

# SOLAR PLUS NORTHWEST

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## Community Solar in WA: 2018 Reality & Possibility

*Presented by Jaimes Valdez and Mikhaila Gonzales, Spark Northwest*



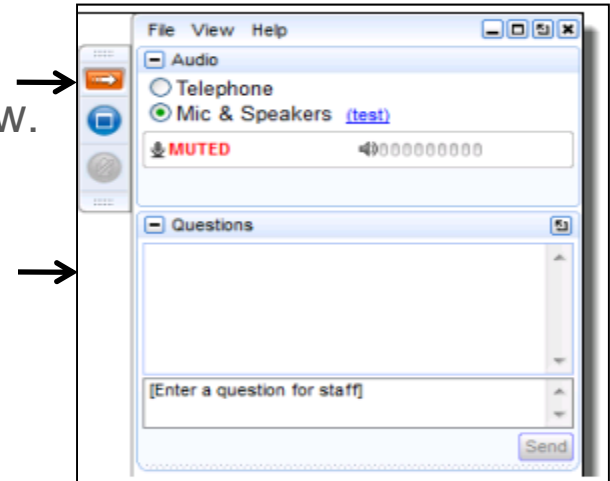
*Solar Plus is a project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy through the Washington State Department of Commerce. This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) under the Solar Plus Strategies for Oregon and Washington award number DE-EE0007665.*

# Webinar Housekeeping

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- During the Webinar

- To expand or collapse your toolbar, click arrow.
- To ask a question, expand the Question box.



- After the Webinar

- Submit a question or comment: [Jaimes@sparknorthwest.org](mailto:Jaimes@sparknorthwest.org)
- A copy of the webinar will be emailed to attendees and posted at SolarPlusNW.org

## What is Community Solar in WA?

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A relationship between:

- a utility customer,
- a solar project administered by an eligible entity, and
- the utility to distribute an annual state incentive payment.

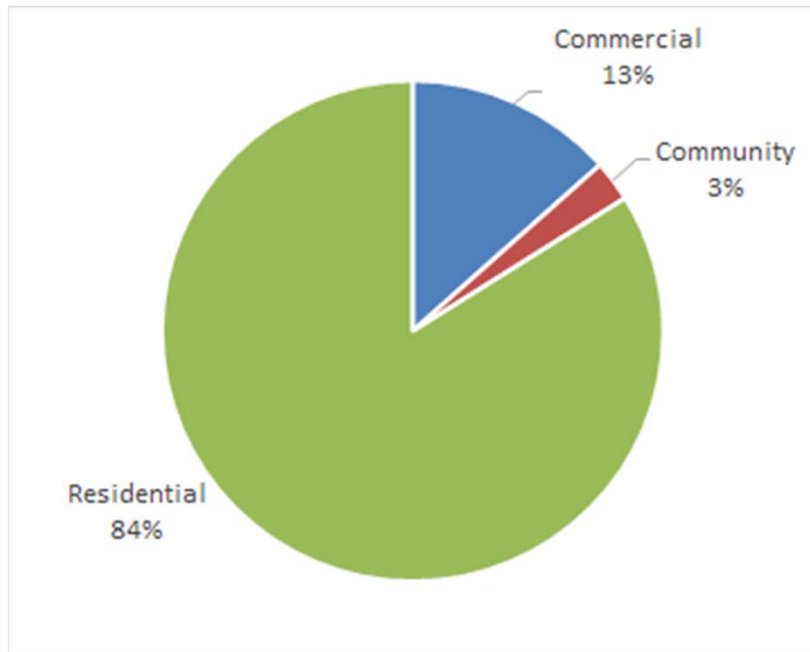
## Current Program Rules and Caps

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- Project must have at least 10 participants
- Incentive payments cover no more than 50% of costs
- 8 Year payment term
- Based on actual solar production X incentive rate
- Payments annually, incentive rate fixed at beginning
- Market-based, no low income goals\*
- Program limited by per-utility cap **and** \$110M total program expenditure
- Utilities, Non-Profits, and Housing Agencies can administer projects

