RMLD
Reading Municipal Light Department
RELIABLE POWER FOR GENERATIONS

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# AGENDA

*REGULAR SESSION*

READING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD (CAB) MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2015
6:30 PM
230 Ash Street, General Manager's Conference Room
Reading, MA 01867

1. Call Meeting to Order – G. Hooper, Chair
2. Community Solar Update – T. Ollila, Integrated Resources Engineer
3. Potential to Form Broadband Study Committee – G. Hooper, Chair
4. RMLD Policy Committee Update – C. O'Brien, General Manager
5. NEPPA Annual Conference 2015 – G. Hooper, Chair
6. Discussion - Setting CAB Agendas – G. Hooper, Chair
7. Next Meeting – G. Hooper, Chair
8. Adjournment – G. Hooper, Chair

This Agenda has been prepared in advance and does not necessarily include all matters which may be taken up at this meeting.

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# Press Release

## *RMLD explores community shared solar project in Reading*

**Reading, MA, April 1, 2015** - Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD) is in the early stages of exploring a community shared solar (CSS) project on a town-owned site in Reading. Solar electric generation (photovoltaic or PV) systems have been booming in Massachusetts in recent years. However, to date, only homeowners with optimally sited roofs and sufficient financial resources could benefit from these clean renewable energy solutions. CSS will give all RMLD ratepayers the option to participate in the solar revolution by building one large *community* solar array and selling *solar shares* to residents who would then benefit from the clean, green output from the system. Once this first site is established in Reading, it could then be used as a model for additional solar arrays in RMLD's other served towns -- North Reading, Wilmington and Lynnfield.

A working group comprised of RMLD staff, community planning officials and representatives from the Reading Climate Advisory Committee (RCAC) has been formed and will meet over the next few

months to develop the initial plans, detailing how a CSS project could work in Reading and to review potential municipal sites.

"We are working closely with Town of Reading officials and the RCAC to evaluate municipal sites and to establish the specifics of how the project would be financed, constructed and operated. The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) has established CSS guidelines which will provide a solid foundation upon which our specific program can be built," said RMLD's Integrated Resources Engineer Tom Ollila.

In 2006, RMLD created the Green Choice Program for customers who wanted to support renewable energy. In response to customer demand, RMLD made renewable energy a strategic and integral part of its wholesale power supply portfolio. A pilot CSS project would be the next phase along this renewable energy path and will allow people who don't have rooftops suited for solar panels to invest in and reap the rewards of solar PV systems which happen to be located someplace else in their community.

"RMLD values our close ties with our customers and we will continue to share information on current issues and trends in the utility industry," said Ollila. "We welcome public input on the planned CSS project."

RMLD's Integrated Resources Department maintains the cost-effective reliability and capacity of the RMLD electric system by working with customers to reduce peak demand, incentivize energy efficiency upgrades and coordinate onsite generation, including renewable energy sources like solar.

For more information or if you have questions about the CSS project, please contact us at energyrmld@rmld.com or 781-942-6426.

RMLD Reading Municipal Light Department
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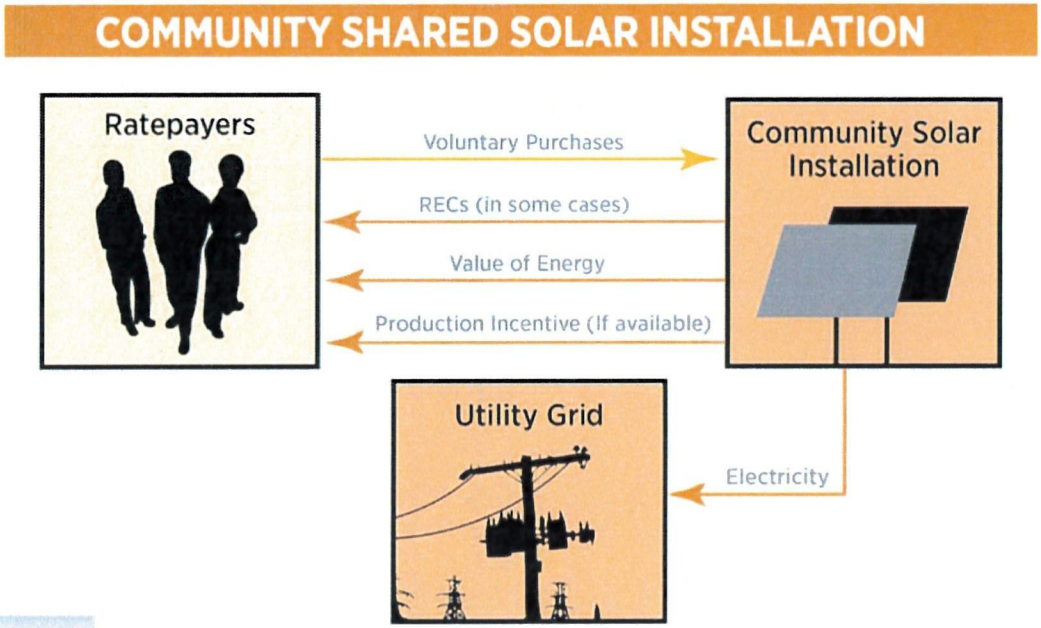
*May 2015*

