Future Energy Jobs Act

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Vote Solar is...

» Independent, non-profit solar advocacy organization;
» Our mission is to make the benefits of solar more accessible to more people across the country;
» State policy focus;
» Actively working in 26 states;
» Believe in solar as a way to solve multiple problems for customers and communities – lower bills, job opportunities and less pollution. Focus on equity.
Context – Renewable Costs Have Plummeted

» Decades of research and advocacy have brought us a affordable renewable energy reality.
Future Energy Jobs Act

» Goal: Bring the benefits of renewable energy to Illinois.
» What benefits and for whom?
  > Bill savings;
  > Modern, flexible grid;
  > Economic development and jobs;
  > Reduce environmental impact of energy use;
  > All customers benefit including low and moderate income communities.

» Went into effect on June 1, 2017. Kicking off implementation process.
» Illinois Power Agency given enormous responsibility for implementation, with oversight from the Illinois Commerce Commission.
Renewables Development Under FEJA

» Act requires at least 4,300 megawatts of new solar and wind by 2030
  > WIND: 1300 MW
  > SOLAR: 3000 MW
  > Built in state.
  > Incentives (RECS) funded through bills with budget cap of 2%
  > Implemented thru the purchase of renewable energy credits (RECs) each of which represents 1 MWh of renewable energy generation
    + 2020 targets - 2 million wind and 2 million solar
    + 2025 targets – 3 million wind and 3 million solar
    + 2030 targets - 4 million wind and 4 million solar
By 2030, ComEd must expand and enhance customer efficiency programs to cut electricity waste by a record 21.5 percent, and Ameren by 16 percent, with annual targets and ICC oversight.

- Funded on bills, capped at 2%.
- Programs serve all customers under 10 MW (IMA argued that its members wanted out of the efficiency programs).
Drilling down on solar targets

» Half utility scale (over 2 MW); half distributed/community scale
  > Of the distributed and community solar -
    + 25% smaller than 10kW
    + 25% 10kW to 2 MW
    + 25% community solar
    + 25% tbd by IPA

» Illinois Solar for All –
  > Incentivizes development to serve low income and EJ communities
  > 22.5% distributed; 37.5% Community scale; 15% non-profit and public and 25% for pilot programs.
  > $30m for job training programs to create inclusive solar workforce.
What is DG and how is it different from Community Solar?

» Distributed solar – think rooftop (although some is ground mounted) and think under 10kW

» Community (shared) – systems typically 2-5 MW, output shared among “subscribers – often anchored by one host that takes up to 40% of output and shares the rest with subscribers in the community.
How does community solar work?

Project Development/Maintenance

Community Solar Developer

Community Solar Project

Electricity

Electric Utility

Community Solar Bill Credits

Community Solar Subscribers

Upfront or Ongoing Participation Payment
1.5 MW DG
IPA progress on implementation

» IPA LTRRPP approved by the ICC, but pieces have been appealed by ComEd and are under review by the courts;

» Plan includes Adjustable Block program – REC prices set administratively, designed to decline 4% per block over time;

» Initial block prices published in June – ranging from mid $40s per REC to mid-$70s for dg, and slightly higher for community solar, depending on size of project and which service territory;

» Significantly larger incentives under Illinois Solar for All;

» https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/ipa/Pages/Renewable_Resources.aspx
Implementation progress (cont)

» Adjustable block program administrator selected last week –

» ISFA administrator still not selected (InClime, Inc).

» Programs expected to open in the fall.
Contact information, Resources

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