

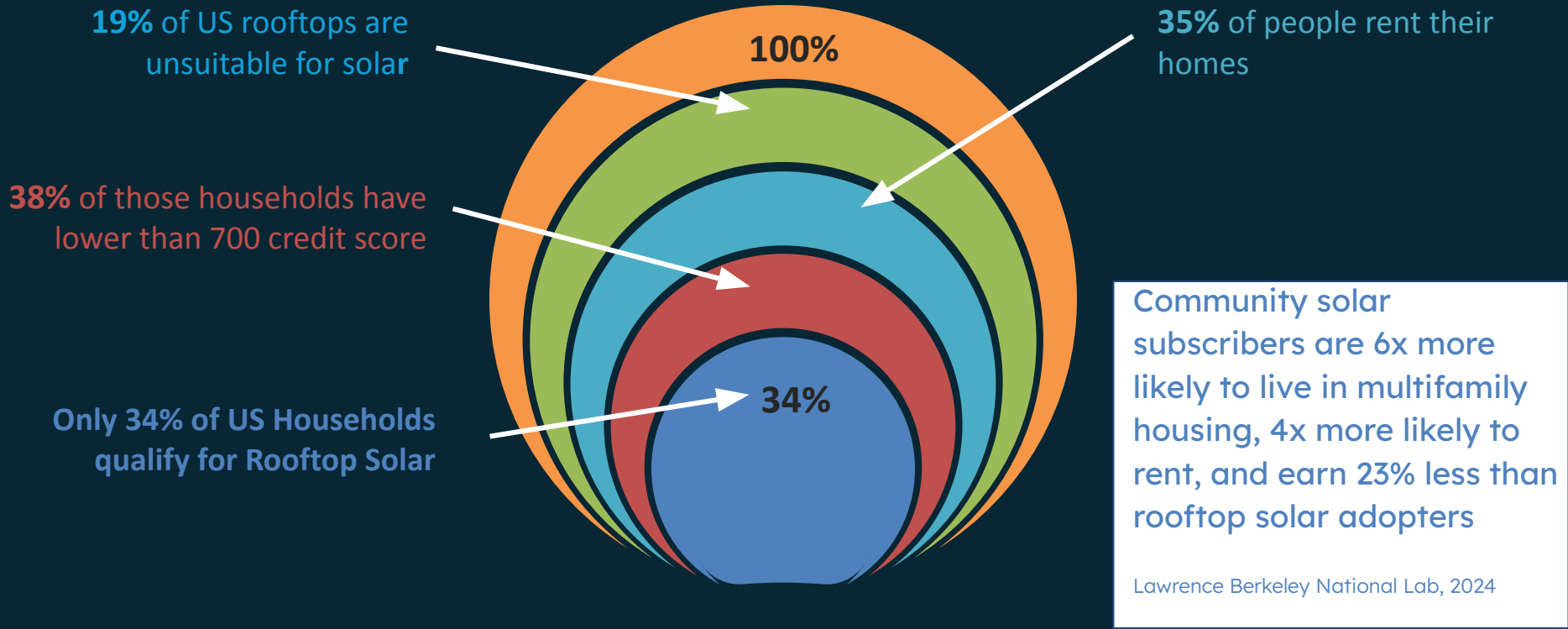


Community Solar as an Energy Affordability Tool

New England Electricity Restructuring Roundtable
March 21, 2025

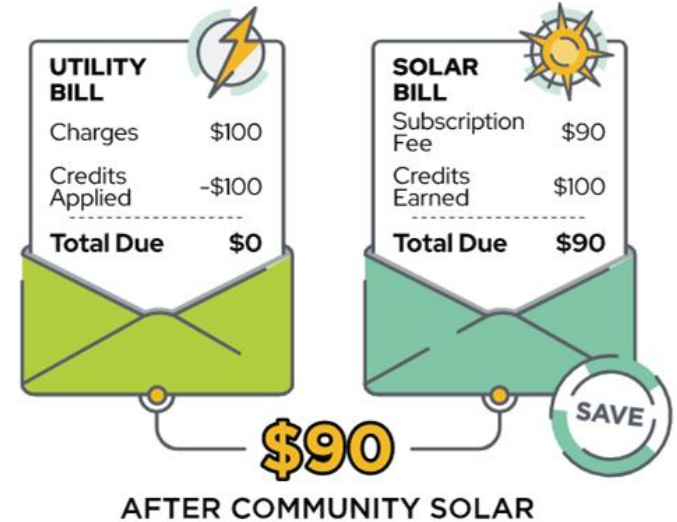


Rooftop solar doesn't work for most people



Cost Stability and Affordability

- Through competition, guaranteed bills-savings for subscribers and reduced grid costs that benefit everyone, community solar protects consumers from rising utility rates, making energy costs more predictable and manageable
- All customers can participate and signing up is as easy as Netflix
- Successful markets attract participants because subscribers save 10-20% on their bills
- Subscriptions are portable within the utility territory & transferable to another customer if they move



There are many forms of community solar

Opt-in Subscriptions

- Most prevalent today
- Scalable, accessible
- Promotes customer choice and competition
- Provides opportunity to engage with customers

Utility/Aggregation Opt-Out Credits

- Lower costs of serving LI customers
- Utilizes existing relationships
- Can serve LI customers w/o marketing

Community Owned

