Metro Council
Solar Collaboration among Local Governments

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Conference on the Environment
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Metropolitan Council

- Formed in 1967
- Seven county area - (3,000 square miles)
- 17 member board appointed by governor
- Divisions:
  - Metro Transit
  - Environmental Services (MCES)
  - Metro Transportation Services
  - Community Development
  - Regional Administration
Outcomes

• Stewardship
• Prosperity
• Equity
• Livability
• Sustainability
MCES Roles

- Wastewater treatment!
  - Inflow/Infiltration Program
  - Research
- Comprehensive planning/collaboration
- Water supply planning
- Water quality monitoring
- Industrial pollution prevention
- Storm water
MCES Vision

To be a valued leader and partner in water sustainability

• Goals to reduced purchases of fossil fuel based energy.
  – By 2015, reduce by 25% of 2006 usage.
  – By 2020, reduce by 10% of 2015 usage.

• Goal to advance renewable energy development in the state.
The Champion: Jason Willett

• Job Titles
  – Assistant General Manager, MCES Finance and Sustainability
  – Director of Council Sustainability

• Character Traits
  – Passionate
  – Driven
Minneapolis Government Solar: why?

- Energy & Environment…
  - Cleaner: less climate, air, water, waste impacts
  - Renewable: conserves fossil fuels
- Non-Environmental Energy Benefits…
  - Independence, security
  - Grid benefits
- Economic…
  - Avoids piece of $18B Minnesota exports
  - Provides jobs and spin-off economic activity
AND
- Financial benefits to rate/taxpayers!
Blue Lake WWTP: Behind the Meter Solar

Business Approach

• Competitive Request for Proposals
• Power purchase agreement and land lease
  – “All in” price per kWh delivered – fixed for 25 years
  – Buy-out options available
• Net metering tariff with Utility
Blue Lake WWTP: Behind the Meter Solar

Facility Characteristics

• Total 1.25 megawatt solar on buffer land.
• Equivalent to burning more than 1.3 million pounds of coal.
• Two connections - net metering tariff
  – Wastewater Treatment Plant
  – New England Fertilizer Company
Community Solar Garden Program

Local government roles:
• Host site(s)
• Subscriber
• Coordinator

Solar PV panels are installed in sunny locations to produce renewable electricity.

Individual entities can subscribe to enough solar to cover up to 120% of their annual electricity usage.

Each subscriber’s utility bill is credited with the electricity created by their share of the solar garden.
Characteristics of a Community Solar Garden

- Prior to Sept 25, 2015 – 5 – 1 MW collocated
- Post Sept 25, 2015 only 1 – 1 MW garden allowed on site per developer
- 5 subscribers
- Largest subscription allowable 40% of garden
- Subscriber can not subscribe for more than 120% of its demand.
Host and Subscribe to CSGs

- **Sole Source Procurement**
  - 4 MW at site with existing solar (Blue Lake)

- **Competitive Procurement process**
  - Up to 7 MW at three sites
    - Wastewater treatment Plant
    - Closed ash landfill
    - Lift station
Local Government Collaborative

- 31 participating governments
- Competitive procurement process
  - Received 5 preproposals – still under evaluation
- Benefits
  - Economy of scale
  - Many communities would not participate without collaborative support
Steps for participating

- **Letter of Intent**
  - Governments sign non-binding letter of intent
  - Attach list of premises and loads they are interested in subscribing
  - Must be willing to subscribe to at least 100kW

- **Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for joint procurement authority**
  - Legal review of need for JPA by each government
Subscriber Assignment Processes

1) Selection team; evaluated proposal likelihood and ranks per criteria

2) Allotment per garden
   a. Tickets for load eligible for each garden (20% of 1MW; one 10% ticket allowed)
   b. Random lottery to select 5 subscribing governments
      - 15 days to opt out; no response is negation

3) Filling proposals
   a. Lower pulled tickets move up to fill holes
   b. Developer has option to fill any partially subscribed
Metropolitan Council Solar

- Transit’s solar
- Two “behind-the-meter solar facilities (about 2MW)
- Up to 10 MW of Community Solar
- Local Government joint solicitation for subscription space
Questions?

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