



Oregon Senate Energy and Environment Committee

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

Chair Sollman and Committee Members,

Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) supports SB 92 and the -2 amendment, which seeks to provide some definition, clarity and certainty for the Oregon Community Solar Program and extend the program.

BEF works at the intersection of energy and water, with the Renewables Program focused on meaningful economic benefits from solar for low-income households. Since 2016, BEF has been involved with Oregon's Community Solar Program and currently acts as a developer, consultant, project owner and project manager. These roles are long term commitments of at least 20 years, which is why having a stable program over that period is essential.

SB 92-2 will empower Oregon with real energy independence while delivering more choices, more competition, cost stability to all ratepayers and more opportunity for everyone. Unfortunately, there is a large amount of regulatory uncertainty in the Oregon Community Solar Program that discourages activity and investment in the State. BEF, our nonprofit partners, and businesses will all benefit from a strengthened program that can provide clear market signals that Oregon is open for business.

Why we support community solar:

- Community solar is the most accessible way for low-income renters to go solar.
- Community solar saves money for residents and for local businesses/governments.
- Community solar generates large economic benefits for small businesses, landowners, contractors and subscribers.
- Community solar strengthens the grid with non-utility investments in the distribution system.
- Community solar helps Oregon achieve its climate goals.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on how to provide Oregonians the certainty that they can invest in and benefit from community solar into the future.

Regards,

Evan Ramsey

Sr. Director, Renewables, Bonneville Environmental Foundation



# Community Solar Expansion

A chance for everyone to go solar

Action must be taken this session for low-income community solar projects in the pipeline to move forward

## What's community solar?

Community solar means that the energy from a large solar project in one location can be subscribed to by many customers in different locations. This means you don't need to own your home to go solar! And it helps businesses and public agencies get clean solar power without the upfront cost.

## What's the problem?

Oregon's Community Solar Program (CSP) was given a certain amount of capacity to start out with and that capacity is almost gone. This means that some projects that have been in the works for years might not be able to finish their project.

## What's the solution?

- Expand the CSP by a small percentage each year
- Decrease delays by enforcing interconnection deadlines
- Allow larger projects to utilize economies of scale
- Increase flexibility of project locations and customer subscriptions
- Reduce administrative costs
- Incentivize battery storage for community resilience

## What's at stake?



Tens of millions of low-income household savings will not materialize.

## Join these organizations in endorsing Community Solar






## Community Solar Program Project Status

# 32

### Operational Projects

- Idaho Power - 1
- PGE - 22
- Pacific Power - 9

# 41

### Projects in the Pipeline

- PGE - 12
- Pacific Power - 29

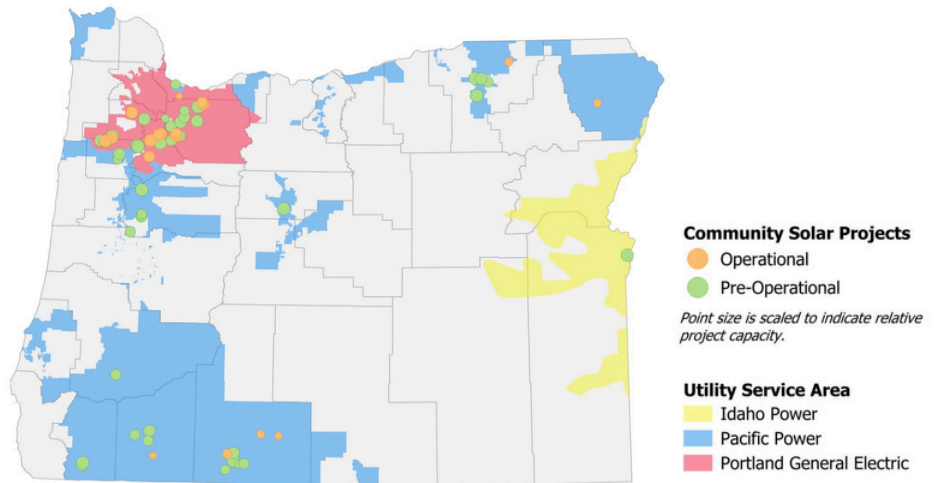
# 12.5%

of community solar energy goes to low-income ratepayers, who receive a bill discount of around 25%

## The Community Solar Program serves customers of PGE, Pacific Power and Idaho Power

### Project Locations by Utility Service Territory

Current as of February 2024



### Utility Bill Savings in Year 5

The participant savings table reflects total bill savings realized by participants within participant billing files submitted for the generation periods of March 2023 - February 2024. Any rejected billing records are excluded from the stated totals.

Participant Type	Savings	Number of Participants
Large Commercial	\$110,818	262
Small Commercial	\$ 76,14 5	621
Residential	\$30,597	699
Low-Income	\$85, 826	444
Low-Income Multifamily Housing*	\$53,541	1,081
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$356,927</b>	<b>3,10 7</b>

\*Savings excludes administrative fee retained by low-income multifamily housing providers.