



COMMUNITY SOLAR ADVOCACY PACKET

PREPARED FOR
THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE



WASHINGTON
COMMUNITY SOLAR
ALLIANCE

ORGANIZED BY



Olympia
Community Solar

Olympia Community Solar is a non-profit organization with a mission to steward an equitable and accessible transition to clean energy

SUPPORTED BY



NW Energy Coalition

AND MANY MORE

ADVOCATING FOR SOLAR

From now through March of 2024 Solar Energy advocates have an incredible opportunity to make their voices heard at the Washington Legislature. The devastating effects of fossil-fuel driven climate change are here, and to implement the lowest cost path to 100% clean energy, solar energy (and the cost savings, resilience, and reliability benefits that come from it) must be accessible to more people. That's why creating a state-wide community solar program is essential - it will unlock solar access to the majority of people who can't put panels on their homes and become a valuable asset to the grid of the future.

This year we are building a broad coalition of supporters to pass such a program and we need solar advocates and people of all stripes to put this in front of lawmakers. **We need you** to testify, email, call, post on social media, and tell your story of why you couldn't go solar so lawmakers know how big the demand for community solar is and how commonplace barriers are.

Your demands for our clean energy future will inspire action, and this advocacy packet is designed to make that easy.

In this packet you'll find all sorts of outreach templates directed both at your district representatives and other individuals/organizations invited to join the solar coalition.

INDEX & KEY DATES

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Key Dates:

- January 8th 2024- First Day of Session
- January 31st: Policy Committee Cutoff - Chamber of Origin
- February 5th: Fiscal Committee Cutoff - Chamber of Origin
- February 13th: House of Origin Cutoff
- February 21st: Policy Committee Cutoff - Opposite House
- March 1st: opposite house cutoff
- March 7th: Last day of session

RESOURCES

Information to send to potential coalition partners.
Click the underlined header to view.



[COALITION POLICY ONE PAGER](#)

A simple overview of how community solar works, why it's important, and an invitation to join the solar coalition. Great for including in first time communication with a potential supporter.



[CONCEPT PAPER](#)

A more comprehensive overview that includes a problem statement, executive summary, the policy framework, benefits, and lots of supporting data. Great for anyone who wants to take a deeper dive



[SEATTLE TIMES OP ED #1](#)

An article co-written by Olympia Community Solar President, Mason Rolph and Derek Chernow, Western regional director for Coalition for Community Solar Access.



[SEATTLE TIMES OP ED #2](#)

An article written by our bill sponsor, Representative David Hackney about the benefits of community solar.

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Tip: Be sure and use the hashtag #WaLeg and tag your district representative's social media account so you know they see your message

FALL 2023–EARLY JANUARY 2024

- *Community Solar can work as an alternative option for those who cannot put solar on their roof. This year legislation could vastly expand this option for millions of Washington residents! Call your legislator at 1-800-562-6000 and tell them to support HB 2253 & SB 6113. Learn more at communitysolarwa.org #WaLeg #CommunitySolar #HB2253 #SB6113*
- *Dear [@Elected Representative's Name], this legislative session I urge you to support community solar bill HB2253 & SB6113 to provide more access to clean energy and strengthen our electric grid! #waleg #CommunitySolar #HB2253 #SB6113*
- *This legislative session we have an incredible opportunity to support a statewide Community Solar program! By diversifying our energy sources and relying more on local solar power, we can reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and provide our grid with much needed additional energy, crucial to supporting 100% clean electricity. Please support HB2253 & SB6113 #waleg #communitysolar #HB2253 #SB6113*
- *Right now 22 states have Community Solar policies that everyone can access, but Washington still does not. This year we're changing that and unlocking the full potential of the sun! Call your legislator at 1-800-562-6000 and tell them to support Community Solar bill HB2253 & SB6113! Learn more at communitysolarwa.org #WaLeg #Community Solar #SB6113 #HB2253*

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Tip: Be sure and use the hashtag #WaLeg and tag your district representative on social media so you know they see your message.

BILL HEARING & COMMITTEE VOTE POSTS: MID JANUARY

- *Right now the @WashingtonHouseDemocrats have an incredible opportunity to prepare for the energy grid of the future by creating a statewide community solar program that would also ensure clean energy is accessible to all, regardless of income or property type. #WaLeg #CommunitySolar #HB2253 #SB6113 (tag your legislator)*
- *The devastating effects of fossil-fuel-driven climate change are here. We need as much local clean energy generation, like from community solar, in order to close down dirty, old power plants. Community Solar is the key link that will allow everyone to harness the power of the sun and create more resilient communities. Tell @WashingtonHouseDemocrats to pass HB2253 out of committee! #CommunitySolar #WALeg #HB2253 #SB6113*
- *I want to encourage @Rep_____ to support HB2253, which would create a statewide community solar program enabling solar access for the majority of Washingtonians who can't put it on their roof. Community solar will also strengthen our electric grid with additional local clean energy and help keep our grid of the future affordable. #HB2253 #SB6113 @WashingtonHouseDemocrats #WALeg #Communitysolar*

COALITION PARTNER SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES

Use these handles to tag our coalition partners in your social media posts and they will be amplified and reposted!