# Community Shared Solar (CSS) Program Overview

***An Explanation of CSS and How It Will Benefit the Town of Reading as well as all RMLD Customers***

## *What is CSS?*

- A win-win-win partnership between a private developer, a municipal utility, the town and end user participants
- Private developer captures the substantial Federal & State tax incentives and depreciation benefits that municipal entities cannot

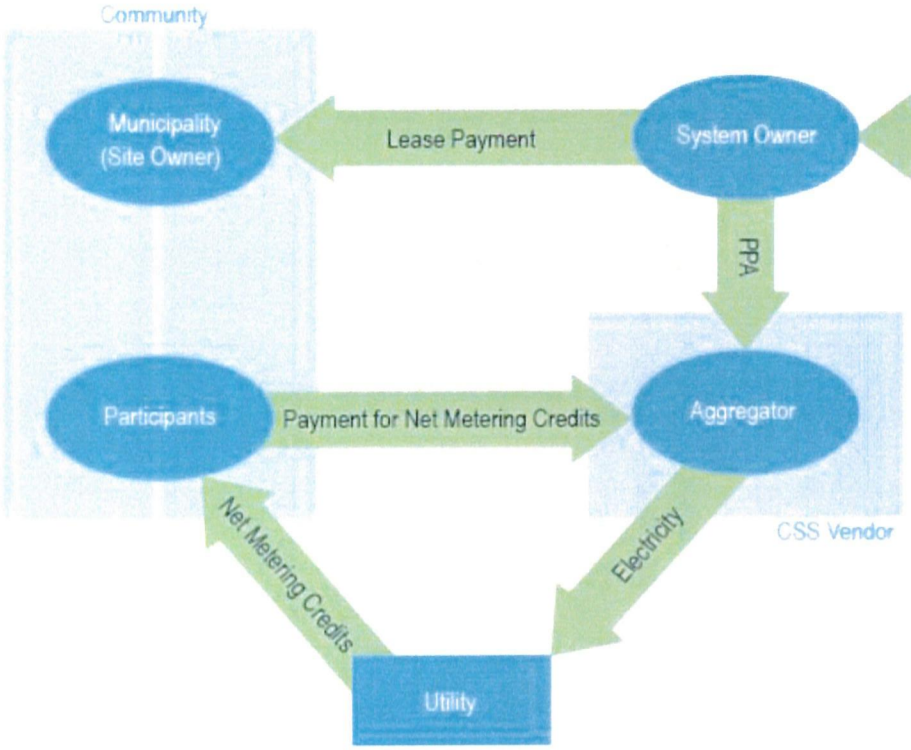



- Mass DOER developed the CSS Public Lease Model to accelerate the deployment of solar to the ~80% of the population that do not have "perfect roofs"

DOER
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources

# How Would CSS Work?

- A CSS Vendor is selected by the town & RMLD to finance, engineer, procure, construct, own and operate a solar PV system to be installed on a municipally owned site
- RMLD oversees the system specs and its interconnection to the grid
- With marketing help from RMLD, CSS Vendor solicits RMLD customers to sign up for the CSS program
- CSS Vendor receives Federal/State tax incentives and SREC revenue
- The town receives lease and/or PILOT payment for use of municipal property site
- CSS Vendor tracks system performance & relays data to RMLD who integrates payment and net metering credit info into participating customers monthly electric bills