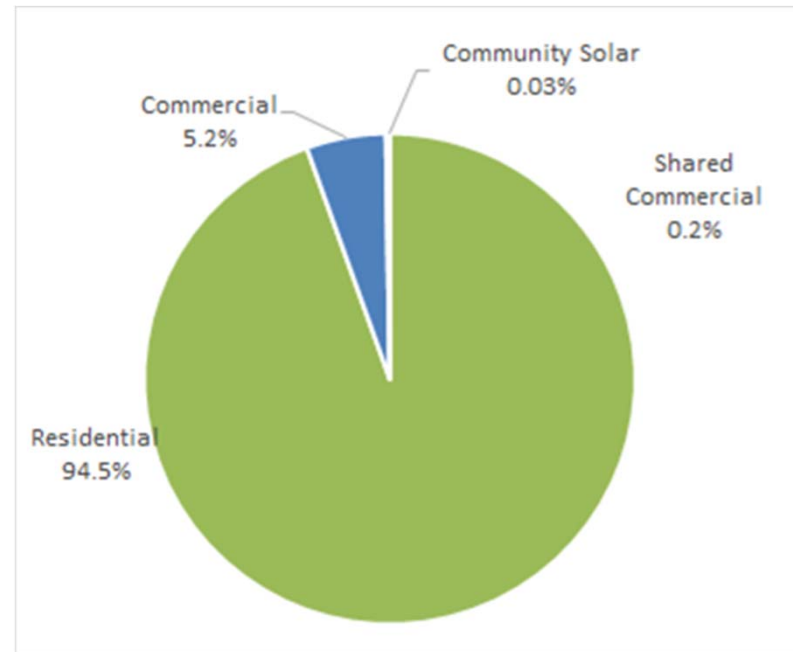
# Inequity of Opportunity

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**Legacy Solar Incentive Program - by Capacity (kW) and Project Type**

