



2017 Washington State Solar Summit

New Renewable Energy System Incentive Program

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Energy Program

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

History: The Renewable Energy Cost Recovery Program

- In 2005, a production incentive was established in the State of Washington for homeowners, businesses and local governments that install solar electric, wind power or anaerobic digester systems.
- The WSU Energy Program provided technical support to the Department of Revenue (DOR) in the administration of this program.
- In 2009, the program was expanded to include community solar projects.

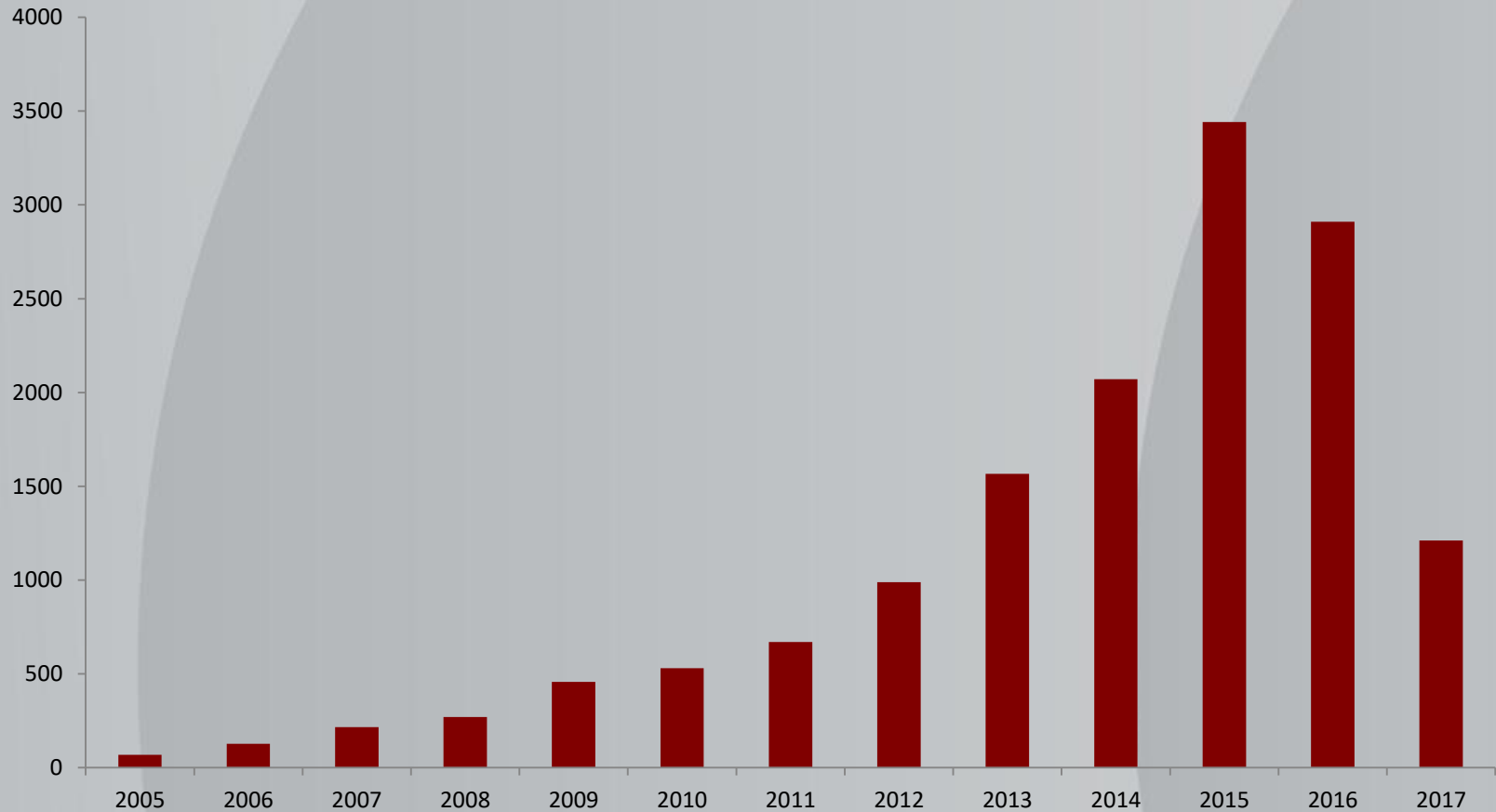
Program Results

2005 to Present

- PV Systems 14,488
- MW_{dc} 99
- % Residential / Commercial 88 / 12
- Cities (Aberdeen to Zillah) 379
- Utility Territories 51
- Manufacturers 6
- Contractors of Record 374

Growth of Solar Installations

New Systems per Year



Renewable Energy System Incentive Program

In 2017, Engrossed
Substitute Senate
Bill 5939 directed the
WSU Energy Program to
launch and administer a
new renewable energy
incentive program for
citizens and businesses
of Washington.



