

# Solar for All: NY's Community Shared Solar Program

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# Current Context

- New York currently has 520 MW of solar PV installed, a goal of adding another 3,000 MW in the next few years, and a need for over 150,000 MW by 2050
- Projects offer residents and businesses lower cost than they are paying currently for electricity, so immediate savings
- Provides clean electricity with no on-site greenhouse emissions

- Residential and commercial solar is growing rapidly in New York
- For example, in Tompkins County the amount of residential solar installed to date doubled last year and is on track to increase again dramatically this year
- Until 2015, however, solar has only been available to families if you own your home and if your home is a good location for solar





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# Community Shared Solar

- The NY Public Service Commission (PSC) announced in December 2014 that they wanted to respond to public demand and enable community shared solar (CSS) in the state
- This new policy was framed as serving NY residents who rent their homes or who have homes that are not ideal sites for solar
- Now instead of being left out of the opportunity to go solar, residents could purchase or lease a share of a community solar facility and that electricity would be directly credited to their electric bill



# Net-Metering

- Successful state policy across US
- Full retail credit for electricity generated and ability to bank with the utility
- Available only with Investor Owned Utilities in NY
- Caps per Utility
- On-Site Net-Metering (1997-Present), Remote Net-Metering (2011-Present), and Community/Virtual Net-Metering (2015-Present)

# New York's CSS Program

- PSC process started in February 2015
- After meetings and comments, the program was formed in an order in July 2015
- Basic Program Details:
  - CSS facilities allowed in certain opportunity zones in late October 2015, and in all areas in April 2016
  - Maps of these zones are available online on the PSC website – Case #15-E-0082
  - Most rules of regular remote net-metering apply except any extra credits stay at subscribers account from month to month
  - Lots of different ownership and financing structures allowed, but also need to actually be brought to market



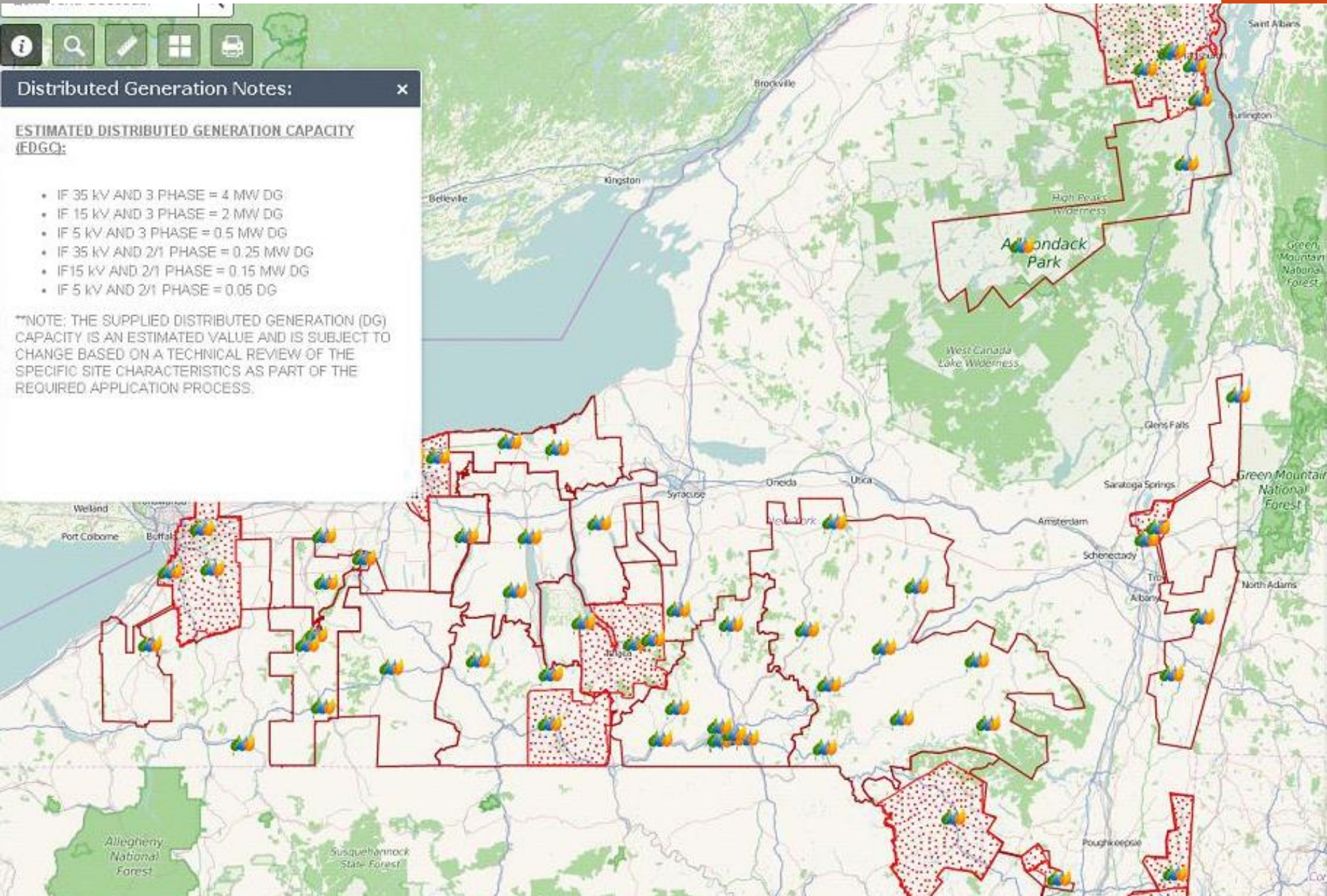


### Distributed Generation Notes: ✕

#### ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTED GENERATION CAPACITY (EDGC):

- IF 35 KV AND 3 PHASE = 4 MW DG
- IF 15 KV AND 3 PHASE = 2 MW DG
- IF 5 KV AND 3 PHASE = 0.5 MW DG
- IF 35 KV AND 2/1 PHASE = 0.25 MW DG
- IF 15 KV AND 2/1 PHASE = 0.15 MW DG
- IF 5 KV AND 2/1 PHASE = 0.05 MW DG

\*\*NOTE: THE SUPPLIED DISTRIBUTED GENERATION (DG) CAPACITY IS AN ESTIMATED VALUE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON A TECHNICAL REVIEW OF THE SPECIFIC SITE CHARACTERISTICS AS PART OF THE REQUIRED APPLICATION PROCESS.





- Generally excellent and helpful policy
- The few limiting structural aspects of the policy are:
  - 10 member or subscriber minimum, which doesn't allow small microcommunity projects
  - Any members that would need over 25kW are collectively limited to 40% of any given facility, which effectively makes it difficult for small non-profits and businesses to benefit from this policy as well as homeowners
  - Members are not allowed to have on-site solar and also buy from a community facility

- Financing Options are expected to be:
  - Ownership model through initial project sponsor financing of project and the monthly payment from members
  - Subscription model through aggregated PPA for project
  - Most significant challenge is getting financiers to actually offer these newer products in ways that make sense to project sponsors or developers and in the next year

# CSS Underway

- Renovus is a successful growing Ithaca-based solar company that currently employs over 70 professionals
- Focus on commercial, community, and residential solar facilities ranging up to 5,000 kW in size
- We currently have 20 MW of commercial projects and community farm projects in development or under contract
- Our first community solar facility is expected to launch in December 2015 here in Tompkins County



# Questions?



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**Thank you for your time!**

**Please also feel free to contact us  
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