*Data Source: WSU Energy Extension*

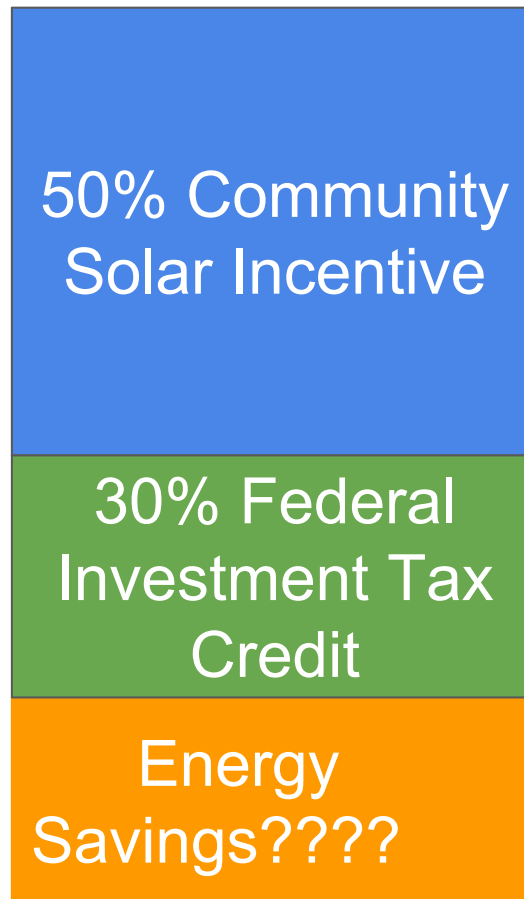


**Current Solar Incentive Program - by System Count and Project Type**

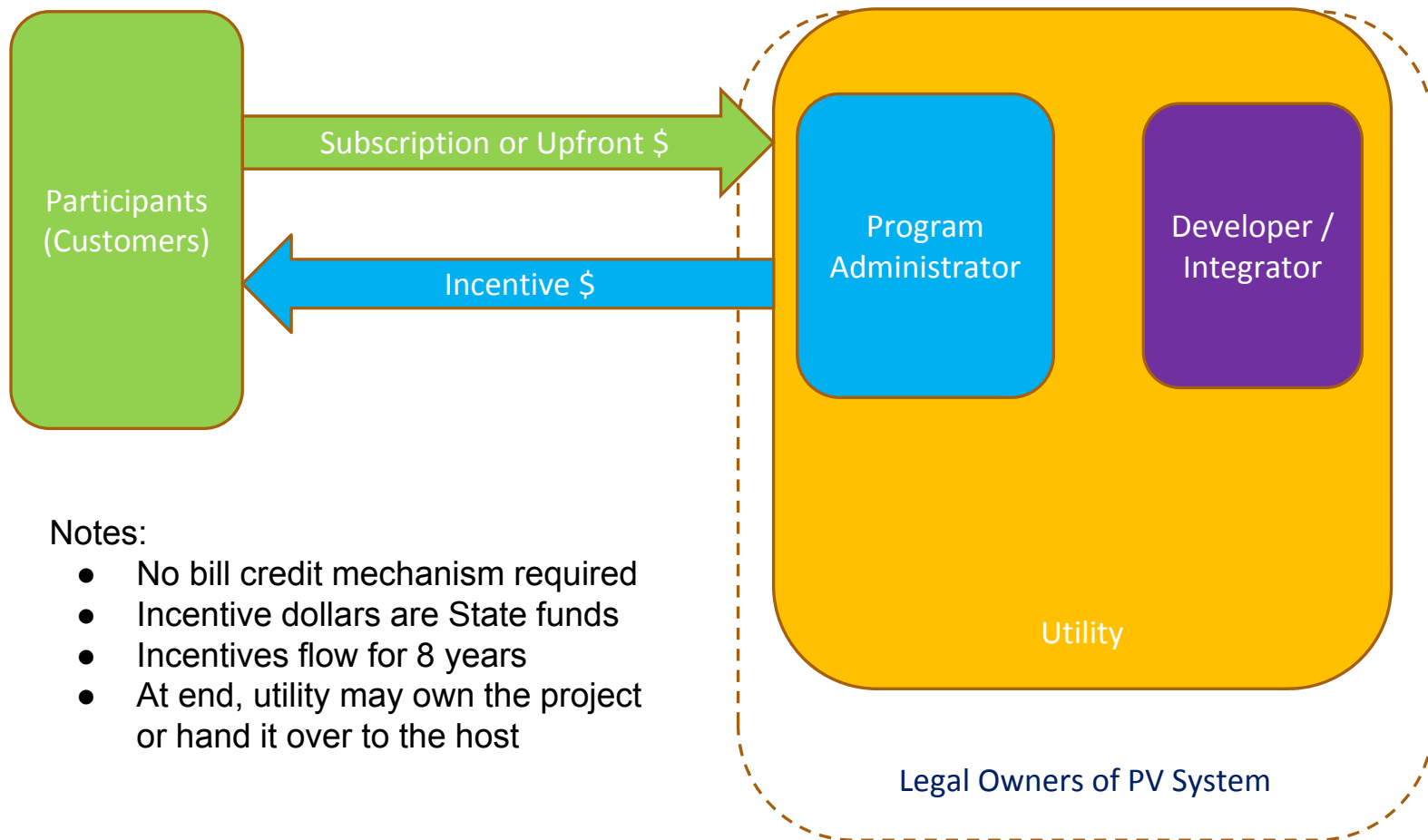
*Data Source: WSU Energy Extension as of 9/17/18*