Social Media Handles of Coalition Partners

@CoalitionforCommunitySolarAccess

@NWEnergyCoalition

@WashingtonSolarEnergyIndustriesAssociation

@SeattleHousingAuthority

@GreenLatinos

@GRIDAlternatives

@BlueWave

@350WashingtonState

@OpportunityCouncil

@PSCCU

@CommunityEnergyChallenge

@SESAPUERTORICO

@WashingtonStateCommunityActionPartnership

@VashonClimateActionGroup

@LocalSolarForAll

@SparkNorthwest

@OlympiaSolar

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Use these handles to tag our coalition partners in your social media posts and they will be amplified and reposted!

Don't know your legislative district?

Click this link: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/>

Social Media tags

Including these tags to any social media post is essential to getting the attention of lawmakers during session

#HB2253

#SB6113

#WALEG

#CommunitySolar

@WashingtonHouseDemocrats

@WashingtonStateSenateDemocrats

COALITION EMAIL TEMPLATE

Email invite to sign-on in support of Community Solar legislation. This message can be sent out to organizations or prominent individuals anytime before the legislative session begins in early January.

Dear _____,

I hope you're doing well!

My name is _____, I'm with _____ and I'm reaching out as part of a coalition pursuing solar energy policies that are essential to keeping the grid of the future affordable and reliable (HB2253 & SB6113). Creating community solar in Washington will allow individuals and businesses to reduce their energy bills by subscribing to local solar projects. These systems will also help keep the grid of the future affordable.

Our proposed program will allow customers who cannot afford or do not have a good site for rooftop solar to access the benefits of clean energy. As grid assets, the local, clean generation from community solar will help consumers charge their electric vehicles and adopt new, efficient electric appliances. An op-ed was recently published in the Seattle Times about it.

Will you support clean energy policy to help all Washington families and businesses save money through community solar? Would you be willing to sign onto our supporting organizations list?

The staff at Olympia Community Solar is available to meet with you to discuss the legislation. Contact info@olysol.org.

Visit our Community Solar legislative webpage or read our one-pager.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

(Name)

SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHICS

Graphics are an effective and eye-catching way to circulate a message around, combining these with our social media messages and tagging your legislator is especially impactful.

Graphic 1



Graphic 2



Graphic 3



Graphic 4



BARRIERS TO SOLAR

Lawmakers need to know how common the barriers to solar are for most people. Share these graphics and tell your story of why you may not have been able to put solar on your home. Be sure to use the hashtag #WAleg and tag your district Representative (see Legislative social media tags page).

“

My roof is old and I can't afford to replace it.

Terry,
Faced barrier to solar

communitysolarwa.org

“

My home is shaded and so my energy bills remain high.

-Mary
Faced barrier to solar

communitysolarwa.org

“

I'm a renter and my landlord won't agree to Solar.

Steven,
Faced barrier to solar

communitysolarwa.org

“

I'm worried we will not be able to help contribute to reducing the impact of climate change. I live in a 28 condo complex and not sure how to get started.

-Bob,
Faced barrier to solar

communitysolarwa.org

Have you faced a barrier to rooftop solar? [Fill out this survey!](#) Understanding the barriers that prevent solar adoption can help industry professionals, local governments, and policymakers make more informed decisions around solar policy.

NEWSLETTER TEMPLATE

Subject: The future is bright: Join the Statewide Community Solar Fight!

Dear [Organization Name] Members,

As an organization dedicated to promoting sustainability and empowering people, we have an exciting opportunity to make our voices heard at the legislature. Today, we're calling upon you to take action for a sustainable energy future through the establishment of a Community Solar program (HB 2253 & SB 6113).

The Power of Community Solar

Community solar is a transformative way to access Solar Energy without needing to put solar panels on your roof. By participating in a community solar program, residents, organizations, and businesses can benefit from reduced energy costs while supporting the transition to a greener, more sustainable energy grid.

Why Statewide Community Solar Is Essential to Washington and the Path to 100% Clean Energy

Accessibility: The majority of Washington residents cannot install solar panels on their homes due to common barriers like upfront costs, old roofs, shading, or multifamily housing. A statewide program would ensure that clean energy is accessible to all, regardless of income or property type.