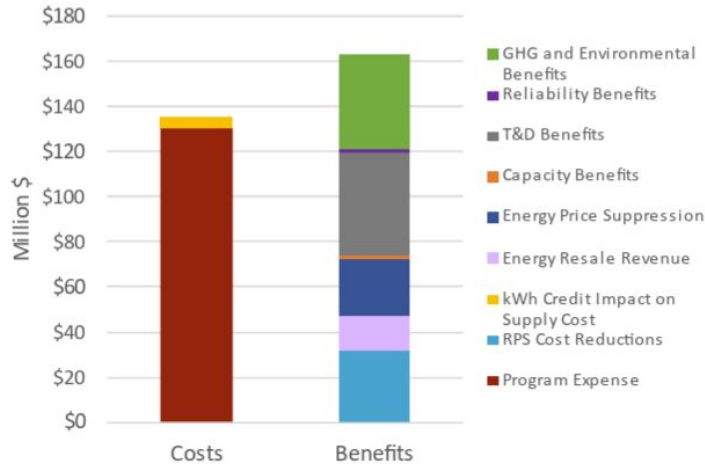
- Deepens customer and community benefits
- Highest level of community engagement
- Challenging to scale and implement widely

Best Practices to Serve Low-Income Customers

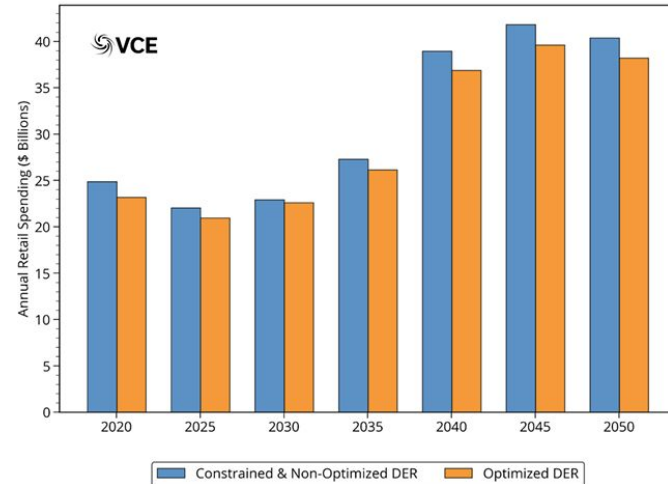
- Min % of program capacity to serve low-moderate income customers coupled with adjusted incentive or bill credit levels
- Verify income through self-attestation, categorical eligibility, and geo-eligibility
- Require guarantee savings
- Utilize consolidated billing
- Prohibit upfront costs, early termination fees, and credit checks
- Coordinate with LIHEAP and state assistance programs
- Allow affordable housing and master-metered buildings to qualify for low income set-asides, w/requirement to pass on savings to tenants

Distributed Solar is Cost Effective for all Ratepayers

Maine 2023 NEB Annual Costs + Benefits



DER Impacts on NY Retail Spending



- Community solar program design matters
- Cost-effectiveness increases when considering emissions mandates



Learn more about CCSA and community solar:
www.communitysolaraccess.org

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