SCORECARD
IREC'S NATIONAL SHARED RENEWABLES SCORECARD

California Virtual Net Metering Program

>10 MW OF INSTALLED CAPACITY
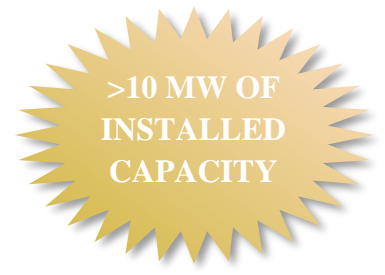
IREC developed the National Shared Renewables Scorecard to provide policymakers, regulators, and other stakeholders with a tool for evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of state shared renewable energy programs. IREC graded *California's Virtual Net Metering Program* using the Scorecard's full criteria* and found that the program currently receives a **B-,** indicating that it has room for improvement but **reflects many best practices critical for shared renewable energy development**.

KEY	One star (★) indicates an especially important criterion; Two stars (★★) indicate one of the most critical criteria for program success. The **gold star** above indicates that the program has at least 10 MWs of capacity installed and received credit for demonstrating a basic level of market viability.

Category	Criterion	Description	Program Grade
General Program Details	Aggregate Capacity Limit	Does the program have an **unlimited aggregate capacity**?	✓
	Tracking & Reporting Requirements	★ Does the program specifically require the utility or other relevant entity to provide publicly available data regarding installed and queued capacity that is updated on at least an annual basis?	✓
	Low- to Moderate-Income (LMI) Consumer Participation	★ Does the program have specific component(s) **to promote LMI customer participants** (e.g., capacity carve-out or target?)	✓
		Does the program **explicitly address financial barriers** faced by LMI participants (e.g., incentives or on-bill financing)?	✓
		Does the program have specific requirements re LMI customer **marketing, education, and outreach?**	✓
Customers and Subscriptions	Eligibility	Are **all customer classes** eligible for the program?	✓
	Portability	★ Does the program explicitly permit **portability** (i.e., allow participants to move within the utility service territory and take their subscription with them)?	✗
	Transferability	★ Does the program explicitly permit **transferability** (i.e., allow participants to leave the program or service territory and transfer their subscriptions to others?)	✓
Generation Systems	System Capacity Limit	Is the system size limit **at least 5 megawatts** (MW)?	✓
	Siting Requirements	★★ Does the program allow **both on-site and off-site** facilities?	✗
		Can the facility and customers be **located anywhere** within the utility service territory?	✗
		Do the program rules explicitly address whether or not facilities can be **co-located**?	✗
	Ownership & Management	Are **third-party facility ownership** and **management** permitted?	✓
Bill Credits	Valuation	★★ Does the program meet one of the following conditions: 1) Bill credit is valued at the utility's retail rate; 2) Bill credit includes values for generation and at least some portion of the transmission and/or distribution charges; or 3) RECs are used to provide value in addition to bill credit.	✓
		★ Is the valuation methodology **clearly articulated** in the statute, rule, and/or tariff?	✓
	Unsubscribed Generation	Is **unsubscribed generation** clearly treated and valued at least at an avoided cost rate?	✓
Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)	Subscribed RECs	Are **subscribed RECs** clearly treated?	✓
	Unsubscribed RECs	Are **unsubscribed RECs** clearly treated?	✓
		State Program Grade:	**B-**

Program Strengths

- ✓ *Values shared renewable energy generation at the retail rate minus non-bypassable charges, providing a strong value proposition for customers.* Bill credit valuation is one of the most heavily weighted criteria for program success.
- ✓ *Clearly articulates the valuation methodology.*
- ✓ *Promotes expanded access to low- to moderate-income customers, with components addressing financial barriers and requirements related to LMI customer marketing, education, and outreach.*
- ✓ *Explicitly allows customer subscriptions to be transferred to another customer or back to the subscription organization.*

Opportunities for Improvement

- ➢ *Allow the facility to be located either on- or off-site.* The current rules state that facilities must be located on-site. Allowing off-site facilities would help increase solar access to more consumers.
- ➢ *Explicitly permit customer subscriptions to be moved with the customer within a utility's service territory.* Portability is not specified within the current rules.
- ➢ *Allow the facility and customers to be located anywhere within the utility service territory.* Under the current program, the facility and subscribers must be located on same multi-tenant or multi-meter property.

*Note: The criteria above are a subset of the full criteria used to arrive at the state grades but reflect the most substantial program design components. For more information about the Scorecard, including the full criteria applied to grade state programs and definitions for many of the terms within the criteria, see https://sharedrenewablesscorecard.org/.   *October 2018*