# Community Solar in WA: Payback Mechanisms

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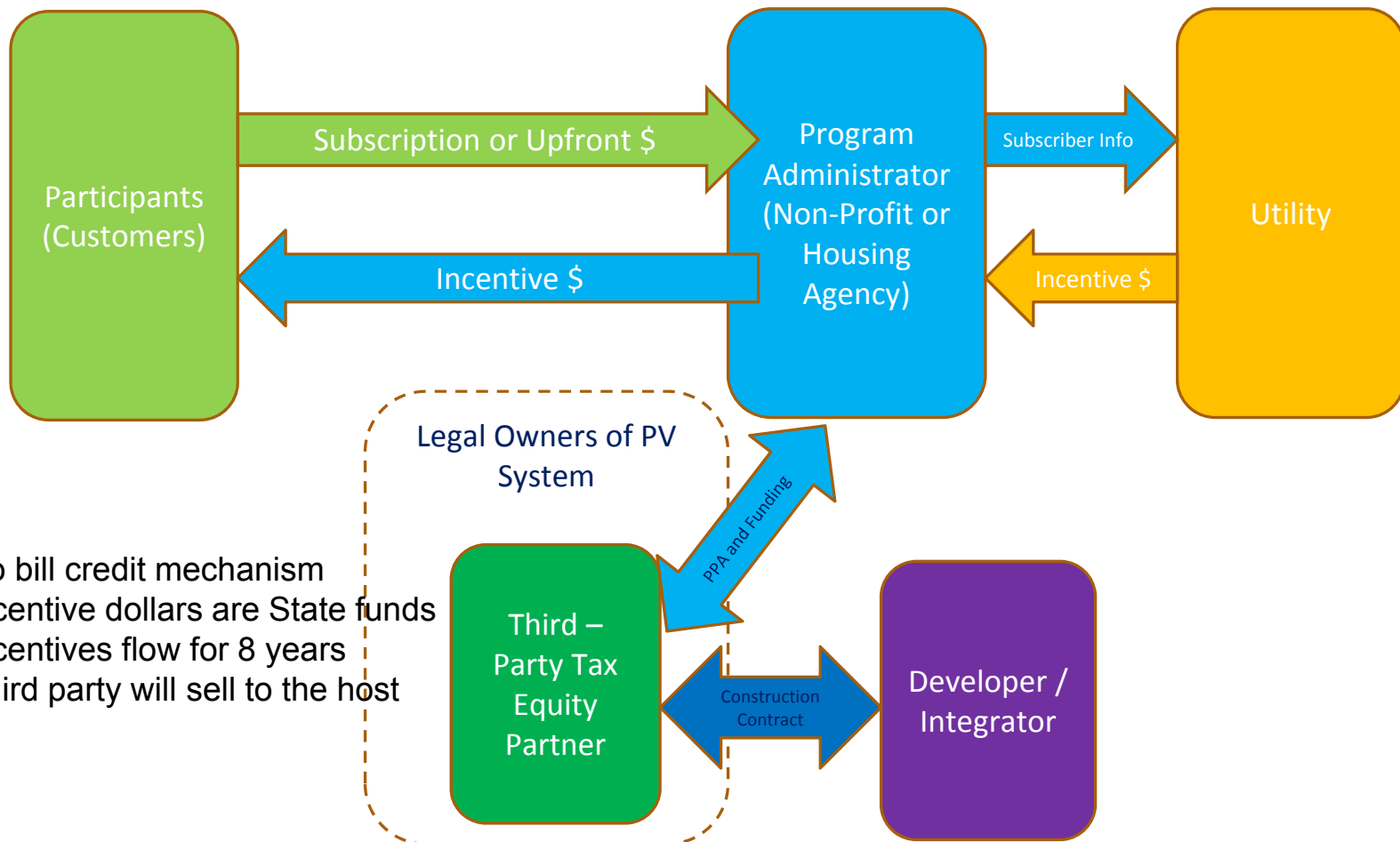
# Model 1: Utility Owned and Administered



Notes:

- No bill credit mechanism required
- Incentive dollars are State funds
- Incentives flow for 8 years
- At end, utility may own the project or hand it over to the host

# Model 2: Third-Party Ownership, Independent Administrator



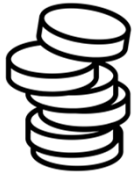
## Notes:

- No bill credit mechanism
- Incentive dollars are State funds
- Incentives flow for 8 years
- Third party will sell to the host



# Access Solar: Constraints on Solar for Multifamily Affordable Housing in SCL

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Financial complexity with thin margins

ITC Investor  
Developer  
AH Providers  
AH Investors  
SCL

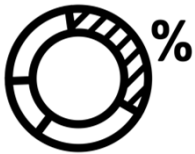


Technical site requirements

On site  
<100 kW

CS Admin  
Residents  
Outreach Specialist

Outside networked area  
HUD/Tax Credit financing  
Site evaluation



Incentive distribution



Administrator options

Created by Vectors Market  
from Noun Project

# Sources of Funding - New Potential

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**Department of Commerce**  
Innovation is in our nature.



