



**ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CENTER**  
Protecting the Midwest's Environment and Natural Heritage

# **Future Energy Jobs Act RPS and Solar Programs**

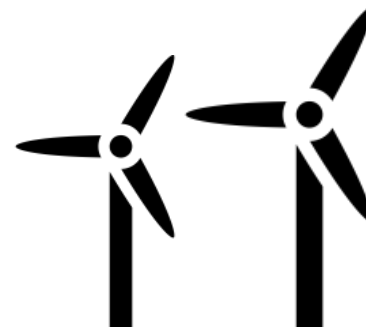
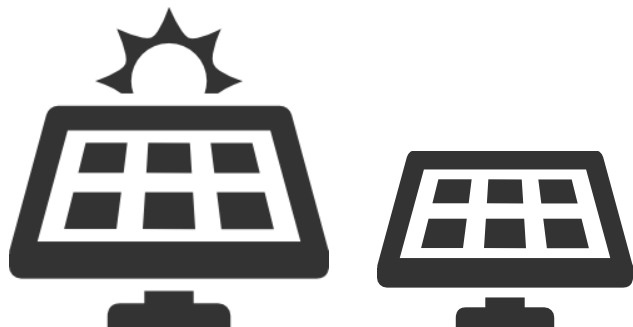
Advancing Solar Energy in Your Community  
January 19, 2017

MeLena Hessel – Policy Advocate

# A Fix for Illinois' Broken Renewable Portfolio Standard



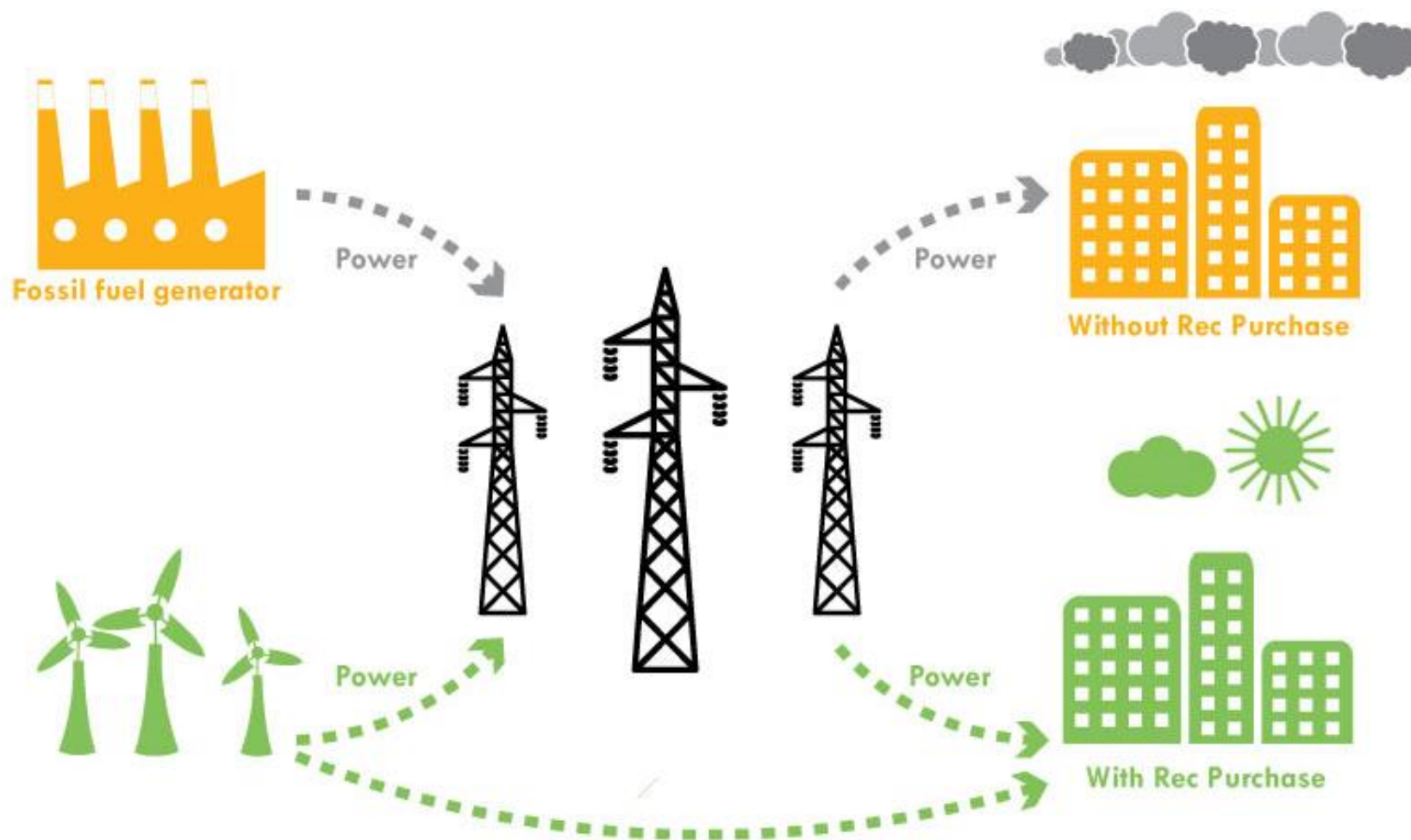
- 25% of energy from renewables by 2025
  - Via purchase of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)
- Long-term, stable source of funding
- Long-term planning process
- “New build” requirements for wind and solar



