



**The NY-Sun Initiative**  
Solar Powering New York



**FACT SHEET**

**New York State is growing  
its solar marketplace  
as part of a balanced  
renewable energy policy.**



**“The long-term commitment to solar energy  
represented by NY-Sun will make New York State  
a leader nationally in solar development.”**

**N.Y. Governor Andrew M. Cuomo  
on the NY-Sun Initiative, State of the State Address  
January 2013**



The NY-Sun Initiative, a dynamic public-private partnership, will drive growth of the solar industry and make solar technology more affordable for all New Yorkers.

**In 2013, the NY-Sun Initiative will quadruple the number of customer-sited solar power installations, as compared to 2011.**

### **Solar Solutions Revolve Around Smart Investment**

The NY-Sun Initiative, launched in 2012, has a multi-faceted approach and will invest \$800 million through 2015. The initiative includes:

- Expansion of solar photovoltaic (PV) deployment incentive programs administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and Long Island Power Authority (LIPA).
- Focused efforts by NYSERDA and the New York Power Authority (NYPA) on technology advancement and system cost-reduction programs to reduce the balance-of-system (BOS) PV costs in New York, including installation and all non-module costs.

### **Motivating Clean Power Pioneers**

The future of renewable energy depends on continuing to reduce system costs and growing a smart user base. And more and more smart New Yorkers are signing up for the solar energy revolution thanks to the NY-Sun Initiative. As part of NY-Sun, NYSERDA and LIPA are expanding their successful PV deployment incentive programs to continue to help home and business owners across the State by providing more than \$750 million through 2015 for:

- An open enrollment program for small-to-medium scale systems funded by NYSERDA at approximately \$40 million annually throughout the State (outside Long Island), and on Long Island, funded by LIPA at \$27 million (subject to annual LIPA Board approval).





- A Statewide competitive bidding, performance-based program for larger systems funded by NYSERDA at approximately \$70 million annually, with pro-rated budget allocations for three regions consisting of down-state (does not include Long Island), mid-Hudson Valley, and upstate. Typically, bids are invited twice per year.

In addition, LIPA's CLEAN Solar Initiative (CSI) is New York State's first feed-in tariff program. Through June 30, 2014, LIPA will purchase up to 50 megawatts of solar generation produced on its customers' premises. Through a Power Purchase Agreement, LIPA will pay the customer a fixed rate for every solar kilowatt hour generated over a 20-year term, estimated to total \$11.5 million annually. This program will serve medium-to-large scale systems and offers an alternative to expanding PV deployment.

### **Innovating Technology in the New York Solar Market**

Harnessing New York's solar potential requires bold innovation and continued cost reduction. Following the *New York Solar Study's* recommendation, additional efforts to reduce PV BOS costs, which include installation and components other than the solar modules and can account for half of the total system costs, are included in the NY-Sun Initiative.<sup>1</sup>

**“We will greatly expand the State's solar programs, but as we do so we will keep an eye firmly on costs.”**

**N.Y. Governor Andrew M. Cuomo  
January 2012**

NYSERDA and NYPA are collaborating on this targeted, NY-Sun BOS initiative providing at least \$50 million to promote activities that will reduce the overall installed cost of PV. Working with private and public partners across New York State, this collaboration is building upon the BOS advancements made by the City University of New York (CUNY) and the efforts underway in the PV Manufacturing Consortium. The NY-Sun BOS initiative aims to:

- Develop training programs and materials to educate local government planners, code officials, fire department personnel, home owner associations, and other local stakeholders.
- Promote standardized and streamlined procedural requirements for permitting and interconnection.<sup>2</sup>
- Incorporate permitting procedure best practices into efforts supported by existing deployment programs, such as the development and implementation of regional sustainability plans under the Cleaner, Greener Communities program, to promote adoption at the local and regional levels.
- Develop programs and materials to address electrical requirements, safety practices, and the requirements of the National Electric Code and State law.
- Develop and implement new, innovative business models that will result in lower overall PV costs.
- Develop or pilot lower-cost, streamlined, financing or leasing schemes to lower PV financing costs.
- Develop and facilitate implementation of designs, practices, standardization and modularization to lower costs.
- Develop innovative, cost-saving PV equipment including mounting racks, power inverters, monitoring devices and other system components.
- Demonstrate new and under-used technologies and practices that have the potential to reduce the installed cost of PV systems in order to validate performance, system integration strategies, cost reductions and safety.
- Demonstrate projects that optimize the full value of all BOS cost reductions when implemented as a fully-integrated PV system.

### Reducing the Cost of Installing, Owning and Operating PV Systems in New York

NYSERDA, NYPA, and LIPA have partnered with other public and private entities including utilities, equipment vendors, solar installers, and localities across New York State to better understand market barriers, develop program priorities, and communicate program results and best practices across residential, commercial, and industrial end-use applications. To inform this effort and engage stakeholders, a series of cooperative meetings and programs have enlisted the support of stakeholders involved in PV installation, manufacturing, permitting, and financing to provide input on important BOS issues, barriers, and opportunities to lower costs.



In addition, NYPA is expanding its current solar research and demonstration programs through its Solar Market Acceleration Program. The program will provide funding for NY-Sun BOS and for additional solar research and demonstration projects aimed at reducing solar costs and for improving solar integration with the utility grid.

### The Revolution

The NY-Sun Initiative is part of New York’s new way of thinking about technology, renewable energy, and the economy. It represents a public-private partnership to expand the renewable energy market in New York State while working to steadily bring down the costs of the technology and build capability in New York. All of this is focused on building a smarter, better future for the people of the State of New York.

1. *New York Solar Study: An Analysis of the Benefits and Costs of Increasing Generation from Photovoltaic Devices in New York*, NYSERDA, January 2012.
2. Permitting procedures vary from municipality to municipality; while most zoning or land-use rules proceed under standardized rules, applications, procedures, scheduling considerations and therefore “best practices” may vary by service territory.

**For more information on the NY-Sun Initiative, please visit [ny-sun.ny.gov](http://ny-sun.ny.gov)**

