



Tennessee Solar for All Stakeholder Meeting

December 15, 2023

Agenda

- TDEC OEP Staff Introductions
- TN's Proposed Program Overview
- TN Stakeholder Meeting Cadence
- Updates October Application Submittal
 - U.S. DOE Formula Funding Grant for Training for Residential Energy Contractors (TREC) and Workforce Advisory Group Creation
 - Solar for All “synergy” with other State Programs
 - TDEC OEP's Solar for All Website
- Next Stakeholder Meeting
- Q&A

Overview of EPA's Solar for All Program

- The Solar for All competition will fund applicants applying to expand existing or **develop new Solar for All programs.**
- A Solar for All program is a program that **ensures low-income households have access to residential rooftop and residential-serving community solar energy,** often through providing financial support and other incentives.
- Solar programs **can extend beyond solar generating capacity to include associated storage and enabling upgrades** that allow for the deployment of solar energy in low-income and disadvantaged communities.
- Programs **may also include solar project-deployment technical assistance such as workforce training programs** that enable underserved communities to participate in the economic opportunity created by the energy transition.

Overview of EPA's Solar for All Program

- EPA anticipates awarding approximately **\$7,000,000,000** under this announcement.
- Primary purpose is to deliver Meaningful Benefits:
 - **Household Savings:** Deliver a minimum of 20% electricity bill savings to all households served under the program.
 - **Equitable Access to Solar:** Ensure the program increases access to solar generation for low-income and disadvantaged communities.
 - **Resilience Benefits:** Create capacity to deliver power to low-income and disadvantaged communities and households during a grid outage.
 - **Community Ownership:** Facilitate ownership models that allow for low-income and disadvantaged communities and households to own assets.
 - **Workforce Development & Entrepreneurship:** Invest in high-quality jobs and businesses in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

Overview of EPA's Solar for All Program

- Programs should **use at least 75% of the award for financial assistance** to solar projects.
 - **Eligible financial assistance:** subsidies, grants, rebates, forgivable loans, and recyclable financial products such as loans (including soft loans and subordinate loans).
- EPA anticipates the **start date** for programs funded under this funding opportunity will be **July 2024**. All activities funded with the initial grant award must be completed within the negotiated program performance period of **up to five years**.
- Applicants may elect to include a **program planning period** in their application that **should not exceed one year**. This planning period will provide time to refine program plans after receiving an award from EPA and before beginning to deploy financial and technical assistance.

TN's Engagement Strategy & Proposed Program Structure

- **Program Development Team:** Responsible for development of the overall program's scope and guidelines, comprised of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Office of Energy Programs (TDEC OEP) and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) - Renewable Energy Solutions, Federal Funding Project Management Office, and EnergyRight Residential.
- **Local Project Implementation Teams:** Responsible for locally-tailored implementation of solar projects across Tennessee's communities. Communities not represented by a Local Project Implementation Team will be covered by the Statewide Program, led by the Program Development Team. Local Project Implementation Teams will continue to be identified in 2024.
- **Community-Based Organizations and Other Stakeholders:** Essential partners when developing the Solar for All Program and ensuring effective outreach to low-income households and disadvantaged communities across Tennessee.

TN's Engagement Strategy & Proposed Program Structure

- As a result of weekly meetings and individual conversations with Local Project Implementation Teams identified thus far, nonprofit and community-based organizations, and the Program Development Team, 35 letters of support were received by TDEC.
- Letters of support were provided by entities that can assist with the delivery of meaningful benefits, advancement of the distributed solar market strategy, provision of project-deployment technical assistance, and/or implementation of equitable access and meaningful involvement for households.

Summary of TN's Proposed Program

- Total amount of EPA funding requested by TDEC for TN: \$250,000,000
 - Amount budgeted for financial assistance: \$200,000,000
 - Amount budgeted for technical assistance and workforce development: \$27,803,920
 - Amount budgeted for administrative support: \$22,196,080
- A minimum of 14,737 low-income households estimated to be served
- 62 MW of solar infrastructure estimated to be deployed
- 82,310 tons of carbon dioxide estimated to be avoided or reduced

