**Grassroots Climate Action Organization Contributed to Victory on Preserving Rooftop Solar in CA**

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Across the country, power companies are waging war on rooftop solar. Solar rights for customers in Nevada and Florida have been sharply curtailed, and are also under attack in Arizona. California faced a similar threat, but 350 Bay Area, a grassroots organization working to reduce carbon pollution in the Bay Area and beyond, is celebrating its role in a victory that preserved rooftop solar for all California customers. In a 3-1 decision released on September 22, 2016, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) at last voted to reject an appeal filed by the states investor-owned utilities (IOUs) which asked the CPUC to overturn the decision it reached in January that would preserve the most important elements of the state’s net-metering program. Net metering, the mechanism by which customers with rooftop solar are compensated for the energy they produce, is key to the continued success of clean, distributed energy in the state.

State law (AB 327) requires the CPUC to issue a new form of the net metering program, called “NEM 2.0”, to take effect when a certain level of customer adoption is reached, or July 2017, whichever comes first. As part of a coalition including the Sierra Club, The Alliance for Solar Choice (TASC), the California Solar Energy Industries Association (CalSEIA), and many others, 350 Bay Area fought an attempt by the IOUs(Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison, and San Diego Gas & Electric) to slash the program in order to protect their own profits. After the CPUC released its initial decision in January, the IOUs filed an appeal in March asking the agency to overturn the decision. “Due to the fast growth of rooftop solar in California, NEM 2.0 is expected to take effect in PG&E territory in December. With that target fast-approaching, we applaud the CPUC for issuing their decision now that affirms moving forward with NEM 2.0,” said Amy Allen, a leader in 350 Bay Area’s 100% Clean, Renewable Energy campaign.

350 Bay Area became a party to the net metering proceeding at the CPUC in September 2014, one of the few grassroots organizations to do so, and participated actively, submitting detailed policy comments in support of a strong net metering program. Due to the agency’s difficult to navigate processes, most groups that participate in CPUC proceedings are represented by an attorney, but 350 Bay Area activists were undeterred. In November 2015, 350 Bay Area was part of a coalition that delivered over 130,000 signatures to the CPUC in support of continuing the existing net metering program, the most the CPUC has ever received on a single issue. 350 Bay Area leader Amy Allen says, “The fact that the CPUC listened vindicates the hard work of the solar coalition, and our efforts as a grassroots organization. A strong net metering program will continue in California, and the state’s status as a clean energy leader will continue to grow.”

*350 Bay Area is building a grassroots climate movement, working for deep reductions in carbon pollution in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond, and has a network of over 11,000 activists. Find out more information at:* [*www.350bayarea.org*](http://www.350bayarea.org)*.*