

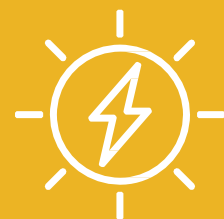
GOLDEN VALLEY
ELECTRIC

OCT '22

COMMUNITY SOLAR TASK FORCE

Harmony Tomaszewski | Richard Theilmann | Marcus Chappel
Heidi Titchenal | Herbert Butler | Jamie Hansen





DELIVERABLE OBJECTIVE #8

Review options to have a third party manage the project from start to finish.

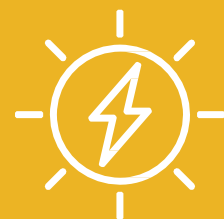
- We encourage a GVEA utility-led model.
- We encourage following formats from existing electrical cooperatives.
- We reached out to companies to gauge interest.
 - The size & scope of our model hinders third party management.



DELIVERABLE OBJECTIVE #1

Develop a proposed timeline considering construction and operation.

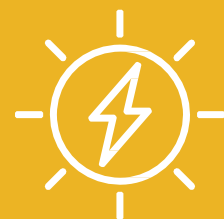
- Prioritize this decision.
- Make a feasible timeline.
- Begin the filings.
- The to do list never ends, have a deadline.



DELIVERABLE OBJECTIVE #2

Suggest potential locations.

- We believe using existing land owned by GVEA will be beneficial to all members.



DELIVERABLE OBJECTIVE #3

Based on best practices and economies of scale, what size project would be recommended for GVEA to consider?

DON'T RECREATE THE WHEEL

- *We have an existing solar farm.*
- *Let's copy the existing foot print with up-to-date technology, which will naturally increase the MW size.*

LEAVE ROOM FOR EXPANSION

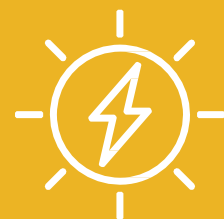
- *Using the land that GVEA already owns will provide enough space for a community solar project, with room for possible future expansion.*



DELIVERABLE OBJECTIVE #4

Make community solar accessible to all income levels, with specific consideration of low to moderate income members.

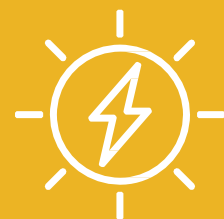
- Sell units in quarter increments.
- Pre-sales & sign up options.
- Layaway program.



DELIVERABLE OBJECTIVE #5

*Recommendations for the number of panels
(or kW) per member, or per rate class.*

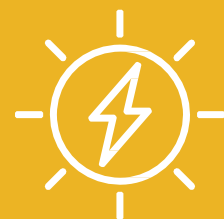
- We recommend following the foot print of the existing solar farm.
- Residential members limited to purchasing a quarter panel, with potential to expand to a full panel.



DELIVERABLE OBJECTIVE #6

Ownership of the renewable energy credits – are they owned by GVEA or by the entity that subscribes to the panels?

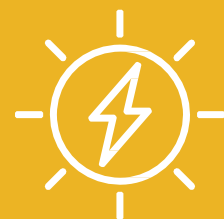
- Recommend that GVEA retain any renewable energy credits.



DELIVERABLE OBJECTIVE #7

Will this project impact future Power Purchase Agreements with an Independent Power Producer?

- No, It is a small project that should not directly impact any PPA.
- We encourage further exploration into affordable renewable energy.



DELIVERABLE OBJECTIVE #9

Investigate the regulatory action items to implement such a program and timeline to receive RCA approval of the program.

- We believe GVEA will need to begin filing with the RCA immediately.
- We encourage building on the knowledge gained from Flathead Electric and Chugach Electric.



WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

APPLY FOR GRANTS

USE EXISITING MODELS

MEMBER MAINTENANCE

ENCOURAGE PHASE 2

STAY RESIDENTIAL

QUESTIONS? THANK YOU!

Harmony Tomaszewski | Richard Theilmann | Marcus Chappel
Heidi Titchenal | Herbert Butler | Jamie Hansen

To: GVEA Board of Directors

From: Community Solar Task Force

Golden Valley Electric Association's (GVEA) Member Advisory Committee (MAC) Community Solar Task Force appreciates the opportunity to investigate community solar projects available to our members. We have met regularly since April when the request was made from the GVEA Board of Directors. We thank the board for responding to members' interest in community solar and involving the MAC in this process. We encourage GVEA as a whole to make any fiscally sound and green energy agreements that benefit their members outside of this Community Solar Project.

The following is our response to the deliverables requested by the GVEA Board.

Deliverable Objective #1

Develop a proposed timeline considering construction and operation.

