

# U.S. Solar Market Insight, 2018 Year in Review

Report brochure



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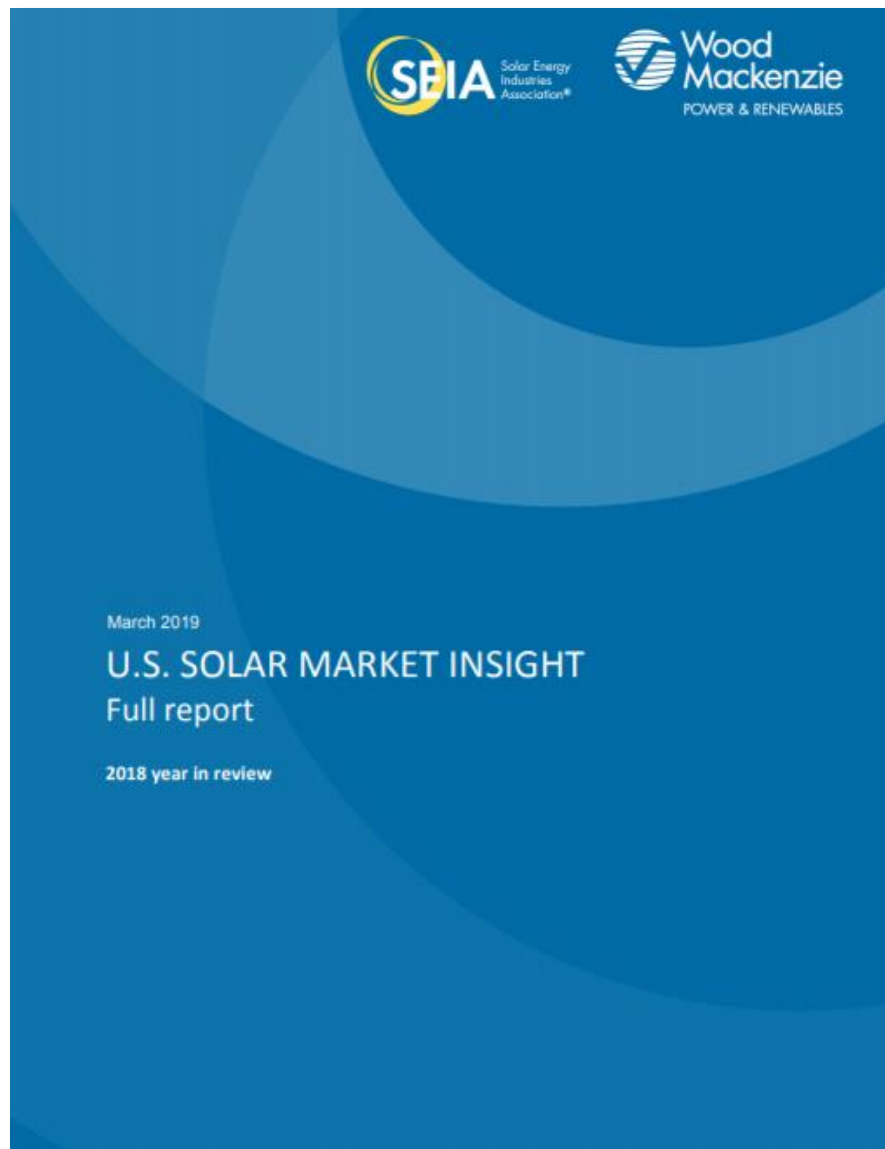
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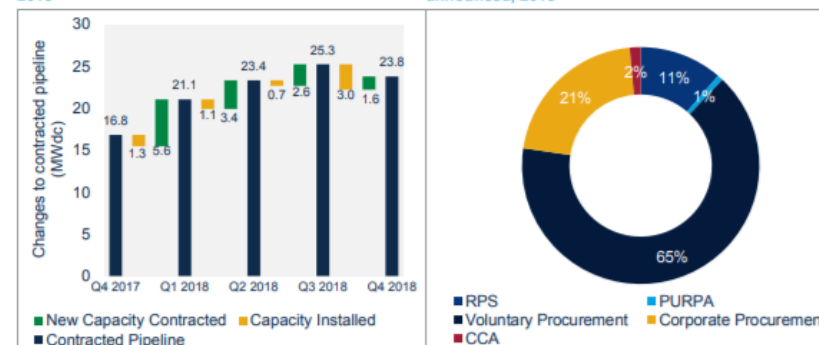
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Michigan utilities, agreed to a 50% by 2030 renewables procurement commitment, in part to forestall a formal RPS mandate by the state. In other states like Colorado, Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota, where pro-renewable majorities were elected to legislatures or promoted to PUCs, political pressure may drive more solar procurement in the event that an RPS increase doesn't pass.

**Figure 6.2 Utility PV contracted pipeline, Q4 2017-Q4 2018** **Figure 6.3 Percent share of drivers for projects announced, 2018**



Source: Wood Mackenzie Power & Renewables

## 6.3. Utility PV market spotlight

### 6.3.1. Section 201 Update

Many utility PV projects suffered disruption, delay and even cancellation due to the uncertainty leading up to the imposition of the Section 201 tariffs. The impacts can be seen in the volume of installations in 2018, which were down 7% year-over-year for utility-scale PV. However, since the tariffs were announced, the industry has pushed out timelines to account for the tariff stepdown schedule and has benefited from faster-than-expected declines in global module pricing. These price declines are mostly due to changes in China's feed-in tariff policy that resulted in a supply glut. While the Section 201 tariffs are still imposing a significant opportunity cost on the U.S. solar industry, new project procurement is moving forward thanks to strong industry fundamentals.

Cell and module tariffs dropped from 30% to 25% in February 2019. Tariffs will drop to 20% in February 2020 and 15% in February 2021 before their scheduled expiration in February 2022. The International Trade Commission will conduct a midterm review of the tariffs starting in January 2020, at which point the president will have the opportunity to

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[Global Solar Operations and Maintenance Report 2018](#)

[Solar-plus-storage system architectures: Design, pricing and economics in the US](#)

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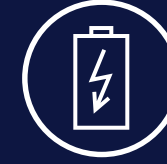
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