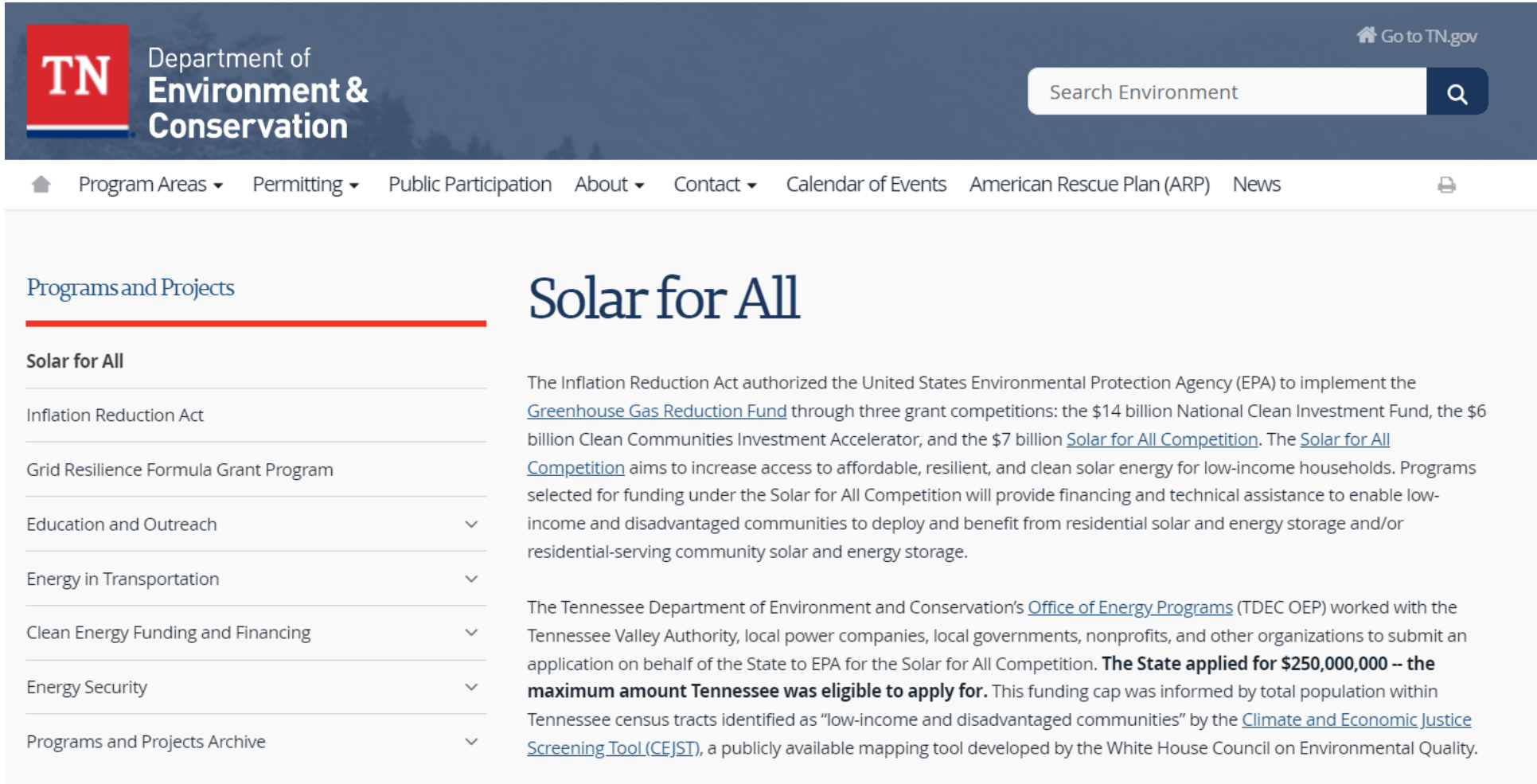
Next Steps

- Planning meetings will continue during the period leading up to award notifications.
- Award notifications and final allocation amounts are anticipated in March 2024.
- If awarded, the one-year planning period would begin in July 2024.
- Local project deployment would begin in approximately July 2025 and continue through July 2029.