# What is a Renewable Energy Credit/Certificate (REC)?



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# RPS Breakdown

RPS: 25% of Energy from Renewables by 2025

75% Wind or PV

Remaining 25%

New Build Wind

New Build Solar

50+%

40+%

2+%

Adjustable Block

Utility

Brownfield

25+%

25+%

25+%

Small DG

Large DG

Community

To count towards  
RPS requirements

IL Solar For All\*  
(Low Income Solar)

\*Separate job training.

New  
Build



## Solar New Build

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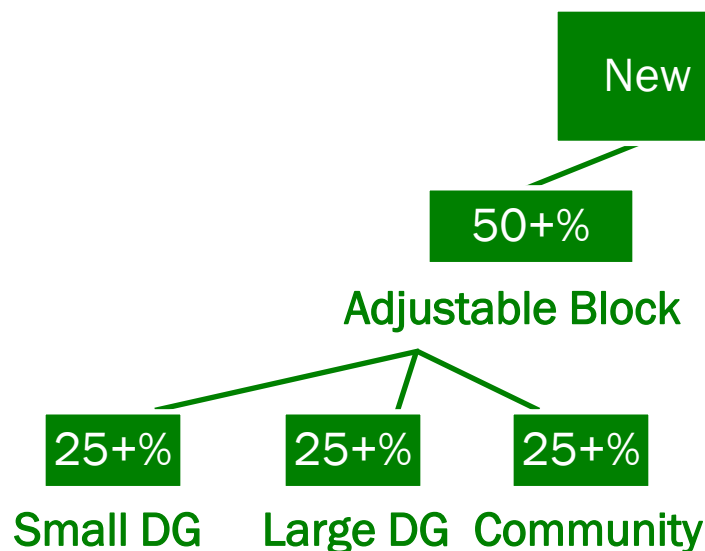
### New Build Solar

