

Community Solar in Vermont

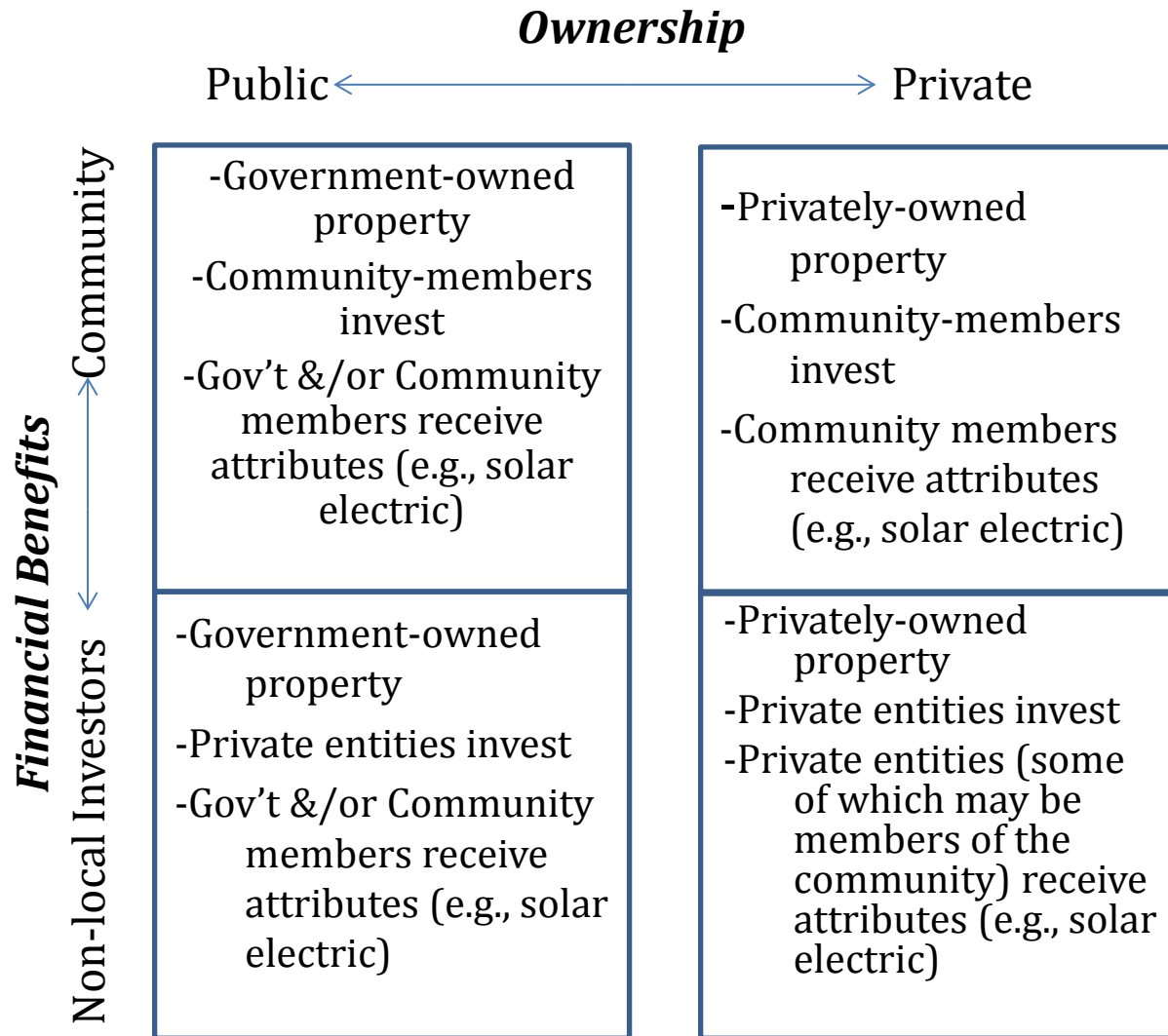


Why Community Solar?

- Local investment
- Local benefits
- Low or no up-front cost
- Optimize siting
- Fulfillment of local energy and environmental goals



Definition of “Community”



Types of Community Solar Projects

| Model | Towns/schools |
|---|--|
| Third-party lease (PPA, net metering credit purchase agreement) | Hinesburg, Starksboro, Burlington, S. Burlington, Brattleboro, Middlebury, Putney, Rutland |
| Collective/condo model | Charlotte, Saxtons River, Putney, Westford |
| Community owned/financed | Richmond (Forward), Middlebury (Acorn), Marshfield |



Tools for Communities

- VECAN guidebook
- Vermont Law School clinic
- Model Solar Contract for VT Communities
 - Land ownership
 - Payment terms
 - Lease and purchase terms
 - Maintenance
 - RECs
 - Warranty, insurance
 - Production guarantee
 - Decommissioning



Funding/Financing and Other Considerations

- Net metering/group net metering up to 500 kW
- Solar adder
- Third-party ownership
- Tax credits
- RECs
- Low-interest municipal debt
- Crowdfunding
- Solarize
- Clean Energy Development Fund Competitive Community Solar Grants - \$250K in 2014



Siting & Permitting

- Planning
- Section 248 Process
- Considerations
 - Resource availability
 - Proximity to transmission
 - Land ownership
 - Tax implications (also current use, conserved land questions)
 - Safety: fencing (7') or other electrical component protection
 - Aesthetics: fencing, screening, tree thinning, elevation, colors, neighbors
 - Environmental: wetlands, threatened or endangered species
 - Historic: buildings > 50 years old, archaeological sites
 - Agriculture: prime ag soils, lifetime compatibility
- Tools
 - Vermont Renewable Energy Atlas: <http://www.vtenergyatlas.com/>
 - Biofinder/ANR Natural Resources Atlas: biofinder.vermont.gov,
<http://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/anra/>



25 kW PV project at UMass
research farm



Other Resources for Communities

- VECAN's Energy Planning and Implementation Guidebook for Vermont Communities: <http://vnrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Final-Guide-4-27-11.pdf>
- NREL's Guide to Community Solar: <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy11osti/49930.pdf>
- Citizens Guide to Section 248: <http://psb.vermont.gov/statutesrulesandguidelines/guidelines>
- PSD Comprehensive Energy Plan: http://publicservice.vermont.gov/publications/energy_plan/2011_plan



Thank you



publicservice.vermont.gov

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100 kW Starksboro project with AllEarth

