

Community-Owned Solar



Putney, VT



Barriers to Traditional Solar



- Poor Site
- Rent Home
- Might Move
- High Cost
- No Tax Liability



VT Set the Stage



- Group Net-Metering
- GMP Solar Incentives
- High Electricity Cost
- Positive Atmosphere



Land Acquisition



- Flat or South Facing
- Unobstructed View
- Non-Agricultural
- Near 3 Phase
- Under utilized
- Soil Composition



Jointly Owned Solar Array



- People Own Panels
- Open to any GMP Customer
- Monthly Bill Credit
- Transfer Credit Location
- Purchase by the Panel



Financing



Investor

vs

Owner

Pros

- Build before subscribed
- Lower up-front cost to user
- Open to non-profits
- Open to municipalities
- Simple for end user

Cons

- Complex securities law
- Higher total cost

Pros

- Avoid Securities Issues
- Good for large tax appetite
- Lower total cost

Cons

- High up-front cost
- Complicated for end user
- Only for taxable entities
- More difficult to replicate



RFP and Installer Selection



- Decide what you want
- Write a request for proposal
- Assess the bids
- Choose wisely



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Promotion



- Community Events
- Farmers Markets
- News Coverage
- Energy Conferences



CPG and Interconnection



- 3 - 9 Months
- \$5,000 - \$30,000
- Land Abutters
- Potential Fatal Flaw



Team Organization



- Project Developer
- Public Outreach



- Financier
- Project Legalities



- Installer
- General Contractor



- Utility



Putney Community Solar



- Member Owned
- Online 8/16/13
- 144 kW Capacity
 - 576 Fixed Panels
 - 24 Inverters
- 49 Panel Owners
- 180,000 kWh Annual Production
- \$37,800 First Year Energy Savings

