



Solar Energy  
Industries  
Association®

# Continuing California's Leadership on Solar: SEIA's 2018 Advocacy Agenda

California has the largest solar market in the U.S. and has been a longtime champion of solar because of the many economic and environmental benefits it provides, including \$42 billion in investment in the state.

Solar supplies nearly 16 percent of California's electricity today, but it must play a bigger role if the state is to reach climate and energy goals. Despite successes and new policies, such as the residential requirement established by the California Energy Commission (CEC) in May, there is still a lot of work to do to achieve California's broader goals.

SEIA, the solar industry's national trade association, works with its members to expand markets, remove market barriers, strengthen the industry and educate consumers on solar energy benefits. We represent utility-scale generators, manufacturers, the companies that sell panels to homeowners — and everyone in between — before the CAISO, CEC, the Legislature, Public Utilities Commission (PUC), and other government agencies.

## 2018 Priorities

### Setting a long-term goal for renewable production

SEIA successfully lobbied the Legislature to approve new Renewable Portfolio Standard legislation (such as SB 100) and is leading the campaign to clarify utility procurement obligations and encourage procurement of utility-scale solar. We are also engaged in utility Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) processes to ensure that solar is represented.

### Modernizing the grid in a way that creates a level playing field for solar

Distributed energy resources, like solar, can provide power where it is needed most and help avoid investments that a utility would otherwise need to make. Today's electric grid must allow distributed energy technologies to flourish so they can provide reliable, low-cost power for consumers. SEIA is working to make this happen through rate cases and education efforts, including a white paper series that describes risks and opportunities in California.

### Incorporating Solar into State's Codes and Standards

SEIA is at the forefront of efforts to develop codes and standards to encourage more energy-efficient homes and buildings that save residents money and reduce emissions from buildings (about 40 percent of our carbon output). SEIA led the effort at the CEC to

develop the nation's first solar PV mandate for new homes, as well as the Commission's incentive for energy storage in new homes. SEIA is also working with the Department of Toxic Substances on PV recycling standards.

### Ensuring rate cases and NEM encourage solar use

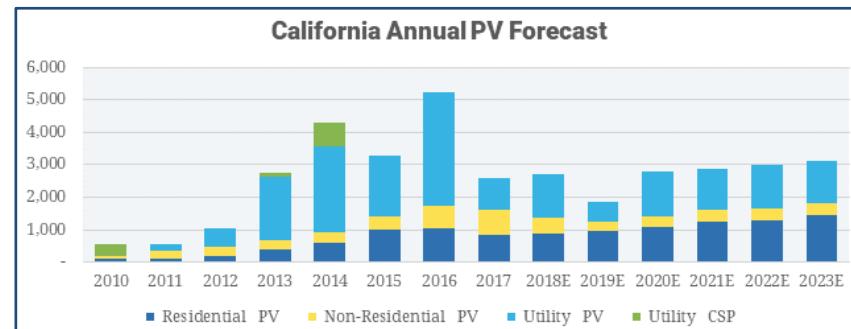
We are ensuring that the California Public Utilities Commission encourages distributed solar on homes and buildings in rate cases and net metering rules. Among other benefits, distributed solar reduces stress on the grid and reduces infrastructure costs that, once approved, are locked in for years and passed on to ratepayers.

### Solar access and customer choice

SEIA is ensuring that customers can choose from a suite of energy options that allow them to lower their bills and contribute to a more resilient, cleaner, and cost-effective power grid. This includes expanding clean energy access for low-income and disadvantaged communities that have traditionally borne the brunt of pollution from the electric sector. This year, SEIA supported legislation and programs at the PUC, including a SEIA-sponsored offsite solar bill (SB 1399), improvements to the Green Tariff Shared Solar program, and successfully advocated for a shared solar program for disadvantaged communities.

### Consumer Protection

SEIA is working to ensure reasonable consumer protections for solar customers at the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) and at the CPUC. SEIA is committed to enabling solar access in a manner that allows all customers to go solar while being protected from bad actors or misinformation.



