



PRESS RELEASE

Gridworks releases new report on how California's solar market must evolve to reach policy-makers 100% renewable energy goals

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Oakland, CA—January 11, 2018 – California incentive programs have helped solar grow exponentially in California to where it is now cost competitive with other energy supplies like natural gas. This year, as policy-makers and renewable energy advocates begin to push for a new 100% renewable energy mandate in Senate Bill 100 (De Leon), a key tool titled “Net Metering” that has brought solar to over 725,000 California customers, totaling nearly 6 GW of installed capacity, needs a refresh to meet the ambitious goals of SB 100.

Today, Gridworks has released a report titled “Sustaining Solar Beyond Net Metering: *How Customer Owned Solar Compensation Can Evolve in Support of Decarbonizing California.*” The report recommends a new compensation structure to maximize adoption of solar co-located with storage, as well as solar targeted at locations advantageous to the grid. Recommendations could allow more solar on rooftops, while balancing affordability, reliability and decarbonization goals.

“California aims to reach 18 GWs of rooftop solar by 2030, an incredibly ambitious target. Over the past six months we’ve convened stakeholders to consider how to get there. This report provides the best ideas gathered from that process, providing California a viable path forward for sustaining solar beyond net metering,” says Matthew Tisdale, Executive Director of Gridworks and principal author of the report.

The paper reexamines net metering asking how to build on its success to further California’s decarbonization efforts, account for location value, fairly recover grid costs, and enable customer choice. Evaluating alternative policies and applying consistent criteria reflective of California’s principles, the report identifies advantages and disadvantages to net metering and variations thereof. The report concludes California can sustain solar beyond net metering by transitioning toward a new structure called “Net Billing”. Net Billing preserves customer choice while encouraging customers to meet their onsite load with solar co-located with storage and targeting adoption in locations advantageous to the electric grid.

This report was developed as part of a Gridworks Initiative to bring together diverse stakeholders to identify needs and craft recommendations toward building a new solar incentive program. This work has been supported through generous support from The Heising Simons Foundation. See the report and Initiative information at www.gridworks.org.

About Gridworks: *Gridworks’ mission is to convene, educate and empower stakeholders working to decarbonize electric grids. Since 2010, Gridworks (formerly known as “More Than Smart”) has enabled this mission through four strategies: by identifying high-value challenges to decarbonizing electricity grids; convening stakeholders and providing them neutral ground, technical support and facilitation to identify break-through solutions to identified challenges; publishing and helping implement identified solutions; and adapting successful solutions to new markets.*