

Solar Access to Public Capital Project and Securitization Discussion



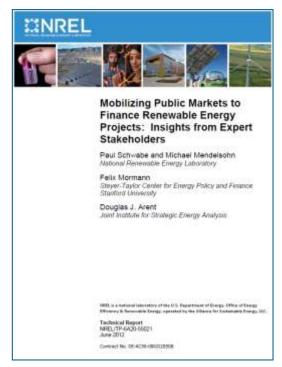
NASEO 2013 Annual Meeting & Getting to Zero National Forum

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Paul Schwabe, NREL

NREL Can Help Build Industry Consensus on Securitization

- Objective national laboratory without profit motivation to organize the industry
- NREL will act as facilitator, analyst, and honest broker
- SAPC participants to define direction & emphasis of effort
- 3 year funding award from DOE to advance securitization
 - 1. Lead and convene industry working groups
 - 2. Securitization analysis
 - 3. Data collection
- SAPC creation based on 40+ stakeholder assembly, investigating public financing mechanisms

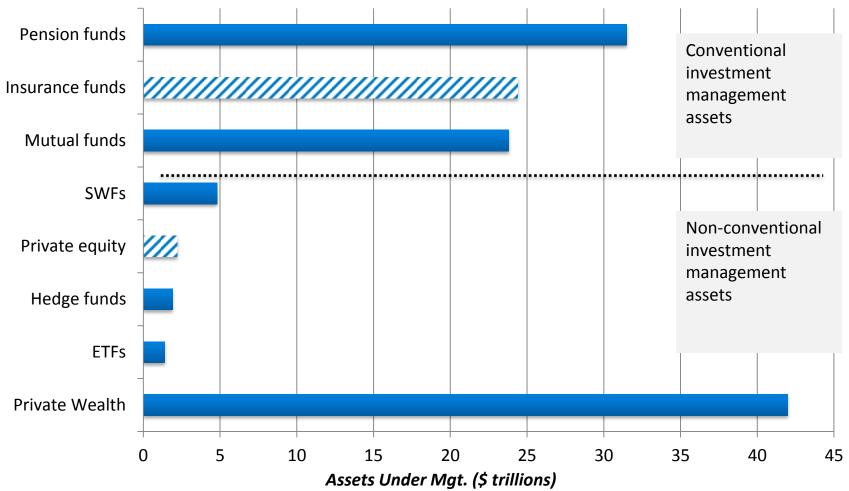


Download: http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy12osti/55021.pdf

SAPC Working Group – Goals & Description

- <u>Goal</u>: Expand availability and lower cost of solar financing by improving access to public capital through multiple financing vehicles and applied to several solar sectors
 - Asset-backed Securities (ABS)
 - Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)
 - Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs)
 - Other debt products
- <u>How:</u> By standardizing aspects of project development and providing information to facilitate the securitization process.
 Products include:
 - Standardized origination and other contracts
 - System performance and customer credit metrics
 - Rating agency criteria and evaluation

Value: Expand the availability of capital



SWF = Sovereign Wealth Funds

ETFs = Exchange Traded Funds

Source: The CityUK

Value: Cost of Capital Improvements

	Cost of Capital (Indicative)	
<u>Tax Equity</u>		
Utility-Scale, unlevered	7-10%	
Levered	12-18%	
Public Capital Vehicles		
Mortgage-backed Securities	3-7%	
ABS (non-mortgages)	3-7%	
Debt products	3-7%	
MLPs	5-9%	
REITs	7-12%	

Source: Mendelsohn, Feldman, (forthcoming), "Financing U.S. Renewable Energy Projects Thru Public Market Financing vs. Traditional Tax Equity: A Comparative Analysis"

Approach

- <u>Task 1</u>: Lead and Convene <u>Securitization Working</u>
 <u>Group</u> standardize documents and best practices, and address other barriers.
 - Solar Access to Public Capital (SAPC) working group
- <u>Task 2</u>: Analysis Assess public capital application to solar, and opportunities/constraints of existing and proposed policies, and evolving market conditions.
- <u>Task 3</u>: <u>Dataset Development</u> Develop solar performance and customer default data so new investors can understand investment risks
 - O-SPaRC (Open Solar Performance and Reliability Clearinghouse)

Current SAPC Participating Organizations

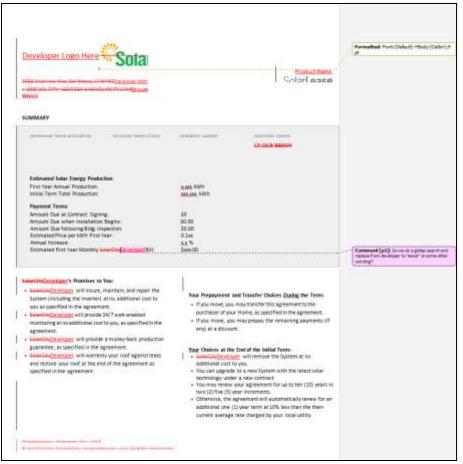
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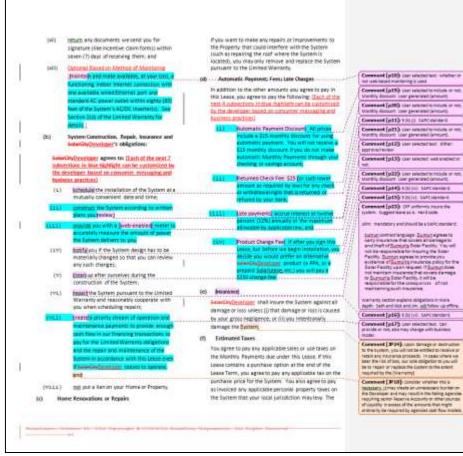
Current Template Contracts