Updates since Application Submittal

- Creation of a Tennessee Solar for All webpage
- Ongoing conversations to identify workforce training needs and potential partners
- As we continue to apply for and to design programs funded by other federal funding opportunities, we are flagging the following:
 - Identification of programs that can complement one another and/or be leveraged in tandem with one another (e.g., Solar for All, Training for Residential Energy Contractors, TVA's EnergyRight efficiency incentives, federal tax credits, and IRA Home Energy Rebates)
 - Opportunities for consistency across programs (e.g., datasets to be leveraged)

Tennessee Solar for All Webpage



The screenshot shows the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation website. The header includes the TN logo, the department name, a search bar with the text "Search Environment", and a "Go to TN.gov" link. The navigation menu contains: Home, Program Areas, Permitting, Public Participation, About, Contact, Calendar of Events, American Rescue Plan (ARP), and News. The main content area is titled "Solar for All" and features a sidebar with a "Programs and Projects" menu. The sidebar items are: Solar for All (selected), Inflation Reduction Act, Grid Resilience Formula Grant Program, Education and Outreach, Energy in Transportation, Clean Energy Funding and Financing, Energy Security, and Programs and Projects Archive. The main text describes the Inflation Reduction Act's authorization of the EPA to implement the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund through three grant competitions, including the \$7 billion Solar for All Competition. It states that the competition aims to increase access to affordable, resilient, and clean solar energy for low-income households. The text also mentions that the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Office of Energy Programs (TDEC OEP) worked with the Tennessee Valley Authority, local power companies, local governments, nonprofits, and other organizations to submit an application on behalf of the State to EPA for the Solar for All Competition. It highlights that the State applied for \$250,000,000, the maximum amount Tennessee was eligible to apply for, and that this funding cap was informed by total population within Tennessee census tracts identified as "low-income and disadvantaged communities" by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST).

Department of Environment & Conservation

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Programs and Projects

Solar for All

The Inflation Reduction Act authorized the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement the [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund](#) through three grant competitions: the \$14 billion National Clean Investment Fund, the \$6 billion Clean Communities Investment Accelerator, and the \$7 billion [Solar for All Competition](#). The [Solar for All Competition](#) aims to increase access to affordable, resilient, and clean solar energy for low-income households. Programs selected for funding under the Solar for All Competition will provide financing and technical assistance to enable low-income and disadvantaged communities to deploy and benefit from residential solar and energy storage and/or residential-serving community solar and energy storage.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's [Office of Energy Programs](#) (TDEC OEP) worked with the Tennessee Valley Authority, local power companies, local governments, nonprofits, and other organizations to submit an application on behalf of the State to EPA for the Solar for All Competition. **The State applied for \$250,000,000 – the maximum amount Tennessee was eligible to apply for.** This funding cap was informed by total population within Tennessee census tracts identified as "low-income and disadvantaged communities" by the [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#), a publicly available mapping tool developed by the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Solar for All

Inflation Reduction Act

Grid Resilience Formula Grant Program

Education and Outreach

Energy in Transportation

Clean Energy Funding and Financing

Energy Security

Programs and Projects Archive



<https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/energy/state-energy-office--seo-/programs-projects/programs-and-projects/solar-for-all.html>

U.S. DOE TREC Program / Workforce Advisory Group

U.S. DOE Formula Funding for Training for Residential Energy Contractors (TREC) - IRA Section 50123

- Provide States the ability to develop and implement a state energy workforce program that prepares workers to deliver energy efficiency, electrification, and clean energy improvements.
 - Application due January 31, 2024
 - State Formula Allocation: \$2,980,770 (in two installments)
 - 4-year period of performance
- Creation of Workforce Advisory Group – required by TREC Program
 - TDEC- Office of Energy Programs, Office of Policy & Planning, Division of Air Pollution Control are participating internally.
 - TDEC anticipates utilizing the Workforce Advisory Group to inform not only the Training for Residential Energy Contractors, but also for Solar for All and the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Programs.

Areas of Potential Intersection / Overlap Among Programs

- Synergy between Solar For All and other programs (e.g., U.S. DOE Training for Residential Energy Contractors, IRA Home Energy Rebates, etc.):
 - Workforce Development
 - Equity and Community Benefits Considerations
 - Market Transformation
 - Ability to Leverage Tax Credits
 - Marketing and Outreach
 - Leveraging Nonprofit Partnerships
 - Financial assistance strategies
 - Utilizing and building onto existing programming from long-term partners such as TVA

Stakeholder Meeting Cadence

- TDEC OEP will host monthly Solar for All stakeholder meetings.
- Meetings will allow TDEC OEP to share updates on Solar for All planning and any updates from EPA.
- Meetings will occur on the third Friday of each month at 3:00 pm Central.
 - Meetings are scheduled through December 2024.
- The next stakeholder meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2023, at 3:00 pm CT.
 - Will include a guest speaker from TVA to highlight TVA solar offerings, the Flexibility program, and the ways such can integrate with and complement TN's Solar for All Program.

Questions?

Solar for All questions can be directed to:

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