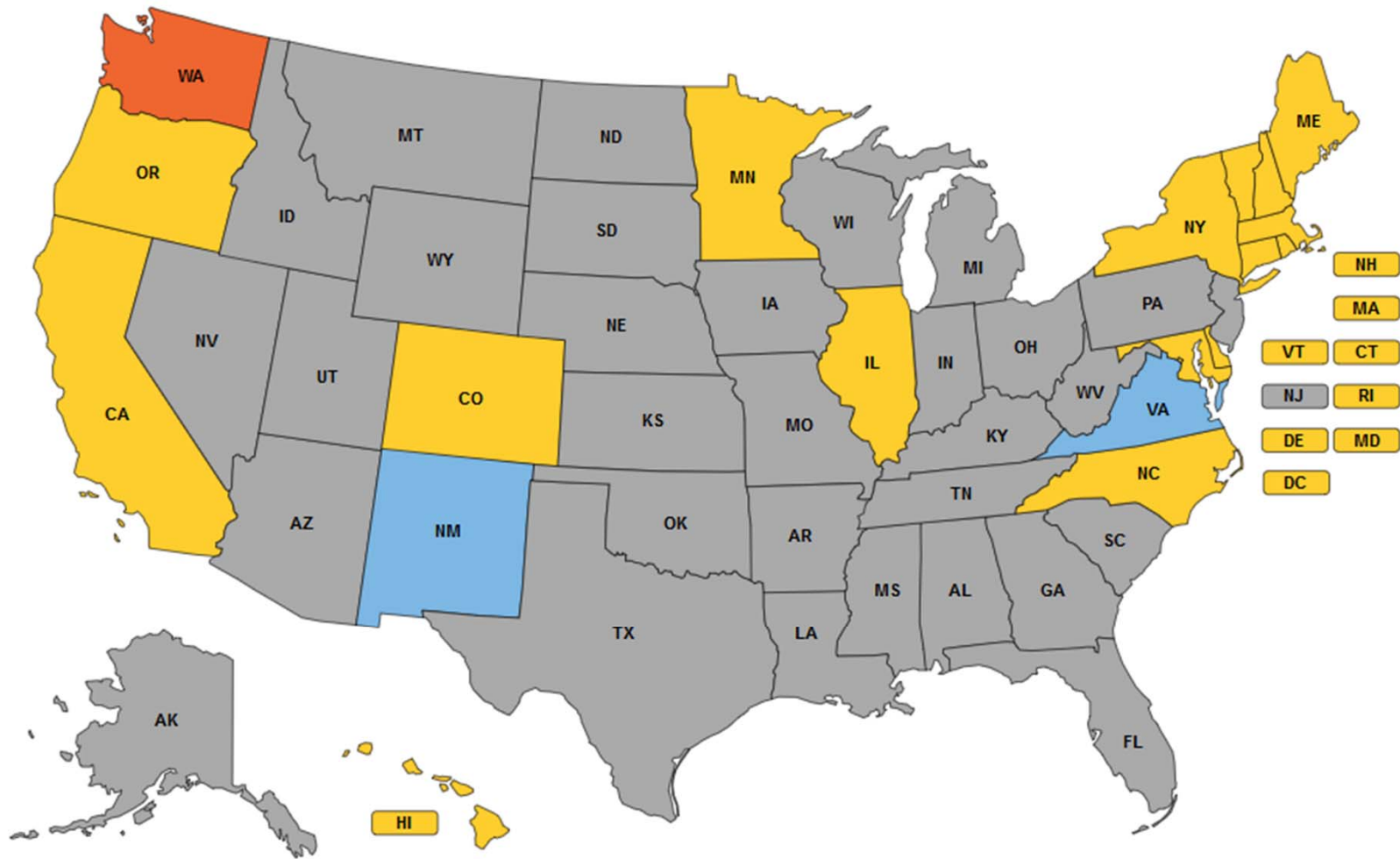
Committed to the future of rural communities.

## Community Solar – Long-term Opportunity to Provide Benefits and Overcome Barriers

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- Reduce and stabilize household energy costs
- Community investment
- Jobs and training opportunities
- Increases community resiliency & addresses historical inequity
- Provide clean energy on the grid

# Policies from Other States



**16 STATES & THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

## Key Social Equity Tools and Lessons from Other States

- **California** - Direct rebates for low income Multi-family Shared Solar. Complex requirements for offsite Community Solar
- **Colorado** - 5% inclusionary goal, but often met without direct customer engagement.
- **Illinois** - Dedicated funding for Lower Income solar and 25% Environmental Justice commitment
- **Massachusetts** - Higher bill credit rate for projects that serve high % of Lower Income customers, and for smaller projects
- **Washington DC** - Goals to reduce low income bills by 50%, and serve 100k households. Fund to meet goals through grants.

