

# NRDC Successor Tariff Proposal

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# California's Clean Energy Policy

- SB100 and Executive Order B-55-18 set goals for “zero carbon” electric retail sales and carbon neutral economy by 2045
- We know where to go, but how do we get there?
  - Cost-effectively
  - Equitably
  - Environmentally conscious

# And where does net energy metering fit in?

- Net energy metering has so far driven adoption of rooftop solar in California; 9 GW and counting.
- What should net energy metering rules be to align with our broader CA clean energy goals?
  - Hint: NRDC's Successor Tariff Proposal

# NRDC Successor Tariff Overview

- Neutral tariff: benefits of NEM equals costs for all customers
  - Net billing
  - Export at avoided costs
  - Time of Use Consumption Charges
  - Appropriate and Scalable Grid Benefit (fixed) Charges
  - Non-Bypassable Charges
- Market Transition Credit: allow a ten-year payback
- Equity in Clean Energy Fund: guarantee benefits to lower income customers

# Net ~~Metering~~ Billing

Net bill = Grid Benefit Charge + Consumption – Export + [Other Charges]

- No changes proposed to how credits rollover; open to stakeholder ideas

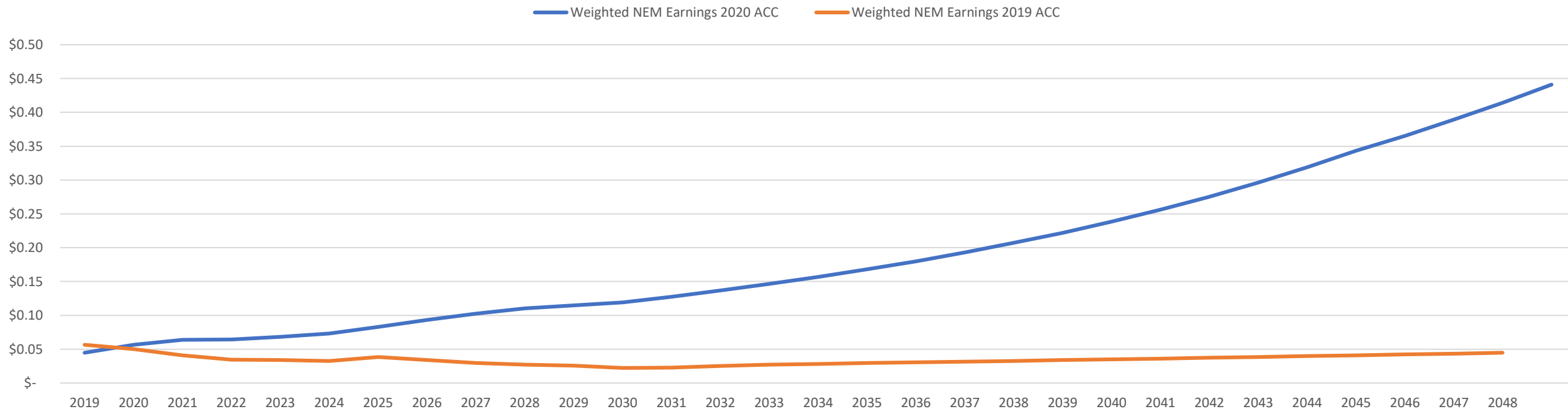
# Time Of Use (TOU) Consumption Charges

- NEM 3.0 customers should be on TOU charges that provide incentives to consume and save energy in alignment with grid needs and climate goals.
  - Voluntary for CARE customers
- Support Sierra Club proposal to move NEM 1.0 customers to a TOU rate if possible
- Savings will occur to the extent NEM 1.0 customers change their behavior after transition to TOU

# Solar Exports at Avoided Costs

- Set value at near-term (~3 years) avoided costs for stability
  - Same export value for all customers – CARE and non-CARE
- Update export rate regularly; e.g., every two years
  - If additional benefits get added to avoided costs, like air quality, they get accounted for
- New NEM 3.0 customers locked-in to whatever current export rate is for ten years
  - Move to relevant export rate at end of ten years for another ten or TBD period

# Avoided Costs in Out-Years Can Get Uncertain



- Illustrative example; PG&E CZ 3
  - 2018 avoided cost values similar to 2019
- 2021 avoided costs?
  - Coming soon to your inbox!



