

Solar for Reduced GHGs and Energy Costs

- Solar resources are providing lower energy prices than fossil fuel resources
- MD's RPS incentivizes new solar projects by creating a demand for SRECs which electricity suppliers are required to purchase for RPS compliance.
- SRECs (currently \$59 per MWh) are an additional revenue stream for the solar owners, beyond what they are getting paid for generating electricity.
- The current RPS requires that 14.5% of the energy mix be from in-state solar resources (roughly 650 MW new resources/year through 2030)
- The 2030 GGRA Plan tells us we need 21% in 2030
- The MGA/Governor set the RPS requirements/carveouts, which PSC enforces.

Recommendations from the June 21st MWG meeting

- Require long-term contracts for renewable energy to support a portion of the Standard Offer Service in Maryland (SB0334/HB0624 did not pass in 2022)
- Expand agrivoltaic incentive programs for community- solar and utility-scale projects
- Expand incentive programs for solar on brownfield sites, landfills, parking lots, and “preferred sites”

Community Solar Recommendation

1. The MGA should direct the PSC to make the community solar program permanent and seamlessly continue it from the pilot stage without interruption, while expanding capacity limits for new community solar projects in each utility territory. Program evaluation can be conducted while the program is running.

Local Opposition/Siting Issues

2. The State should require local jurisdictions to produce annual renewable energy development and monitoring plans adequate to implement at least their projected (population-based) share of the state's legislated solar energy targets (and/or, greenhouse gas reduction targets).

Financing/Incentives for Preferred Sites

3. The State should provide “adders” (extra value allowed to projects sited on “preferred sites” to offset the added cost of those sites), or of variable proportions of RECs (with a fixed value, above present MD SREC value) awarded based on the nature of the site