## Successful Policies include:

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1. Up front incentive for lower income participants
  1. To projects that serve lower income
  2. Direct to participants to subsidize their participation
2. Mechanism for delivering long term energy value
  1. Via net metering or “virtual” net metering
  2. Via a long term bill credit for the value of the energy

## Questions?

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What obstacles and opportunity do you see for Community Solar in Washington?

## Thank You for attending!

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# Resources

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- [Coalition for Community Solar Access](#)
- [Community Solar Value Project](#)
- [Catalyzing Community Solar](#)
- [Guide to Community Shared Solar](#)
- [Community Solar Playbook](#)

## **Case Studies**

Orcas Power and Light Co (OPALCO)

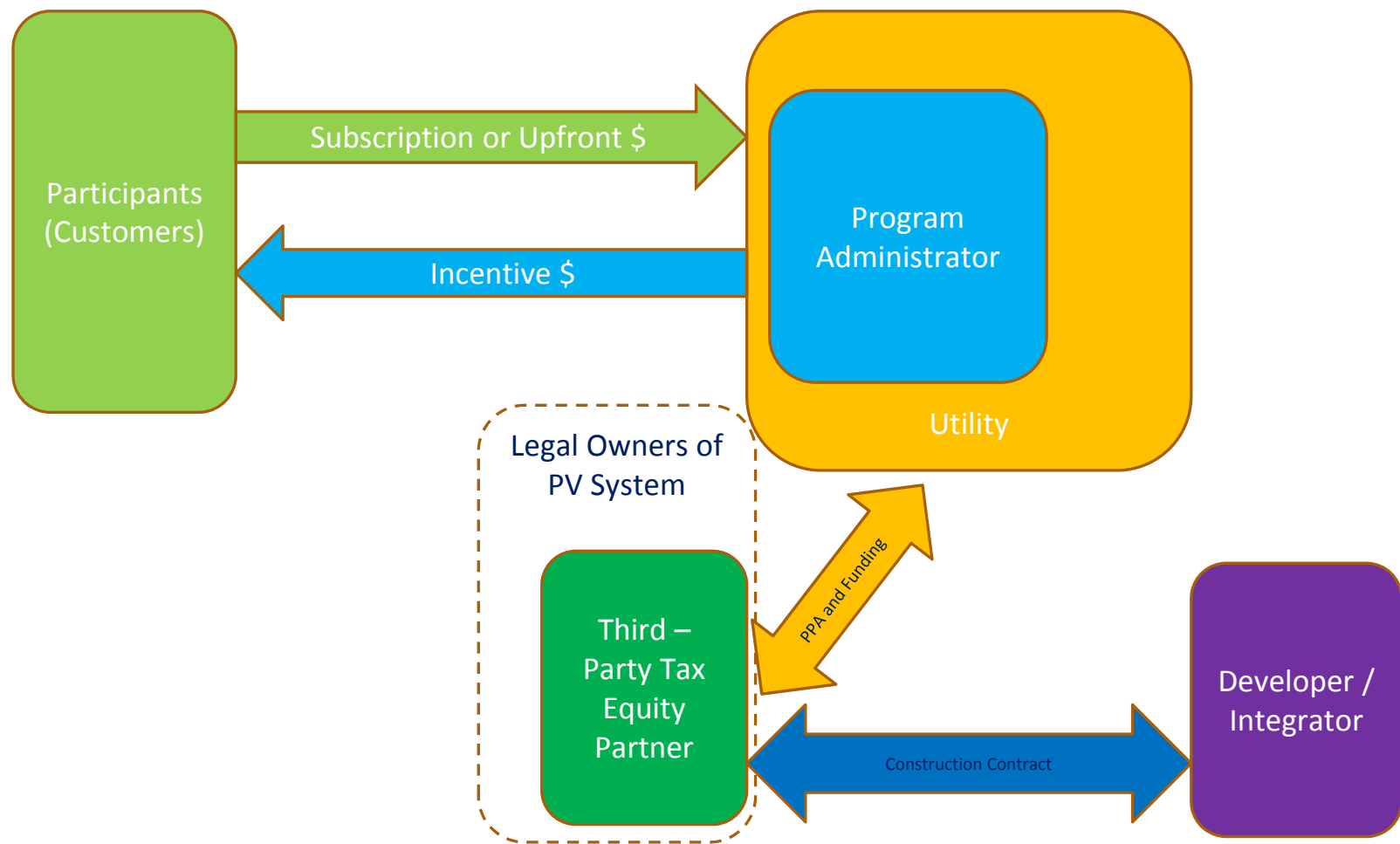
Denver Housing Authority (DHA)

