

Net Metering & Distributed Generation

talking points

2014

- Distributed Generation (DG) is **important to the solar portfolio** and offers unique benefits
- Net Energy Metering (NEM) is a **critical tool in facilitating customer access** to solar
- Forty-three states and DC have adopted NEM policies
- **Fair assessment of solar's costs and benefits is needed in every market.** These benefits include:
 - Avoided energy and capacity costs
 - Avoided transmission infrastructure
 - Avoided distribution investment
 - Avoided **externalities not captured in traditional rates** (i.e., particulate emissions)
 - Reduced energy market prices, such as a reduction in the ISO market price to due increased supply from DG
- Distributed generation can be used as a **tool for a more efficient grid** and can help **balance the electrical grid** itself
- Customer-sited PV (deployed mostly under NEM) makes up only about half of total solar electric production in the U.S.
- Community Solar
 - There are at least **31 shared renewables projects in 12 different states**
 - At least 7 states have recognized the benefits of shared renewables
 - Shared renewables can be beneficial for those who are renting, are prohibited from installing solar on their property, have a shaded roof, or have equipment obstructions
- The **domestic energy grid is radically transforming** with new technologies coming online every day, and they all have impacts on the grid. **Utilities will need to modernize** and recognize this transformation
- DG penetration across the country remains small, with a few exceptions
- Fixed charges are not only detrimental to distributed generation, but also to energy efficiency measures