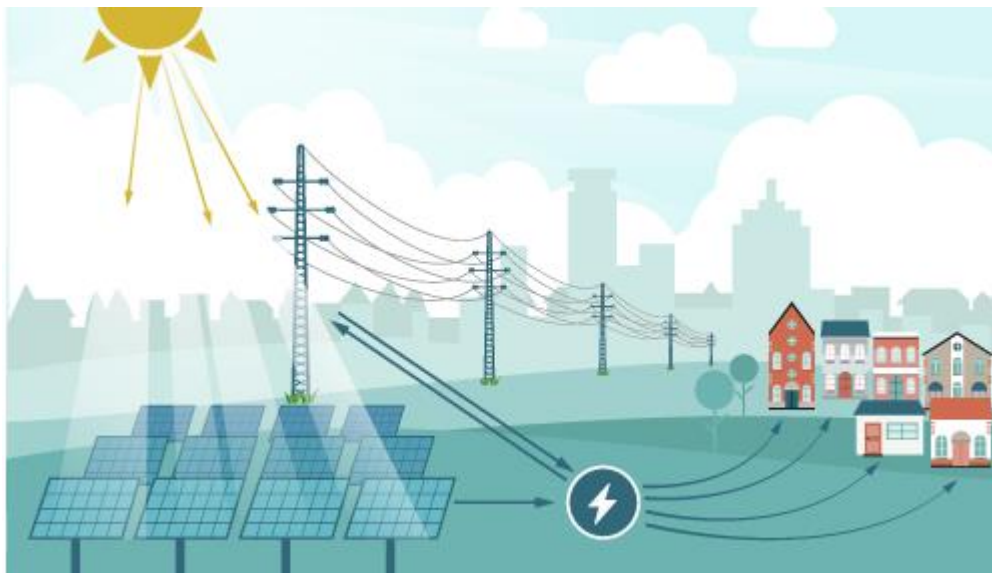
Fact Sheet

EXPANDING SOLAR IN DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

One of California's most influential policies driving the adoption of rooftop solar has been Net Energy Metering (NEM), a program that allows residential customers to sell electricity from their solar panels back to the grid. However, as solar adoption and investment have increased throughout the state, low income and disadvantaged communities (DACs) have lagged behind: for example, just 17 percent of all rooftop solar in Pacific Gas and Electric Company's service territory is located in DACs, and only 0.4 percent of PG&E's rooftop solar belongs to low income residents in DACs. DACs are defined as the top 25 percent most disadvantaged communities in California according to CalEnviroScreen 3.0.

To address this gap, Assembly Bill 327 (Perea, 2013) directed the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to develop "specific alternatives designed for growth among residential customers in disadvantaged communities."

The CPUC voted on June 21, 2018 to implement AB 327 by establishing three new targeted programs: the **DAC-SASH** program, the **DAC-Green Tariff**, and a **Community Solar Green Tariff** program. Each program takes a different approach to address the diverse hurdles facing expanded solar adoption in these communities. These programs are in addition to the [Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing program](#) - AB 693 (Eggman) - that was recently launched.



The DAC – Single-family Solar Homes (DAC-SASH) program

\$10 million annually; \$3 per Watt for systems 1 Kw-5 Kws in size ~ 3.3 MWs annually

Modeled on the existing, successful SASH program, DAC-SASH will provide up-front financial incentives for solar installation on homes owned by low income residents in DACs. The program will allow for greater eligibility and help overcome barriers like lack of access to capital or credit. The DAC-SASH program will provide \$10 million in incentives annually through 2030, to be funded by utility greenhouse gas allowance revenues or public purpose program funds.

The DAC – Green Tariff program

20% bill discount; up to 70 MWs for PG&E and SCE, and 18 MWs for SDG&E

Subscribing customers will receive 100 percent renewable energy purchased by their utility (not generated by onsite solar panels), similar to the existing Green Tariff/Shared Renewables Program. However, the DAC-Green Tariff program will provide a 20 percent discount on electricity bills for low income customers who live in DACs, and projects must be located in DACs. This option overcomes barriers to solar for customers who rent their home, cannot afford solar, or whose home is unsuitable for solar. The DAC-Green Tariff program will be funded by utility greenhouse gas allowance revenues or public purpose program funds.

Community Solar Green Tariff

Local, community-sponsored solar; up to 18 MWs for PG&E and SCE, 5 MWs SDG&E

While similar to the DAC-Green Tariff, this program includes many community-driven elements like job creation and solar in the community. Projects will be sited within a top 25% DAC, and subscribers must also be in a top 25% DAC within 5 miles of the project. Participants will receive a 20% bill discount, and the program requires demonstration of community involvement and interest, including site preferences. This approach is intended to ensure customers in disadvantaged communities have access to local solar power, with an assured economic benefit and robust community involvement. The Community Solar Green Tariff program will be funded by utility greenhouse gas allowance revenues or public purpose program funds.

More Information and Next Steps

Documents related to this proceeding are available at:

CPUC Decision 18-06-027:

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?docformat=ALL&DocID=216789285>

CPUC Press Release:

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M216/K742/216742158.PDF>

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