

# Support Community Solar!

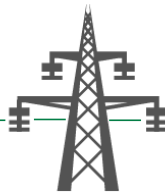
## Support HB 5327

In 2016 the General Assembly enacted a 30 MW Community Solar Pilot Program, which for the first time enabled all Rhode Islanders-- including renters and urban dwellers-- to participate in community solar. The bill proposes a modest 30 MW expansion, and for the first time in Rhode Island's history:

### HOW DOES COMMUNITY SOLAR WORK?



**STEP 1: A community solar farm produces electricity which becomes net metering credits.**



**STEP 2: Residential customers, including tenants sign up to receive a share of net metering credits.**



**STEP 3: Customers receive up to 15% savings on their electric bill and get access to solar.**



### EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION

- » Mandates 35% low and moderate income participation, the highest in the nation.



### IMPROVED SOLAR SITING

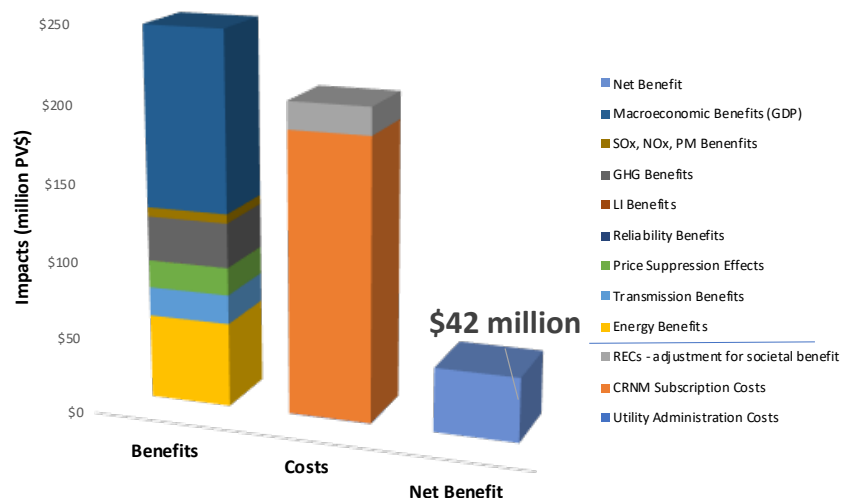
- » Requires 50% of the program capacity be located in previously disturbed areas.
- » Closes the loophole that allowed co-location of multiple projects on contiguous land.



### COMMUNITY SOLAR CREATES A NET POSITIVE BENEFIT

- » Allocates one of the revenue streams from projects to the utility for the benefit of ratepayers.

Rhode Island's 30 MW Community Solar Pilot Program created a net \$42 million benefit, according to the Synapse Benefit Cost Analysis commissioned by OER and DPU.



### WHO SUPPORTS HB 5327?

- » **Clean Economy Advocates** such as Handy Law, Northeast Clean Energy Council, and Coalition for Community Solar Access.
- » **Environmental Advocates** including Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy.
- » **Clean Energy Developers** such as TurningPoint Energy, Nautilus Solar, and Arcadia Power.
- » **Consumer Rights Advocates** including the George Wiley Center and the Green Energy Consumers Alliance.

- » **Jobs:** Each community solar project can create 50-100 jobs.
- » **Savings:** Rhode Islanders are saving 5-15% on electricity bills.
- » **Access to Solar:** Over 50% of Rhode Islanders can't develop solar on their own property. Low and moderate income communities, renters and urban residents don't otherwise have access to solar.