

10/1/2021

Community Solar Program Update

EBCE Executive Committee Meeting



Agenda

- Community Solar Program Overview
- Current Status
- Next Steps

Overview of Community Solar Programs

- The CPUC in 2018 adopted Decision 18-06-027, creating the Disadvantaged Communities Green Tariff (“DAC-GT”) and Community Solar Green Tariff (“CSGT”) programs. The programs promote the development of renewable generation in underserved communities. Pursuant to the Decision, EBCE may implement its own DAC-GT and CSGT programs in its service area.
- **Both programs** allow low-income customers (defined as CARE and FERA-eligible) living in disadvantaged community (“DAC”) census tracts to receive **100% solar energy at a 20% discount** on their electric bills.
- The key difference between the two programs is that the Community Solar Green Tariff program requires **a community sponsor of the project** and will result in projects **located within five miles of the community** it serves.

	DAC Green Tariff Program	Community Solar Green Tariff Program
Program Size:	~ 5.7 MW (serves ~1,600 customers)	~ 1.6 MW (serves ~450 customers)
Project Location:	In a DAC in EBCE’s service area	In a DAC in EBCE’s service area <u>and within five miles of customers served</u>
Participant Requirements:	Residential customers who are CARE/FERA eligible and live in a DAC	At least 50% of participants must be residential customers who are CARE/FERA eligible; all participants must live in a DAC within five miles of the project
Other Requirements:	Workforce development requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce development requirements • Community Sponsor requirement
Customer Enrollment	Customers automatically enrolled (Q4 2021)	Manual enrollment, with outreach assistance from a community sponsor (signups to begin mid-2022 or later)

DAC-GT (“EBCE Solar Discount Program”) Status

- **Interim Resources**

CPUC program rules **permit EBCE to serve DAC-GT customers through already-existing solar projects** that meet DAC-GT eligibility requirements – “interim resources” – on a temporary basis until our new solar projects become operational. EBCE has procured interim solar resources from MCE to enable us to offer the DAC-GT discount prior to the commercial operation date of the new resources that EBCE will procure through our currently-open Community Solar RFO.

- **Automatic Enrollment**

Starting this month, EBCE will begin automatically enrolling over 1,600 customers into the program and serve them with solar energy purchased from an interim resource.

EBCE has randomly selected, from within each EBCE member city, customers for automatic enrollment from among the total set of eligible customers – i.e., low-income customers in disadvantaged communities. The number of program spots available in each EBCE member city is proportional to the total number of eligible customers in that city.

- **Customer Impact and Communications**

Starting at the end of October, EBCE customers will **begin seeing additional 20% discounts** appear on their bills.

Enrolled customers will receive enrollment notifications and welcome packets. EBCE staff are also evaluating strategies for ongoing communication about the program bill savings and solar energy generated.

CSGT (“EBCE Community Solar Discount Program”) Status

Outreach to Potential Community Sponsors

EBCE staff are working with city staff and other organizations to reach out to eligible community-based organizations – which include non-profits, local government agencies, and schools – about the opportunity to sponsor a project. Key benefits of sponsorship include the opportunity to receive funding for outreach-related work, and for eligible organizations to receive a 20% electricity bill discount.

To this end, we have held several informational sessions and a “matchmaking event” for sponsors and project developers.

Eight organizations are currently signed up to be potential sponsors.

Sponsors will assist EBCE will CSGT customer enrollment and outreach beginning in 2022.

Potential sponsors so far include:



West Oakland
Environmental
Indicators
Project



Next Steps

- EBCE's procurement solicitation for DAC-GT and CSGT projects is currently open.
- We will receive "Notices of Intent" to offer from project developers in October and will know at that time whether additional RFOs will need to be held.
- EBCE expects to bring contracts for Board approval in Q1 of 2022.

APPENDIX

A Note on Disadvantaged Communities (“DACs”)

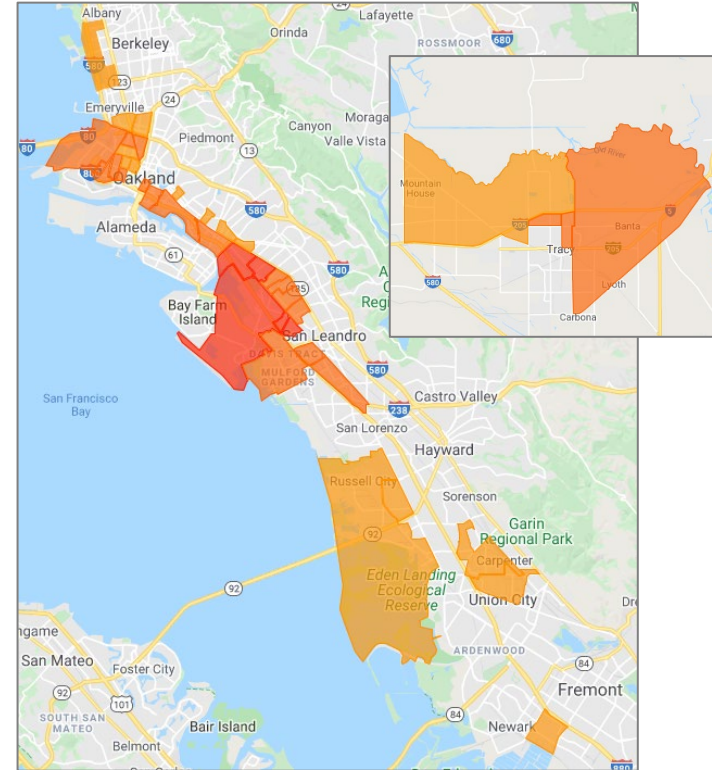
What is a “DAC”?

- For purposes of the program, DACs are defined geographically as the **25% highest-scoring census tracts in CalEnviroScreen 3.0**, a scoring methodology developed by CalEPA.
- The CPUC defines DACs in the following way:
 - “Disadvantaged communities refers to the areas throughout California which most suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens. These burdens include poverty, high unemployment, air and water pollution, presence of hazardous wastes as well as high incidence of asthma and heart disease.

Can I find a map of DACs?

- Yes!
 - **CalEPA maintains a map at this website:**
<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/sb535>
 - **EBCE has developed this Google Maps-based tool for our service area:**
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1jC7HCRCop-xGM9wIgiYYX18Sdq9ENZDD&usp=sharing>

Snapshot of DACs in EBCE’s service area*



*EBCE cities with DAC census tracts include: Oakland (25), Emeryville (4), Tracy (4), San Leandro (3), Hayward (2), Union City (2), Berkeley (1), Newark (1)