New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA)

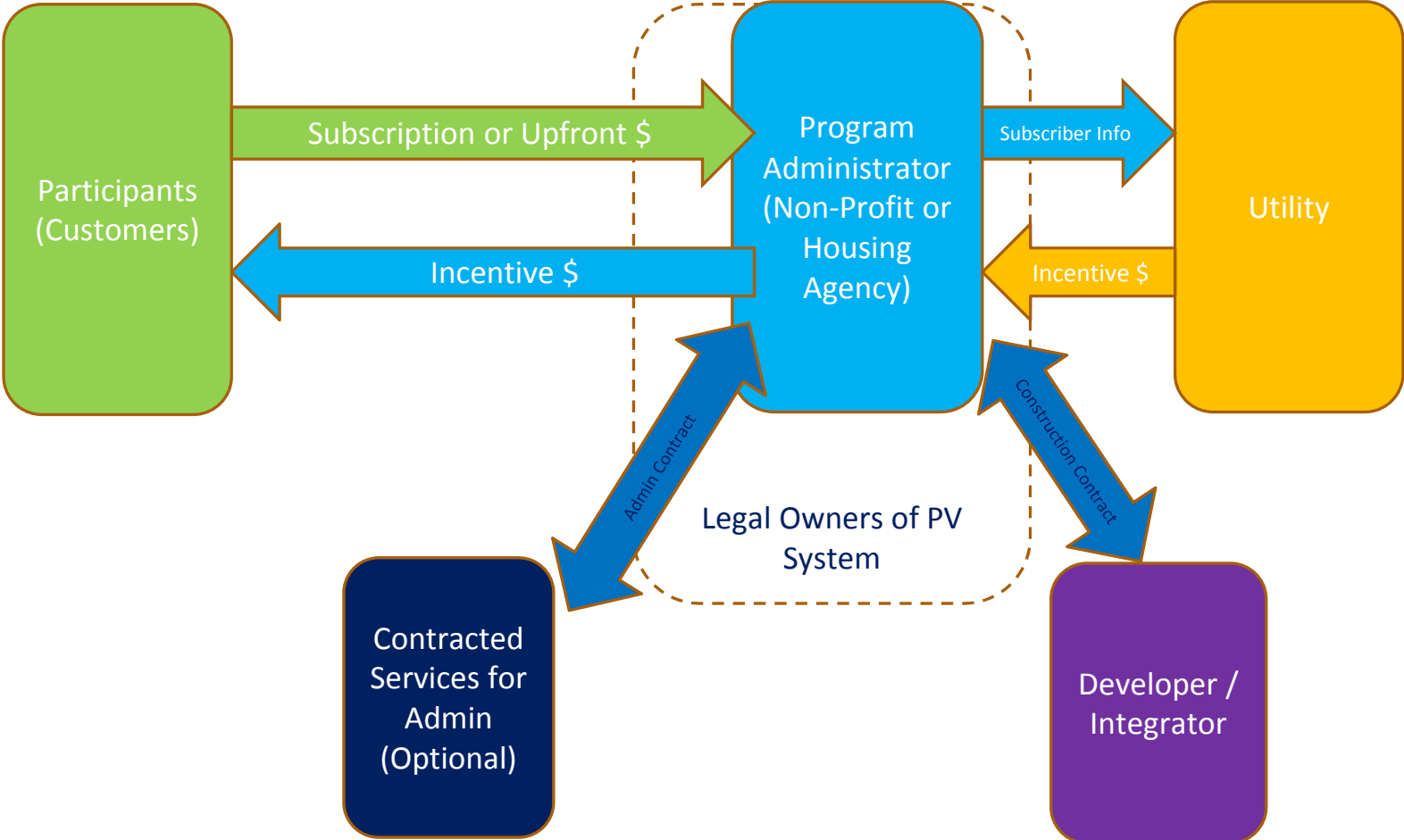


# Community Solar Models and Roles: Utility Administrator, Third Party Ownership

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# Community Solar Models and Roles: Program Administrator Ownership



# Community Solar Models and Roles: Independent PA, Customer Ownership (less likely)

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