

## **Survey on EPA Green Power Partnership's Products/Services in Addressing Higher Education Solar Power Project Development Issues**

---

To effectively address common barriers and challenges related to the development of solar photovoltaic projects within the Higher Education sector EPA's Green Power Partnership is seeking your feedback on key solar project development issues. Your opinions, insights and experience will help enhance future EPA Green Power Partnership product and service offerings.

### **Survey Administration Notes**

At the conclusion of each workshop segment (e.g., policy, financing & project economics, and RFPs, contracts, and administrative issues) EPA will survey workshop participants on questions related to the segment. Survey questions will be preceded by informational presentations relevant to the workshop segment topics.

### **Introduction to Each Survey Segment (5 mins)**

- Provide background on the survey
- Explain the survey process and respondents' role
- Deliver the survey to respondents

**Policy Segment Survey Questions (10 mins)**

1. How would you prioritize the following “policy issues” as it relates to ***your personal need*** for advancing solar project development at your institution? *Please use a scale of 1-5 with 1=Not a Priority, and 5=Essential. Please select a response for each line.*

	Not a Priority 1	Low Priority 2	Medium Priority 3	High Priority 4	Essential 5	Not Applicable
a. Understanding the availability of Third-party ownership financing structures						
b. Solar claims guidance and best practices						
c. Influence of State Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) policies						
d. Understanding of greenhouse gas inventory guidance						
e. Effect of Interconnection policies on project development						
f. Effect of Net Metering policies on project development						
g. The availability and access to Financial Incentives						
h. Access to Solar Renewable Energy Certificate markets						
i. The implications of Dodd-Frank Act (e.g., triggering securitization regulations)						
j. Impact of regulated market policies						

2. What other “policy issues,” if any, would **you** benefit from receiving additional information on?

---



---

3. ***Whom at your institution*** would benefit from receiving information on the following “**policy issues**” as it relates to developing solar projects? *Please select one at least one response for each line.*

	Sustainability Staff	Facility Staff	Faculty	Business Officers	Administration	Students	Not Applicable
a. Understanding the availability of Third-party ownership financing structures							
b. Impact of regulated market policies							
c. Influence of State Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) policies							
d. Effect of Net Metering policies on project development							
e. Effect of Interconnection policies on project development							
f. The availability and access to Financial Incentives							
g. The implications of Dodd-Frank Act (e.g., triggering securitization regulations)							
h. Access to Solar Renewable Energy Certificate markets							

4. What **additional institutional stakeholders**, if any, would benefit from receiving additional information on specific “**policy issues**” in order to advance solar project development at your institution? *Indicate both the stakeholder role and the policy issue area.*

---



---

**Financing & Project Economics Segment Survey Questions (10 mins)**

5. How would you prioritize the following “**financing or project economics issues**” as it relates to **your personal need** for advancing solar project development at your institution? *Please use a scale of 1-5 with 1=Not a Priority, and 5=Essential. Please select a response for each line.*

	Not a Priority 1	Low Priority 2	Medium Priority 3	High Priority 4	Essential 5	Not Applicable
a. Understanding Third-party ownership financing structures						
b. Accessing alternative financing (e.g., alumni, student fees, internal carbon fees, community models)						
c. Conducting economic project feasibility assessments						
d. Options for monetizing solar renewable energy certificates						
e. Speaking CFO language when pitching a solar project						
f. Determining assumptions for project economic assessments						
g. Understanding drivers and assumptions of project economics						
h. Availability and use of standard project economic analysis tools						

6. What other “**financing or project economics issues**,” if any, would **you** benefit from receiving additional information on?

---



---

7. ***Whom at your institution*** would benefit from receiving information on the following “**financing & project economics issues**” as it relates to developing solar projects? *Please select one at least one response for each line.*

	Sustainability Staff	Facility Staff	Faculty	Business Officers	Administration	Students	Not Applicable
a. Evaluating Third-party ownership financing structures							
b. Accessing alternative financing (e.g., alumni, student fees, internal carbon fees, community models)							
c. Conducting economic project feasibility assessments							
d. Options for monetizing solar renewable energy certificates							
e. Speaking CFO language when pitching a solar project							
f. Determining assumptions for project economic assessments							
g. Understanding drivers of project economics							
h. Availability and use of standard project economic analysis tools							

8. What **additional institutional stakeholders**, if any, would benefit from receiving information on specific “**financing & project economics issues**” in order to advance solar project development at your institution? *Indicate both the stakeholder role and the financing & project economics issue area.*

---



---

**RFP, Contracts & Administrative Issues Segment Survey Questions (10 mins)**

9. How would you prioritize the following “RFP, contracts & administrative issues” as it relates to ***your personal need*** for advancing solar project development at your institution? *Please use a scale of 1-5 with 1=Not a Priority, and 5=Essential. Please select a response for each line.*

	Not a Priority 1	Low Priority 2	Medium Priority 3	High Priority 4	Essential 5	Not Applicable
a. Guidance in writing solar project Request for Proposals (RFP)						
b. Methods for evaluating and comparing different solar project proposals						
c. Understanding contract development best practices						
d. Understanding best practices for advancing a contract through the administrative process						
e. Access to standardized templates and contracts						
f. Approaches for pitching solar projects to CFOs and other key stakeholders						
g. Common tools and resources for conducting site feasibility analyses						
h. Best practices in developing Operations & Maintenance contracts for institution owned systems						

10. What other “RFP, contracts or administrative issues”, if any, would **you** benefit from receiving additional information on?

---



---

11. ***Whom at your institution*** would benefit from receiving information on the following “RFP, contracts & administrative issues” as it relates to developing solar projects? *Please select one at least one response for each line.*

	Sustainability Staff	Facility Staff	Faculty	Business Officers	Administration	Students	Not Applicable
a. Guidance in writing solar project Request for Proposals (RFP)							
b. Methods for evaluating and comparing different solar project proposals							
c. Understanding contract development best practices							
d. Understanding best practices for advancing a contract through the administrative process							
e. Access to standardized templates and contracts							
f. Approaches for pitching solar projects to CFOs and other key stakeholders							
g. Common tools and resources for conducting site feasibility analyses							
h. Best practices in developing Operations & Maintenance contracts for institution owned systems							

12. What **additional institutional stakeholders**, if any, would benefit from receiving information on specific “RFP, contracts & administrative issues” in order to advance solar project development at your institution? *Indicate both the stakeholder role and the RFP, Contract or Administrative issue area.*

---



---

**Demographic Options Survey Questions (5 mins)**

**13. Please indicate your role at the Higher Education institution you represent.**

- Sustainability staff
- Facility staff
- Faculty
- Business Officer (i.e., CFO)
- Administration
- Student
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

**14. Please describe the type of Higher Education institution you represent?**

- Private - 4 year
- Private - 2 year
- Public - 4 year
- Public - 2 year
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

**15. Currently, what type of solar project development, if any, are you most interested in for your Higher Education institution?**

- On-campus solar projects
- Off-campus solar projects
- All of the above
- None of the above
- Prefer not to answer

**16. What is the name of your institution (optional) \_\_\_\_\_**



**Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions!**

If you have any questions or concerns about this survey, please contact:

James Critchfield  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460  
Mail Code 6202A

Email: Critchfield.James@epa.gov  
Phone: (202) 343-9442

**Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average five (5) minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates, and any suggestions for reducing the burden, including the use of automated collection techniques to the Director, OEI Collection Strategies Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Mail Code 2822T), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20460; and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503, Attention: Desk Officer for EPA. Include the EPA ICR number (2434.46) and the OMB control number (2010-0042) in any correspondence.