Testimony of Brent Alderfer
Community Energy, Inc.
before the
PA Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee
May 1, 2019
Solar Cost Decline -- 70+% Since 2010

U.S. Solar Historic Installed Costs and Cost Forecast


Link to excel with historic cost data
Solar Potential in Every County

Source: PJM Renewable Integration Study, 2014
PJM Dispatch Order

Resources “clear” the market in order of lowest to highest cost.

* Prices for renewable sources can be low or high.

MW (Thousands)

$120
$100
$65
$50
$35
$25
$20
$15
$10

Combustion Turbine
Coal
Combined Cycles
Nuclear
Renewables*

Midnight
Operating day (24 hours)
Midnight
Keystone Solar Farm, 6MW, Lancaster County, PA
Clean and Green: Pennsylvania taxpayers pick up the tab left by large landowners

By RILEY YATES MAR 17, 2018 | 10:00 PM

That lost tax base on 195,768 acres stripped local governments of $30.2 million in revenue that had to be made up by other taxpayers in Lehigh and Northampton counties in 2016-17 alone, the newspaper found.
Declining Costs Have Turned Solar Economics Positive

- Solar costs declined 80% since 2004
- Long term PA solar contracts recently priced at 4-5¢/kWh power
  - City of Philadelphia and PSU
- 10% PA solar shaves summer peak reducing energy prices and offsetting SREC costs

State-wide Economic Growth at 10% PA Solar

- $10.3 Billion in Private Capital Investment
- $5.5 Billion in Local Economic Benefit
- 75,682 Total Jobs
- $3.2 Billion in Total Wages
- $1.7 Billion Farmer Lease Payments
- $481.4 Million Local Tax Revenue

Recognized Community and Environmental Benefits

- Fuel-free, Emission-free, Climate and Community Safe
- Preserves Family Farms and Farmland in Rural Counties
  - Decommissioning bond assures removal and return to farmland and ag cover grass improves organic content of soil
- Rooftop Space in Urban-Suburban Counties
- Compatible with Natural Gas Generation
  - Mid-Atlantic (PJM) Gas generation backs up solar

Source: The Jobs and Economic Impact (JEDI) Model, developed by National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), was used to assess the benefits associated with this legislation.