 Contracts will be compared and synthesized to produce the SAPC standardized contracts

Residential	Commercial
SolarCity – Zero down lease	Altus Power PPA
SolarCity – Partial pre-pay lease	K&L Gates Distributed PPA (and lease)
SolarCity – Zero down PPA	SolarCity Commercial PPA
SolarCity - Partial down PPA	Solar Tech PPA (and lease)
Sunrun – Lease agreement	Tioga Energy Sure Path PPA
Sunrun – PPA	
Clean Power Finance - Lease	

SAPC Zero Down Lease Contract Standardization





PV Performance and Credit Data Key Requirement for Securitization



Due To Limited Data, Default Rates May Be Difficult To Determine

The rooftop solar industry has only been operating on a significant scale for the past three or four years. The drastic increase in such installations can be seen in the chart. Because the solar industry is still in the nascent stages of development, there is limited data from which to draw conclusions regarding the likelihood of offtaker defaults under a lease or PPA agreement. Given that the length of these agreements may run up to 20 years, we believe that

Minimal Recovery Rates Are Expected

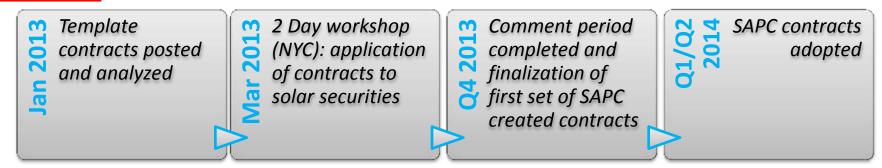
KBRA anticipates that recovery rates on defaulted PPAs or leases may be minimal because of technological advancements that render older panels obsolete. Therefore, recoveries in securitization transactions may be limited to legal action against the consumer, with little or no credit applied to removal of the panels for sale in the secondary market. In addition, there are significant costs associated with the removal of the panels such as labor and the recapture of tax incentives, which may deter project developers from reselling the systems. Rather than remarketing panels from a defaulted party, KBRA believes that a project developer will likely modify the terms of the PPA or lease agreement in order to incentivize a new or existing offtaker to continue to purchase the system's electricity. This strategy is more likely when retail electricity rates decline

Concurrent NREL Data Initiative

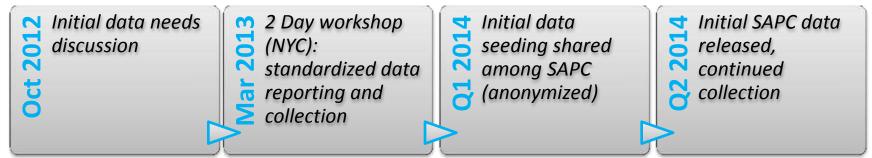


SAPC Progress Timeline

Contracts:



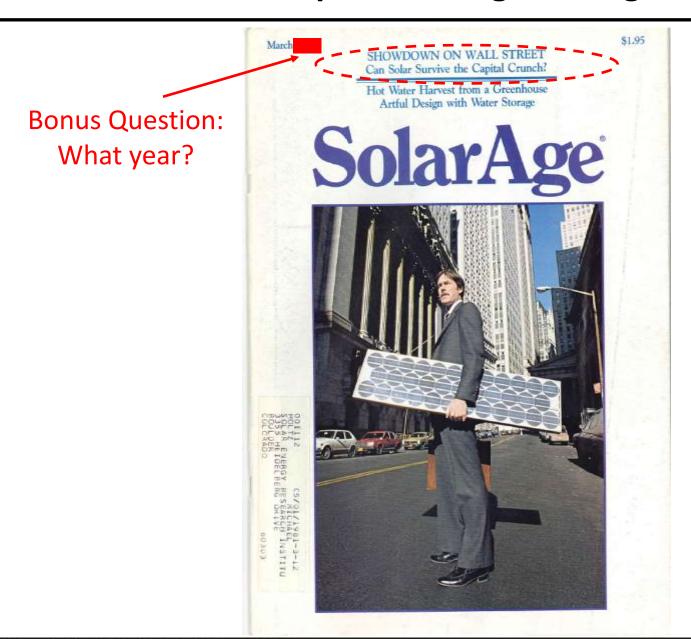
Data:



Rating Agency Mock Evaluation:

Agency engagement	2 Day workshop (NYC): deep dive into the rating agency perspective	Construction of rating agency checklist and informatics	Preliminary rating agency evaluation
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Solar Access To Capital: A Longstanding Industry Issue



Contact

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