The taskforce believes that Community Solar should proceed in a timely yet systematic and responsible fashion. We believe that the RCA and any regulatory filings, as detailed in Objective #9, should begin as soon as possible. We would like to see letters of interest with basic information go out to members along with a signed intent to commit. We would love to see this tariff filing started and a RFP distributed within six months. We appreciate that the Board of Directors will set the timeframe as needed with the staff of GVEA, and the needs of the cooperative.

Deliverable Objective #2

Suggest potential locations.

Our consensus is that we use the existing GVEA property south of the BESS buildings and substations for the new Community Solar Project. We feel an equitable lease agreement can be made which will put the property to good use and benefit all existing members with income from the lease and by being a good steward of the property GVEA already owns.

Deliverable Objective #3

Based on best practices and economies of scale, what size project would be recommended for GVEA to consider?

Our recommendation is to design the new Community Solar Project at approximately the same size with improved capability as the existing solar farm. We believe the most beneficial size is

between half and one MW. This will enable a larger group of members to participate, but will also allow room for expansion and improvement as the members request more participation.

Deliverable Objective #4

Make community solar accessible to all income levels, with specific consideration of low to moderate income members.

The task force believes that by selling units in increments of one-quarter, with maximum of one unit per residential account, this will open the accessibility of solar to members who have previously been unable to participate in private solar installations. We also recommend flexible eligibility that allows members to pre-purchase the panels in a six month or one year plan, in essence a Community Solar layaway plan. Smaller monthly payments will help accessibility by low to moderate income members in the community solar.

Deliverable Objective #5

Recommendations for the number of panels (or kW) per member, or per rate class.

Our research has confirmed that Bi-facial panels are optimum for our project. We recommend purchases be available only to residential members. Each member account should initially be limited to a minimum of one-quarter. If there is insufficient participation from residential members, the maximum of one unit per residential account may be increased, our intent is to maximize participation of members in the community solar project.

Deliverable Objective #6

Ownership of the renewable energy credits – are they owned by GVEA or by the entity that subscribes to the panels?

We recommend that GVEA retain any renewable energy credits.

Deliverable Objective #7

Will this project impact future Power Purchase Agreements with an Independent Power Producer?

We do not believe that this community solar project is significant enough in size to impact any future PPA or IPP.

Deliverable Objective #8

Review options to have a third party manage the project from start to finish.

Our recommendation, with the information we have at this time, is to have a GVEA utility led Community Solar Project. GVEA should issue an RFP for installation and maintenance. We have decided at this time, with the smaller scale, GVEA should administer and develop this plan. We believe that GVEA may use existing models from other electrical co-ops and apply best practices.

Deliverable Objective #9

Investigate the regulatory action items to implement such a program and timeline to receive RCA approval of the program.

This has been discussed extensively. We recommend a framework be introduced to the RCA. GVEA would file a tariff that mirrors existing net metering regulations such that the benefits provided by net metering in those tariffs could be mirrored in this community solar tariff.

In addition to the deliverables requested, we have a few other suggestions.

1. We would like to see GVEA apply for grants and incentives to help reduce the initial investment into the Community Solar Program and consult with subject matter experts (SMEs).
2. We would like GVEA to refer and apply most of the information and resources as used in the Flathead Electric Co-op community solar program from Montana. This information is very detailed, and we feel it is well thought out and will be applicable to our program.
3. It is our recommendation that revenue accrued from electricity generation and/or fees paid by community solar participants pay for the administration, maintenance, and repairs of the community solar panels/program. It is our intent that this project be self-sustaining.
4. We also recommend that local green energy organizations be contacted to help generate excitement and membership into the Community Solar Project.
5. We encourage GVEA to continue to seek fiscally advantageous PPA and IPP to help reduce the cost of electricity to all members and to increase green energy alternatives.
6. Each member applicant must agree to maintenance and decommissioning costs during ownership. We believe there should be an expiration for the ownership of Community Solar and the ownership revert back to GVEA after the expected life span of the equipment. (Example 20-year term)
7. We recommend that ownership stay with the member. Ownership can be transferred between members, or back to GVEA.
8. Any panel shares not pre-sold, or sold to residential members within a set and limited time frame, may be sold to commercial or industrial members to ensure members own 100% of the facility.
9. We continue to encourage GVEA to seek out installation and maintenance contracts with third parties. We hope to encourage contractors with Alaska project experience.

10. We encourage GVEA to see this as a first phase, with possible growth and expansion in the future.
11. We continue to urge members to invest in the installation of solar panels on their residences.
12. We are aware that eligibility for tax credits are subject to other change through legislative action, and is subject to various interpretations. We recommend that GVEA monitors this as appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to research and make recommendations.

GVEA Community Solar Taskforce

Harmony Tomaszewski

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