



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy

Solar Energy Technologies Program

# Accelerating Solar Energy at the Local Level

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# SOLAR MYTHBUSTERS

- Your city doesn't get enough sun
  - **FACT: Yes it does**
- The technology is still being developed
  - **FACT: Yes, but it's good enough to use right now**
- It's just way too expensive
  - **FACT: Declining PV prices, innovative financing structures, and state/federal incentives are making it more affordable, even competitive in some areas**

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# Recovery Act Financing Options for Solar

## Grants

- [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants \(EECBGs\)](#) – can be used for solar on government buildings, and in integrated programs that focus on efficiency (e.g. comprehensive residential retrofit program) – June 25 deadline. To be followed by competitive portion.
- [State Energy Program](#) – some funding may go to local governments depending on how state decides to allocate.

## Bonds

- [Clean Renewable Energy Bonds \(CREBs\)](#) – interest free financing for public sector renewable energy projects – Aug 4 deadline
- [Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds \(QECBs\)](#) – can also be used for broader community-based projects (e.g. property tax financing program) – administered by states, may not see activity until fall '09
- [Build America Bonds \(BABs\)](#) – taxable bonds to finance “infrastructure repairs.” IRS pays 35% of interest back to issuer as a rebate. Taxable bonds reach larger investor pool.

## Tax Credits

- [ITC/Grant option](#) – uncapped 30% federal investment tax credit for solar systems through 2017, with option to take the tax credit as a grant in some cases. ARRA also removed limitation on subsidized energy financing.

## Loan Guarantee

- [DOE Loan Guarantee Program](#) – \$6B from ARRA, DOE expects to publish details in July

# \$\$ (alone) can't buy you love (or solar)

5 Key Barriers under Local Government jurisdiction:

## **Permitting**

- Streamline solar permitting, train code officials

## **Solar Access**

- Strengthen solar access and solar rights ordinances

## **Interconnection and Net Metering**

- Work with utility to streamline interconnection and implement favorable net metering rules

## **Workforce Development and Training**

- Support installer and site assessor training programs, and encourage installer certification

## **Customer Assistance and Assurance**

- Provide outreach and independent verification to help consumers feel more comfortable with technology

# DOE Resources

## ***Solar Powering Your Community: A Guide for Local Governments Coming July 24!***

Provides policy and program descriptions, implementation tips and options, and real life examples in areas of:

- Organizing and Strategizing Your Effort
- Accelerating Demand through Financial Incentives and Policies
- Updating and Enforcing Local Rules and Regulations
- Engaging Your Utility
- Creating Jobs and Economic Development
- Accelerating Demand through Outreach and Education
- Leading by Example with Installations on Government Properties

**Available at [www.solaramericacities.energy.gov/resources](http://www.solaramericacities.energy.gov/resources)**

## ***Solar America Showcases***

- Technical assistance opportunity currently open

**Visit [www.eere.energy.gov/solar/financialopportunities](http://www.eere.energy.gov/solar/financialopportunities)**

# Thank You

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