# How Would Reading/RMLD Customers Benefit?


## ✓ The Town of Reading

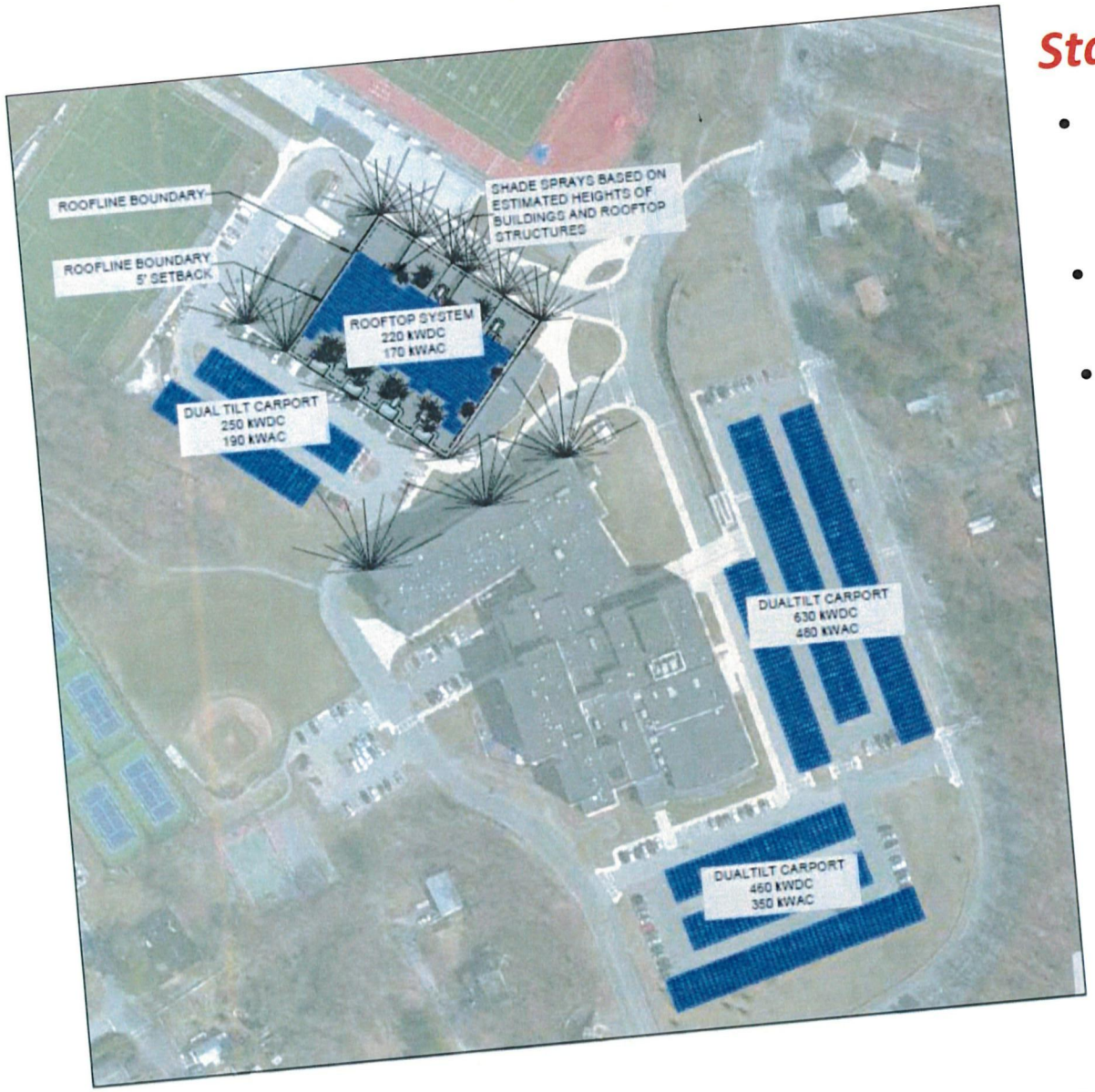
- Receive a lease payment and/or a PILOT payment for the use of the municipally owned site
- Potential for reduced electric expenses based on CSS Net Metering Credits

## ✓ RMLD Customers

- Opportunity for all participating RMLD customers to benefit from clean, green renewable solar energy
- Potential for reduced electric expenses based on CSS Net Metering Credits
- None of the hassle/liability associated with installing solar equipment on their own property

## ✓ RMLD

- Opportunity to add "home grown" clean, green renewable solar energy to RMLD's wholesale power supply portfolio
- No need for upfront capital expenses to pay for solar system
- Reduced wholesale power supply, capacity & transmission costs




## Status of CSS Project

- 3 potential town owned sites in Reading have been evaluated
- Reading High School site is the preferred option
- If fully built out, this site could produce >1 MW of clean, renewable power for the high school and any RMLD customers who sign up for the program
- Assuming that the HS used ~20% of the solar array output, the remaining solar energy could power another ~120 homes

## *Next Steps & Policy Issues*

- Detailed financial budgetary estimate is in process now
- System engineering design & local grid impact study to be performed
- Negotiate lease and/or PILOT payment to town
- Develop net metering policy, rates and logistics of integrating into bills
- Town/RMLD approve CSS Project, solicit & engage CSS Vendor
- After this first system in Reading, evaluate additional arrays in North Reading, Wilmington & Lynnfield
- 30% Federal ITC tax incentive expires at end of 2016
- To prevent grid stability/reliability problems, total solar capacity in RMLD service territory must be limited to ~10MW

# Questions?

## Please Contact Tom at: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