

**HB 3227 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**House Committee On Energy and Environment**

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**Action Date:** 04/12/17  
**Action:** Do pass and be referred to Revenue by prior reference  
**Vote:** 8-0-1-0  
**Yeas:** 8 - Barnhart, Helm, Holvey, Johnson, Marsh, Power, Reschke, Smith DB  
**Exc:** 1 - Bentz  
**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued  
**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued  
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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Allows a tax credit for alternative energy device to be claimed by owner or subscriber of community solar project. Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Start of conversation about incentives for community solar projects
- Community solar programs across country

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The tax credit for alternative energy device, commonly referred to as the Residential Energy Tax Credit (RETC), provides personal income tax credits to Oregonians who purchase energy-efficient devices and renewable energy systems for their homes. The alternative energy devices that are currently eligible for a tax credit include electric heat pump water heaters, tankless gas water heaters, and storage gas water heaters. Tax credits are issued for the lesser of 50 percent of the cost of the device or \$1,500, with some exceptions. Credits over \$1,500 must be claimed over multiple years, with no more than \$1,500 being claimed per year per device.

A community solar project is a solar power plant whose electricity is shared by more than one household. These projects are sometimes referred to as a solar garden or shared renewable energy plant.

House Bill 3227 would allow a RETC for an alternative energy device to be claimed by the owner or subscriber of a community solar project.