

# SOLAR DATA

## talking points

- The U.S. solar market will have another record-breaking year in 2014 and is expected to **grow 36 percent over 2013** to more than three times the market size of just three years ago.
- There is now enough solar installed in the United States to **power 3.5 million U.S. homes**.
- More than half a million U.S. homes have gone solar.
- Q3 2014 was the **second-largest quarter ever** for the U.S. solar industry (after Q4 2013), with 1354 MW of solar PV installed in the utility-scale, residential and commercial sectors. Q4 2014 is expected to be the largest ever.
- More than 1 GW of solar capacity was installed in Q3, making it the **fourth consecutive quarter with more than a gigawatt** of new solar installations.
- As of Q3 2014, solar has made up more **than a third (36%) of new electric generating capacity** in the United States this year.
- While utility scale continues to be the largest sector at 61 percent, **residential growth is strong**, up 58 percent year-over-year.
- **State programs are working:** More than 50 percent of new residential capacity came on-line without any state incentives, primarily driven by California and Arizona's established industries and soft cost reductions in states such as New York.
- California continues to be the nation's leader, but the residential sector outside California is gaining market share, up 16 percent quarter-over-quarter compared to California's 11 percent increase since Q2.
- The **cost of solar continues to fall**, with a 3.8 percent decline in the residential sector and a 5 percent decline in non-residential since last quarter.
- SEIA and GTM expect only slight growth in the non-residential sector in 2014 but forecast a resumption of growth in 2015, with announcements from corporate leaders such as Walmart, Apple and Verizon, as well as continued development of financing mechanisms for mid-sized projects.
- While no new concentrating solar power (CSP) projects came on-line in Q3 2014, **2014 is already the largest year ever for CSP**, and Abengoa's Mojave Solar project (250 MW) came on-line in December 2014.