Program Elements

The new program is not the same as the legacy program.

New elements include:

- Project types
- Incentive rates & annual limits
- Program term
- Eligibility requirements
- Data requirements



Program Elements

(Continued)

Project types with specific requirements and incentive rates:

- Residential Scale – $12 \text{ kW}_{\text{dc}}$ or less, combined
 - Annual incentive limit is \$5,000
- Commercial Scale – Greater than $12 \text{ kW}_{\text{dc}}$
 - Annual incentive limit is \$25,000
- Community Solar Project – $1,000 \text{ kW}_{\text{dc}}$ or less
 - Annual incentive limit is \$5,000 per participant
- Shared Commercial Solar Project – 1 to 5 MW_{dc}
 - Annual incentive limit is \$35,000 per participant

Program Elements

(Continued)

The new program term is eight years of incentive payments or 50 percent of system price – whichever comes first.



Program Elements

(Continued)

A customer-owner of a residential or commercial scale system does not need to own the property where the system is installed.



Program Elements

(Continued)

- Additional data requirements
 - Completed Interconnection Agreement
 - System details and operation data:
GPS coordinates, tilt, estimated shading, azimuth
 - System price details, including sales tax



WSU Energy Program Administrative Responsibilities

DOR administrative responsibilities transferred over to the WSU Energy Program October 1, 2017.

- Program management
- Technical review
- Tracking responsibilities
- Reporting responsibilities



WSU Energy Program Administrative Responsibilities

(Continued)

The certification process includes determining system and applicant eligibility, such as:

- Technology
- Project
- Incentive rates
- Bonus eligibility



WSU Energy Program Administrative Responsibilities

(Continued)

- Tracking responsibilities include:
 - \$110 million statewide cap on program
 - 1½ percent per utility Public Utility Tax credit
 - Annual and cumulative incentive payments



WSU Energy Program Administrative Responsibilities

(Continued)

- Work with utilities to coordinate annual incentive payments
- Facilitate the reapplication process for DOR-certified systems



Program Partner Responsibilities

- Participating Utilities
 - Interconnection and incentives
- Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee
 - Program evaluation
- Department of Commerce
 - Manufacturing guidelines
- Utilities and Transportation Commission
 - Registration of community solar companies
- Department of Ecology
 - Recycling efforts

Additional Program Partners

- Renewable energy community
 - Citizens of Washington
 - System owners
 - Installers
 - Developers
 - Manufacturers
 - Advocacy groups



Our Recent Activities

- Established staffing for the program
- Worked to procure an online platform (PowerClerk) to streamline application process
 - Slated to deliver an online system soon



Our Recent Activities

(Continued)

- Consulting with DOR on the administrative transition
- Working with DOR and other state agencies



Our Recent Activities

(Continued)

- Requested notification of participation from utilities



Our Recent Activities

(Continued)

- Working with our attorney on emergency rulemaking
- Secured temporary financial support from WSU to administer the program



Our Recent Activities

(Continued)

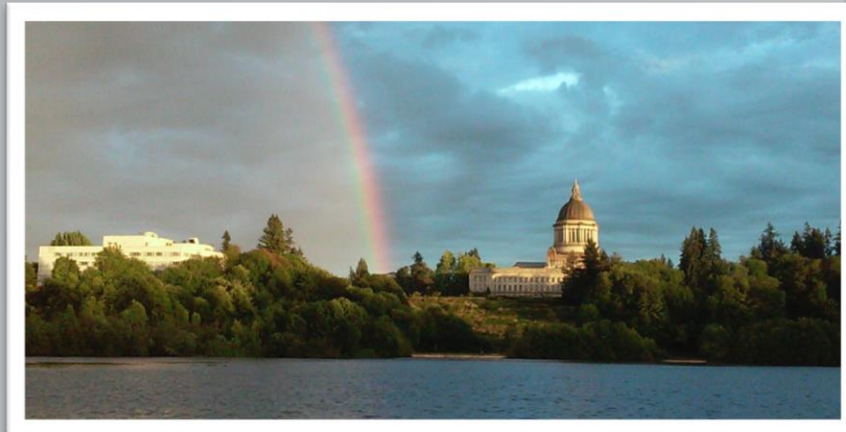
Responding to questions from

- Utilities
- Installers/Developers
- Previous Program Participants
- Potential Participants



Challenges

- Statute language
 - Considering legislative intent with practical implementation
- Short time frame
- Administrative funding



Opportunities

We look forward to working with you to meet the goals of the legislation and contribute to the growth of renewable energy in the State of Washington.





WSU Energy Program

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