Environmental Benefits: The devastating effects of fossil-fuel-driven climate change are here. We need as much local clean energy generation, like from community solar, in order to close down dirty, old power plants. Community Solar is the key link that will allow everyone to harness the power of the sun and create more resilient communities.

Economic Advantages: Community solar programs stimulate local economies by creating jobs, fostering innovation, and attracting investments in the renewable energy sector.

NEWSLETTER TEMPLATE

(Continued)

Energy Independence: By diversifying our energy sources and relying more on local solar power, we can reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and provide our grid with much needed additional energy, crucial to supporting 100% clean electricity.

Empowering Communities: Community solar strengthens our communities by fostering collaboration between residents and utilities, generating local clean energy that strengthens our grid, and providing educational opportunities for everyone along the way.

📣 Take Action Now! 📣

To ensure that legislators see community solar as essential to our energy future, we need your help! Here's how you can make an impact:

Contact Your Legislators:

Reach out to your state legislators and let them know that you support the creation of a Statewide Community Solar Program. Phone calls are typically more effective than emails. If you don't know your district or your legislators contact info, go to [my district finder](#). Call the legislative hotline at: 1-800-562-6000

Call script:

"My name is _____, I live in the _____ district and I want to encourage Representative/Senator _____ to Support community solar bill HB 2253 & SB 6113, which would create a statewide community solar program enabling energy affordability through solar for the majority of Washingtonians, not only give solar access to the majority of Washingtonians who can't currently access it. Community solar will also strengthen our electric grid with additional local clean energy and help keep our grid of the future affordable".

Spread the Word: Share this newsletter with your friends, family, and colleagues to increase awareness and mobilize more people to take action.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to creating a healthier, sustainable, and prosperous future for everyone!

Sincerely,

[Your Name] [Organization Name]

P.S. Stay tuned for updates on our progress and upcoming events related to the Statewide Community Solar Program. Together, we can make a brighter future a reality! Sign up for updates at www.communitysolarwa.org.

CALL SCRIPT

The best time to call is in early-mid January during the public hearing and especially before the vote in the House Energy Committee.

Call script:

"My name is _____, I live in the __ district and I want to encourage Representative/Senator _____ to support community solar bill HB 2253 & SB 6113, which creates a statewide community solar program enabling energy affordability through solar for more Washingtonians. Community solar will also strengthen our electric grid with additional local clean energy and help keep our grid of the future affordable. Thank you for your support".

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

Rep. Beth Doglio (LD-22)	(360) 786-7940	beth.doglio@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Sharlett Mena (LD-29)	(360) 786-7996	Sharlett.mena@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Liz Berry (LD-36)	(360) 786-7860	liz.berry@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Davina Duerr (LD-1)	(360) 786-7928	davina.duerr@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Debra Lekanoff (LD-40)	(360) 786-7800	Debra.lezkanoff@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Alex Ramel (LD-40)	(360) 786-7970	Alex.ramel@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Vandana Slatter (LD-48)	(360) 786-7936	Vandana.slatter@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Chipalo Street (LD-37)	(360) 786-7838	Chipalo.street@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Alex Ybarra (LD-13)	(509) 492-4648	alex.ybarra@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Peter Abbarno (LD-20)	(564) 888-2492	peter.abbarno@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Stephanie Barnard (LD-8)	(360) 786-7986	Stephanie.barnard@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Keith Goehner (LD-12)	(509) 669-7338	Keith.goehner@leg.wa.gov

SENATE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

Senator Joe Nguyen (LD-34)	(360) 786-7667	joe.nguyen@leg.wa.gov
Senator Liz Lovelett (LD-40)	(360) 786-7678	liz.lovelett@leg.wa.gov
Senator Drew MacEwen (LD-35)	(360) 786-7668	drew.macewen@leg.wa.gov
Senator Matt Boehnke (LD-8)	(360) 786-7614	matt.boehnke@leg.wa.gov
Senator John Lovick (LD-44)	(360) 786-7686	john.lovick@leg.wa.gov
Senator Shelly Short (LD-7)	(360) 786-7612	shelly.short@leg.wa.gov
Senator Yasmin Trudeau (LD-27)	(360) 786-7652	yasmin.trudeau@leg.wa.gov
Senator Lisa Wellman (LD-41)	(360) 786-7641	lisa.wellman@leg.wa.gov

HOW TO HELP

- **Sign on to our advocacy list by visiting communitysolarwa.org**
- **Add your organization to our sign-on letter**
- **Call and email your legislators**
- **Write to the Governors office:**
<https://governor.wa.gov/contacting-governor/contacting-governors-office/send-gov-inslee-e-message>
- **Connect our team with stakeholders that might be willing to support our effort.**

Olympia Community Solar
info@olysol.org
(360) 481-4020

THANK YOU

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