# Upfront Incentive: Market Transition Credit

- One time adoption incentive; allow payback of ~10 years
  - Existing NEM subsidy lasts as long as rooftop systems last (25- 30 years or more)
  - Existing NEM subsidy increases every year as rates increase
- Update every two years to be up to date with other tariff components, decreasing solar system prices
- Transparent subsidy
  - How much should we value the benefits of rooftop solar in addition to energy system and carbon benefits?
- Opens the door to other sources of funding in the future
  - Needed: someone with gumption and a talent for developing legislation!

# Upfront Incentive: Market Transition Credit (contd.)

- Combined with locked-in export rate, customer all but guaranteed to make back their investment in a reasonable time.
  - Stable market signal!
- Keeps distributed generation growing sustainably.
  - Low-income programs and building codes also increase distributed generation in CA
- Allows flexible policy decisions
  - Incentive can be adjusted in good time to better help meet changing state policy goals
- Decreases rate impact on non-solar adopters
  - If co-funded from outside electric sector, it eliminates it

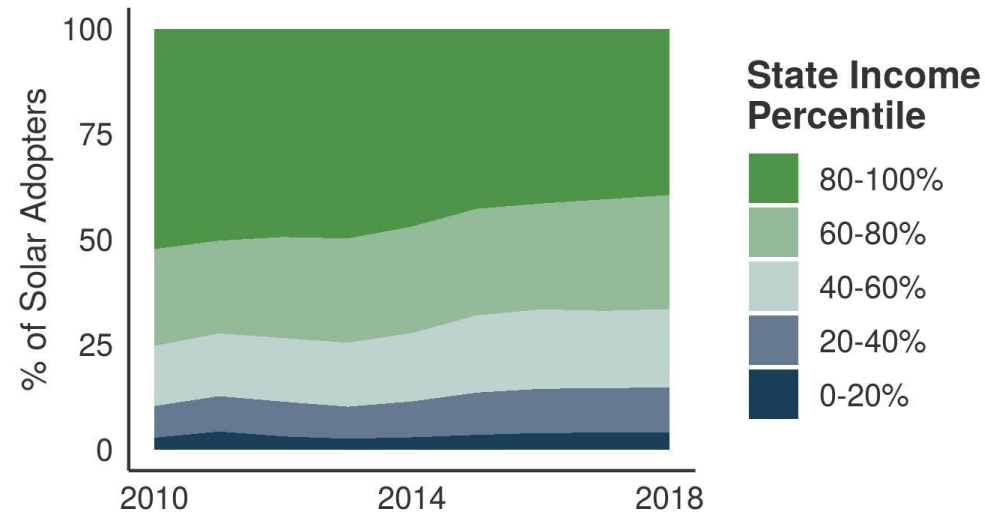
# Grid Benefit Charge and Non-Bypassable Charge

- Grid benefit charge: scalable fixed charge that accounts for benefit NEM customer gets from being connected to the grid
  - Resilience and reliability for NEM customer
  
- Non-Bypassable Charges: Based on total estimated consumption

# Equity in Clean Energy Fund

- Rooftop solar is disproportionately installed on higher earners' homes
- Single biggest barrier for LMI adoption: first costs of installation and repair
- CARE customers have incurred more costs than benefits from NEM historically

Solar Adopter Income Distribution Over Time  
California (2010-2018)



Berkeley Lab. Solar Demographics Tool. Note: Plot excludes data on any year with fewer than 30 observations.



# Equity in Clean Energy Fund (2)

- NEM 1.0 and 2.0 customers pay \$2.50/ kW
- NEM 3.0 customers only pay after 10 years/ payback
- Collect ~\$130 - \$150 million annually
- Need new CPUC process to appropriate these funds
- Involve community members and environmental justice advocates to understand needs and spend funds accordingly
  - Many possibilities: solar, electrification, disconnections, etc.

# NEM 1.0 and 2.0 Customer Transition

- NRDC supports further discussion
- NRDC supports Public Advocates' Proposal to provide incentives for storage for faster transition to NEM 3.0

# Evaluating Party Proposals

- NRDC rigorously reviewed TURN's tool and supports its application.

# Successor Tariff Development will Require Stakeholder Creativity and Coordination

Balancing all CPUC principles is no easy task.

NRDC looks forward to working with stakeholders

