



## Solar Workshop Briefing Memo

Over the next two weeks, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) will be hosting workshops to seek your input on their plan to bring 1280 MW of solar powered electricity into Los Angeles by 2020. This document is designed to help you advocate for a strong solar plan that emphasizes environmental values.

### Workshop Structure

Each workshop is structured to seek your comments on five proposed components of the solar plan: **Solar Incentives, Sun Shares, Utility Built Solar, Large Scale Purchase Agreements, and Feed-in Tariff.** It begins with a presentation by DWP giving background and explaining the proposed components. Then the meeting breaks up into three simultaneous sessions split up by components: A. Solar Incentives/SunShares, B. Utility Built Solar/Large Scale Purchase Agreements, and C. Feed-in Tariff. Each person participates in two sessions of discussions facilitated to seek your input on the plan component. The DWP will use your workshop input when crafting the details of the solar plan.

### Component Descriptions

#### Solar Incentives

Solar incentive customer programs provide financing options provided to people who buy solar panels and solar water heating systems. Examples include low-interest loans, and allowing customers to pay off solar panels through property taxes. Known as property tax assessment financing, this option has already been used in cities like Berkeley and Palm Desert.

#### Sun Shares

This program would allow DWP customers, who can't install solar panels on their property or who can't afford them, to become "virtual owners" of DWP-installed solar power systems. The customer would then receive credits on their bills from the electricity generated by that solar power system.

#### Utility Built Solar

This component consists of roof top solar power systems that will be owned by DWP. During this workshop you will likely see controversy over whether the solar installations should be put in by DWP employees, private installers, or a combination of both.

#### Large Scale Purchase Agreements

This component consists of contracts to purchase power from large solar installations generally in large open spaces (such as the desert) and developed by private companies.

#### Feed-in Tariff

A feed-in tariff policy would consist of DWP purchasing power from private solar developers through long term contracts and at a price set to both offset capital costs and pay for avoided transmission/distribution costs. Feed-in tariffs policies are in effect worldwide. Key policy questions to settle before implementing a feed-in tariff are the actual feed-in tariff rate (or rates), the flexibility to change rates, and the eligible sizes of solar power systems receiving each rate.

## Key Points for You to Make in the Breakout Sessions

Our goal as Sierra Club members is to ensure that environmental values are upheld in the details of this plan. The way to do that is to make sure our comments reflect those values.

### General Points

- **We must end our addiction to dirty coal.** Solar power will help us do that.
- It's urgent time for action on global warming, that is why **we need solar power now.**
- Solar power not only benefits the environment, but switching to clean renewable energy will also create **good jobs here in Los Angeles.**

When other workshop participants make comments regarding costs, it is important to follow such comments with at least one of the following:

- Energy prices of fossil fuels, such as coal and natural gas are likely to increase and...
  - We can't keep pushing global warming solutions into the future, we need to make the right investments now to ensure future generations don't bear the burden of its effects.
  - The costs of not taking action to stop global warming are far greater than the cost of taking action now.
  - Solar power is essentially free, once the panels are installed (the price of sunlight will never go up!).
  - Increases in energy costs can and should be offset by energy conservation and efficiency, which could allow ratepayers to see stable bills.

### Solar Incentives/Sun Shares

- Programs must be vigorously marketed to customers.
- DWP should work closely with non- governmental organizations to raise awareness and participation in the programs.
- Programs must be user friendly and information should be available in multiple languages.

### Utility Built Solar/Large Scale Purchase Agreements

- Utility built solar will help us meet our renewable energy goals while creating long-term good-paying jobs.
- Large scale solar is a necessary piece of the renewable energy mix because it allows for the generation of large amounts of electricity while emitting very small amounts of greenhouse gases.
- Large-scale solar projects and accompanying transmission lines must undergo thorough environmental review process ensure preservation of natural habitat and wildlife (environmentally-sensitive areas must be avoided).

### Feed-in Tariff

- The tariff rates should be set high enough to encourage substantial, rapid private, long-term investment in solar installation and manufacturing, while low enough to protect ratepayers.
- There should be a transparent review process providing flexibility to alter the program to ensure goals are met.
- Rate variations should be provided to ensure a mix of large and small projects.
- Environmental and utility benefits should be considered, such as close to existing transmission lines, no habitat destruction, etc.