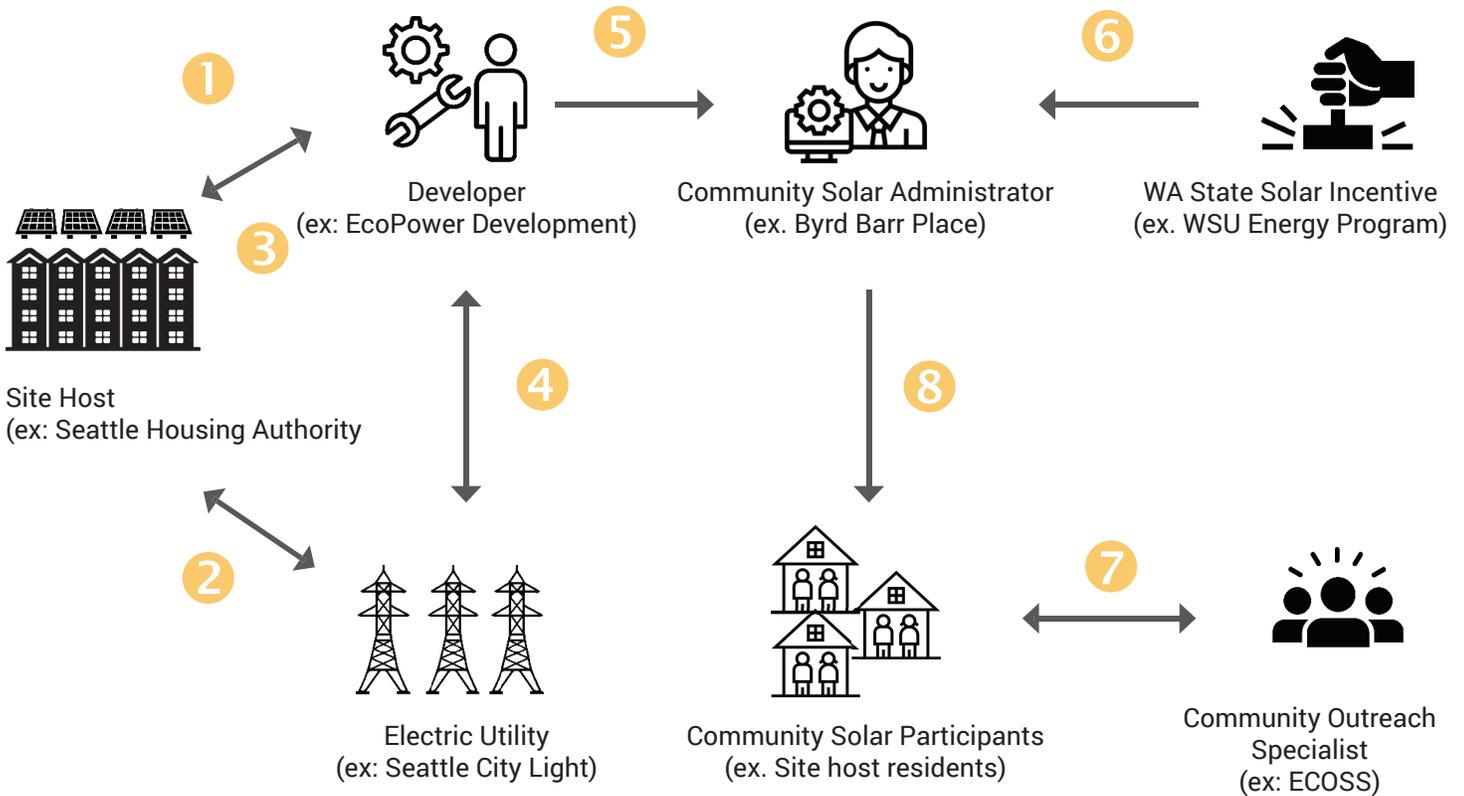


**ACCESS SOLAR**

Access Solar is a joint initiative of Spark Northwest and Emerald Cities Seattle to expand solar energy access to communities that have been left out of the transition to clean energy because of policy, capacity or financing barriers. On-site solar energy can help to stabilize operating costs for organizations that support under served communities. In coordination with Emerald Cities Seattle’s RENEW program for energy efficiency, we design and develop solar projects that help affordable housing providers thrive.

**HOW IT WORKS**



- 1 Developer installs solar array
- 2 Utility credits host for electricity (net metering)
- 3 Site host pays developer for electricity (PPA)
- 4 Renewable Energy Credit purchase
- 5 Developer contracts with Administrator
- 6 WA State issues production based incentive
- 7 Outreach specialist enrolls Participants
- 8 Participants receive incentive

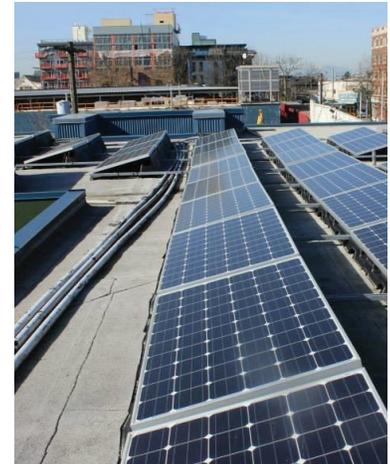
**ACCESS SOLAR BY THE NUMBERS**

- ☀️ 5 potential site hosts
- ☀️ 8 potential sites
- ☀️ 640 potential community solar participants
- ☀️ 700 kW-DC solar capacity

**DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**Power Purchase Agreement (PPA):** In our model, a Power Purchase Agreement is a contract between a solar owner/developer and a solar host/customer in which a developer owns, operates, and maintains the photovoltaic (PV) system, and a customer agrees to host the system and purchase the system’s electric output for a predetermined period at a specified rate. This arrangement allows the solar host to purchase stable and often low-cost electricity, while the owner/developer acquires financial benefits, such as tax credits, depreciation and income generated from the sale of electricity.

**Community Solar:** As defined by the WA State Solar Incentive program, Community Solar projects must have at least 10 participants, and be administered by a utility, non-profit or housing authority. Administrators are responsible for reporting, accounting and disbursement of incentive for eight years. This incentive program is now closed, but other incentives may be forthcoming in 2019.



**WHAT'S NEXT?**

To expand the Access solar model to more sites across Washington, several policies would be helpful:

- Provide a flexible, upfront rebate instead of production payment over time (Lower upfront costs)
- Allow energy generated from a single array on multifamily housing to offset the house meter and tenant meters

**ABOUT SOLAR PLUS**

The Solar Plus initiative convenes leaders from 22 different entities, including utilities, regulators, the Washington State Energy Office at the Department of Commerce, the Oregon Department of Energy, the solar industry and community-based organizations to tap into our region’s unique opportunities to develop solar with an emphasis on equity and inclusion.

The three year effort (2017- 2019) looks beyond energy generation to additional solar value streams, through focus on several areas:

- Deploying more community shared solar
- Building community and grid resilience
- Using solar energy to build wealth for low-income communities and communities of color
- Supporting group purchase opportunities in underserved communities
- Supporting the development of career pathways for a thriving, diverse solar industry

Solar Plus envisions a future where the benefits of solar energy are equitably expanded to include renters, households with low incomes, communities of color and all ratepayers. Our community-driven approach seeks to triple the amount of solar, decrease costs, and double the solar jobs in the region by 2020. For more information, visit: [solarplusnw.org](http://solarplusnw.org)

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