Solar and Storage Industries Institute

(Internal Facing - Draft 5.24.23)

2023-24 Work Plan

The following document is the Solar and Storage Industries Institute (SI2) Work Plan for 2023-2024. SI2 developed this document in part by surveying industry experts from across the Large-Scale Renewables (LSR) and Distributed Grid (DG) sectors to understand critical barriers to deployment faced by solar and storage companies across the country. SI2 will tackle some of the top challenges identified through the development of reports and whitepapers, model legislation, and other educational materials, setting a balanced agenda for SI2 work over the course of the year.

FUNDED WORK

REPORTS & WHITEPAPERS

- ENCOURGING AGRIVOLTAICS (Summer 2023)

  Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, this two-year project will look at the ways in which existing agrivoltaic projects have overcome various barriers and will develop model contracts, agreements, and other templates to encourage greater agrivoltaics deployment. Project partners include the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, and the Solar Energy Industries Association. During this period, the major deliverables are a literature review focusing on project barriers to agrivoltaic deployment, industry surveys, and model contract development.

  Tags: Center for Research and Education, US DOE Grant

- DEVELOPING GAME CHANGING REFORMS FOR LARGE-SCALE INTERCONNECTION (Summer 2023)

  This one-year project will develop and build consensus around game-changing interconnection reform for large scale solar and storage projects. Working with partner organizations, we will develop resources for use on current interconnection practices, timelines and bottlenecks, and will develop recommendations for reform. The final deliverable for the project is a detailed paper that can be turned into a petition at the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee.

  Tags: Center for Model Policy Development, Private Philanthropy

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (Summer 2023)

  In conjunction with SEIA's Workforce Development team, SI2 will provide administrative support to execute the Solar Ready Vets Network (SRVN) two-year Phase Three Program. The goal of SRVN is to increase the pipeline of military-connected talent (veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses) into the U.S. solar industry through several complementary initiatives in partnership with Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) and SEIA.

  Tags: Center for Research and Education, US DOE Grant

PROPOSED WORK

MODEL STATE POLICY

- COMPREHENSIVE SITING LEGISLATION (Summer/Fall 2023)

  Project siting policies vary widely across the country, posing complex permitting challenges for developers in every state. SI2 will develop a model legislative siting policy that will streamline permitting for large-scale solar and storage projects and allow projects to come online more quickly. Working from recently enacted landmark legislation in Illinois, this model state policy will balance streamlined permitting with appropriate and responsible environmental reviews.

  Tags: Center for Model Policy Development, IAC Funds

ANALYSIS AND REPORTS

- DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES FLEXIBLE INTERCONNECTION MODELING (Winter 2023)

  A modeling exercise that shows the impact of curtailment on a community solar project -- or any large DER project -- could help build the case for alternative interconnection solutions other than always paying for expensive infrastructure upgrades. Working through the national labs and DOE's i2X technical assistance project, we would create a profile of a hypothetical community solar, storage, and hybrid project, each with flexible interconnection parameters for use in modeling. Based on the hypothetical projects, we would model how often and what the impact would be of curtailing the project output based on the utility data. The output would be a roadmap that could be utilized for any other circuits across the nation.

  Tags: Center for Research and Education, DOE i2X Technical Assistance (In progress)

- COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF LSR INSTALLATIONS (Winter 2023)

  Large scale solar projects not only produce clean energy but can also provide significant economic development opportunities for surrounding communities. Community Benefits can take the form of direct payments to local government, energy credits on utility bills, tax revenues associated with project, other potential benefits. SI2 would create a fact sheet outlining the ways in which solar projects can benefit communities and use case studies to show tangible community benefits.

  Tags: Center for Research and Education, Private Philanthropy (In progress)

- IMPACTS ON PROPERTY VALUES FROM SOLAR + STORAGE INSTALLATIONS (Spring 2024)

  SI2 will investigate concerns raised by communities about property value impacts from LSR, DG and storage installations. SI2 will analyze existing academic research and produce two

resources for each sector detailing the methods used to conduct studies, their findings, and the consensus academic findings to date.

Tags: Center for Research and Education, IAC funds

- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESOURCES (Spring 2024)

  SI2 would convene NGOs and renewable energy developers specifically around community engagement practices for community and large-scale solar projects. This effort would consider the different contexts for project development: public vs. private land, special considerations for projects on tribal lands, special considerations for developing projects on agricultural lands and forested land, as well as projects proposed for already disturbed lands such as abandoned industrial sites and quarries. Deliverables would include, but not be limited to, a workbook on consensus best practices specifically around community engagement for large-scale solar projects.

  Tags: Center for Model Policy Development, Private Philanthropy (In progress)

- SOLAR APP+ (Spring 2024)

  SI2 will prepare two case studies explaining the up-to-date experience from communities using the Solar App. These case studies would examine permitting time, estimated local government savings or costs, and other key indicators of relevance to local government officials and solar and storage firms.

  Tags: Center for Research and Education, IAC Funds

- IMPACT OF EV's ON DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES LOAD FORECASTS (Spring/Summer 2024)
  SI2 would analyze major utility forecasts in key states that are likely to see significant EV adoption based on forecasts. The objective of the analysis would be to show how well distribution utilities are planning for a rapid increase in Electric Vehicles. This work helps the solar and storage industries but has impacts and potential utility to any NGOs advocating for decarbonization.

  Tags: Center for Regulatory Intervention, Private Philanthropy (In progress)

- WHERE ARE SOLAR PANELS & THEIR COMPONENT PARTS MADE? (Spring 2024)
  SI2 will develop materials explaining at a high level the state of the solar supply chain to a general audience and will build on SEIA's Solar & Storage Supply Chain Dashboard to develop a realistic roadmap for the future of domestic manufacturing of component solar parts.
  Tags: Center for Research and Education, IAC Funds

- Analysis of DER Permitting Times By Utilities (Winter 2024)
  Analysis of DER interconnection permitting times between at least two equivalent utilities to compare the difference in wait times between a utility(s) that are not allowed to own

generation assets, and utilities that also have generation assets in their portfolios. We expect to find considerably faster times where utilities do not have competing assets.

Tags: Center for Research and Education, IAC Funds