



ORECA SUPPORTS INCENTIVES FOR COMMUNITY SOLAR

HB 3227 Starts the Conversation Over Community Solar Policy

Oregon's Electric Cooperatives have demonstrated leadership when it comes to developing Community Solar. While federal and state tax incentives exist for those who have invested in rooftop solar, there is no state tax incentive for those who have invested in community solar projects, and federal tax incentives for such projects are limited to those developed by for-profit companies. This combination means there are no tax incentives available for community solar projects developed by not-for-profit entities like Oregon electric cooperatives. This drives up the cost of participation by co-op members who wish to participate in solar energy but whose only option is community solar.

Incentives Similar to the Renewable Energy Tax Credit Drive Down Cost

Analysis has shown that a comparable incentive to Oregon's Renewable Energy Tax Credit (RETC) could substantially drive down the cost of purchasing a solar panel from a Community Solar project. For instance, one calculation had such an incentive driving down the cost of a \$1,100 community solar panel to \$729 making it more affordable for Oregonians.

HB 3227 Starts the Conversation

ORECA lauds Rep. Paul Holvey for introducing HB 3227, which helps start the conversation about an incentive for community solar projects. We understand that funds are scarce and there are important competing priorities for the Oregon Legislature. However, we believe that proposals that will help make panels more affordable will help the deployment of community solar in the state.

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