# Specific Initiatives



## Legislation:

- **SB 100.** SEIA worked with state legislators to pass SB 100, California's historic 100 percent clean energy standard and Renewable Portfolio Standard, to accelerate long-term procurement of utility-scale solar resources. This will ensure the state meets its greenhouse gas reduction goals cost effectively, while adding California jobs. We are also leading a campaign to drive near-term procurement of utility scale solar at the legislature and CPUC.
- **AB 813.** SEIA supported this bill from the chairman of the Assembly's Energy and Utilities Committee to regionalize California's energy market and enable a higher penetration of renewables. Although the bill did not pass this year, SEIA continues to engage in this important conversation.
- **SB 1088 and Anti-Solar Language.** SEIA fought back against legislative language that would have eliminated the ability of distributed energy resource (DER) providers to contract with utilities to make the grid more resilient, safer, and cost effective. This is exactly the role that DER should be playing in our modern grid: supporting critical infrastructure like fire stations and hospitals. SEIA is working to make sure this remains an option for ratepayers.
- **SB 1399.** SEIA worked with Senator Scott Wiener to sponsor this bill. It would help public sector, non-profit, and commercial customers go solar by allowing them to partner with a solar project at an offsite location. The measure encourages beneficial land use in the built environment (warehouses, brownfields, parking lots, etc.) by allowing their owners to develop projects and serve load to municipal entities and businesses across town. Although it didn't pass this year, the bill has broad support and SEIA remains committed to increasing shared solar in CA.
- **SB 700.** SEIA supported the passage of a bill to extend the Small Generator Incentive Program for 5 years to drive adoption of behind the meter energy storage.
- **SB 1339.** SEIA supported a bill that will make it easier for customers to deploy microgrids through improved interconnection standards, leading to a more resilient grid.

## Regulation & Rate Cases:

- **Integrated Resource Proceeding (IRP).** SEIA is engaged in the PUC's IRP process to ensure that utilities follow through on the PUC's guidance to procure 9 GW of utility scale solar by 2030. SEIA will be working with the PUC to update this guidance with the passage of SB 100.
- **Utility Rate Cases.** SEIA engaged in rate cases for all three of the state's investor-owned utilities this year, and advocating for rates that reflect the full value of solar and storage. SEIA successfully established rates beneficial to solar and solar + storage customers for residential and commercial rate classes.
- **Net Metering (NEM).** SEIA led the industry effort to preserve net metering in the "NEM 2" proceeding, and we are working to ensure fair grandfathering treatment for NEM customers as policies evolve. SEIA will be leading the industry effort to ensure the right outcome in "NEM 3," which is expected in 2019.
- **Distribution Resource Planning.** SEIA is engaged in the PUC's enhanced distribution planning process to ensure utilities provide data and transparency for distributed resources to serve grid needs and save money. SEIA also is working to ensure that distributed energy resources are adequately considered by the utilities before they get approval for significant ratepayer funded distribution system investments.
- **Integrated Distributed Energy Resource Proceeding.** SEIA is working with the PUC to develop innovative ways to deploy distributed resources, such as new tariffs that compensate DER for advanced grid services.
- **Solar Valuation.** SEIA is working to ensure that solar and other distributed resources are fully valued and that solar customers are fairly compensated for the benefits their systems deliver to the grid.
- **Community Solar.** SEIA is working to improve the Green Tariff Shared Renewables (GTSR) program at the PUC to enable customers who cannot put solar on their homes to access offsite solar and save money on their utility bills. SEIA is continuing to push for expanded solar access in California.
- **Disadvantaged Communities Program.** SEIA worked with the PUC to establish a GTSR solar program that will serve disadvantaged communities and locate projects in these communities.
- SEIA is engaged at the CSLB and CPUC to ensure that state contractor licensing requirements and consumer disclosures are fair and reasonable to the industry and for consumers.

## Other Policies:

- **CEC PV Mandate.** SEIA led the charge to establish the May 2018 PV mandate at the California Energy Commission. This bold, first-of-a-kind policy requires PV on all new homes and incentivizes energy storage. The mandate is expected to cut homeowner utility costs by more than \$80 per month.
- **PV Recycling.** SEIA is developing PV module recycling standards at the Dept. of Toxic Substances.