2020: 1,350 MW  
2025: 2,000 MW  
2030: 2,700 MW



Today:  
~55 MW  
installed

# Adjustable Block Program for Distributed Generation (DG)

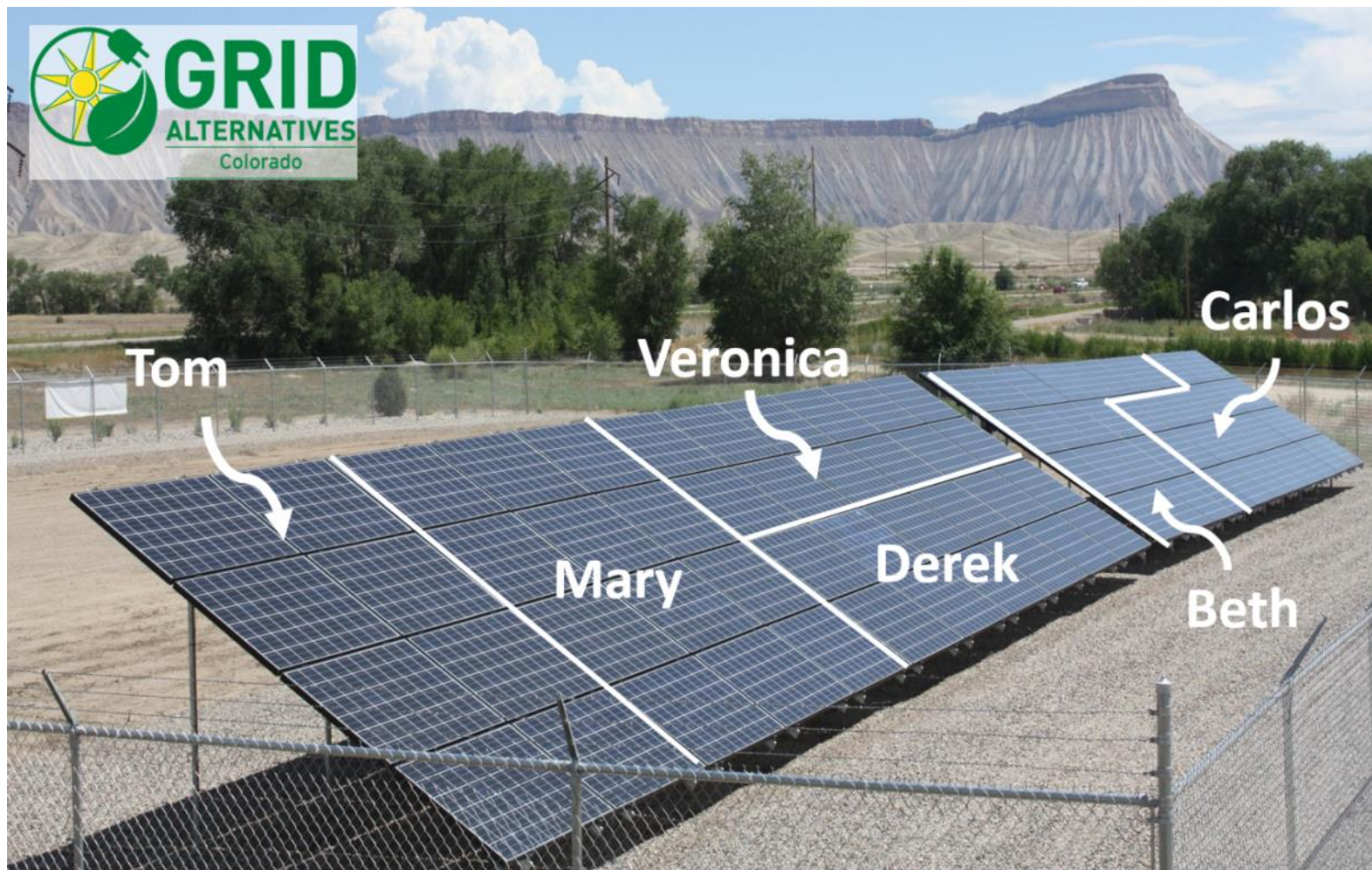


- DG projects 2MW or less
- Carve outs for small, large (both behind-the-meter) and community solar
- Set prices for “blocks” of RECs that change over time
- Provide predictable pricing

# Creation of Robust Community Solar Program



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# Utility-Scale Solar Carve Out

New Build Solar

40+%

Utility

- Projects larger than 2 MW
- Catalyze mid-large scale solar development
- “Up-front” procurement: ~600 MW projects to deliver by 2019



# Brownfield to Brightfield Opportunities



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New Build Solar

2+%

Brownfield

- Contaminated lands back to productive use
- Catalyze 100s of acres of development



# Low Income Solar Incentives

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## IL Solar For All\* (Low Income Solar)

\*Separate job training.

- “Illinois Solar for All” program
- Incentives for low-income solar for low-income customers through community solar and behind-the-meter DG as well as community facilities/non-profits
- Carve out for environmental justice communities
- Tie-in to separate solar jobs training program, providing a pipeline from training to jobs



## Implications for Cities & Towns

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- Solar is coming – Is your community ready?
- Improved solar economics → opportunities for municipal solar?
- Ground-mounted systems (“solar farms”)
  - Underutilized land? Brownfields?
- Partnering to encourage deployment
  - Group buys? Community solar?



# Questions and Information

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## Questions?

For more information, visit our website at [www.elpc.org](http://www.elpc.org)

Or contact me (MeLena Hessel) at [mhessel@elpc.org](mailto:mhessel@elpc.org)