

# ENERGY



# OFFICE

## **Solar in South Carolina: *Opportunities for Energy Managers***

Presentation to the Association of South Carolina  
Energy Managers (ASCEM)

October 10, 2019

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# Agenda

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1. Electricity rates
2. Financing solar
3. Energy Freedom Act of 2019
4. Energy Office and ORS Responsibilities
5. Q&A

# Electricity Rates

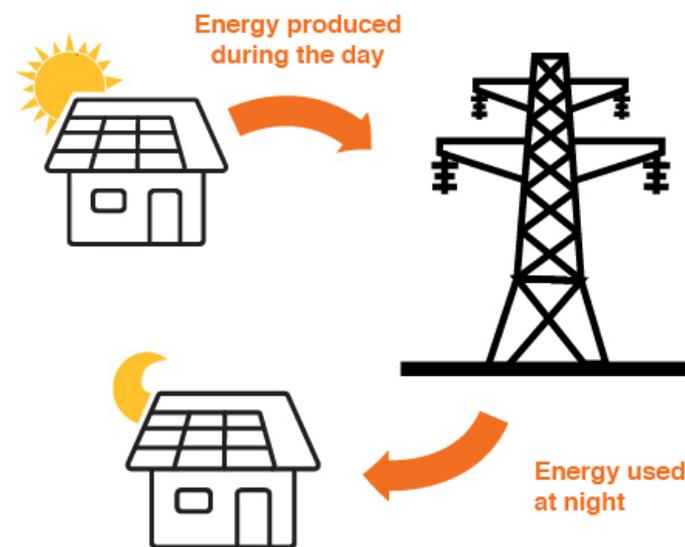
## Net Energy Metering (NEM)

- An arrangement between utilities and customers who produce their own power (“customer-generators”)
- Excess energy is sold back to the grid

## Time-of-Use (TOU) Rates

- Price per kWh may vary by time of day
- Typically lower during the day
- Economics of solar may improve with storage

*May be additional fees, e.g.  
interconnection/grid integration charge*



Source: Sunpro Solar

# Financing Solar

## State incentives

- 25% tax credit
- No expiration date

## Federal incentives

- 30% investment tax credit (ITC)
- Stepping down beginning in 2020

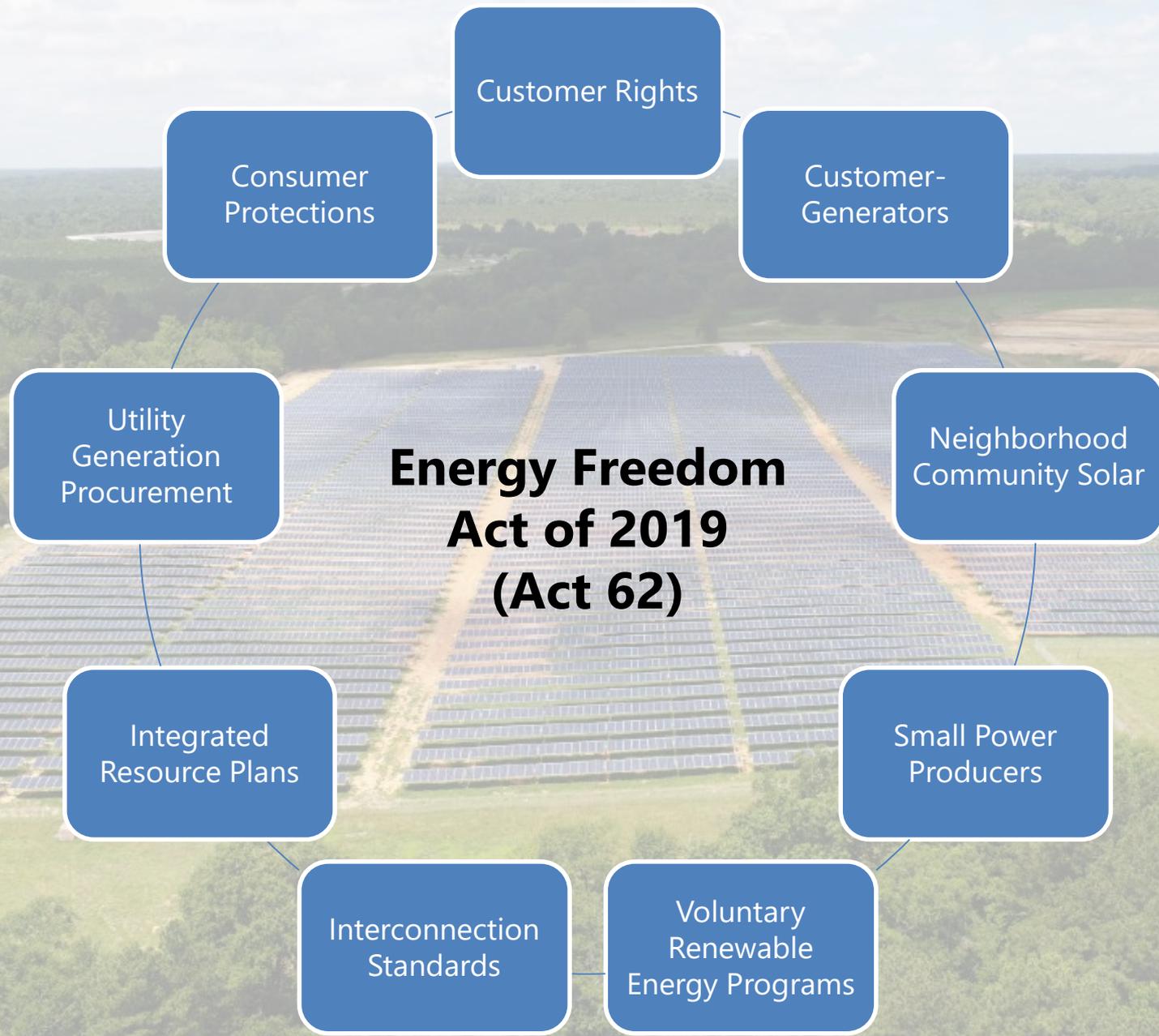
## SC Energy Office financing programs

- Mini-grants
- ConserFund
- ConserFund Plus
- Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan (EERL)

*Utilities may offer additional incentives*



Source: Solar Energy Industries Association



# Energy Freedom Act of 2019 (Act 62)

# Customer-Generators

## *On-site energy*

- Lifts caps on net metering and solar leasing
- Adds energy storage to definition of “customer-generator”
- PSC will consider revisions to interconnection standards
- **Existing** customers will continue to receive one-to-one credits until December 31, 2025
- **New** customers:
  - *Before June 1, 2021:* one-to-one credits until May 31, 2029
  - *On or after June 1, 2021:* “solar choice metering tariffs” (value TBD)



# Voluntary Renewable Energy Programs



## *Off-site energy*

- “Green tariffs” → separate rate to buy electricity from renewable energy
- Commercial and industrial customers with a demand of 1 MW or more
- Negotiate and contract directly with renewable energy suppliers
- Bundle demand under a single agreement



# Energy Office and ORS Responsibilities

## Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS)

Regulatory

Party to all PSC proceedings

Reviews IRPs and annual updates

## Energy Office

Non-regulatory

Education and outreach

Publishes IRPs on website

Consumer protection

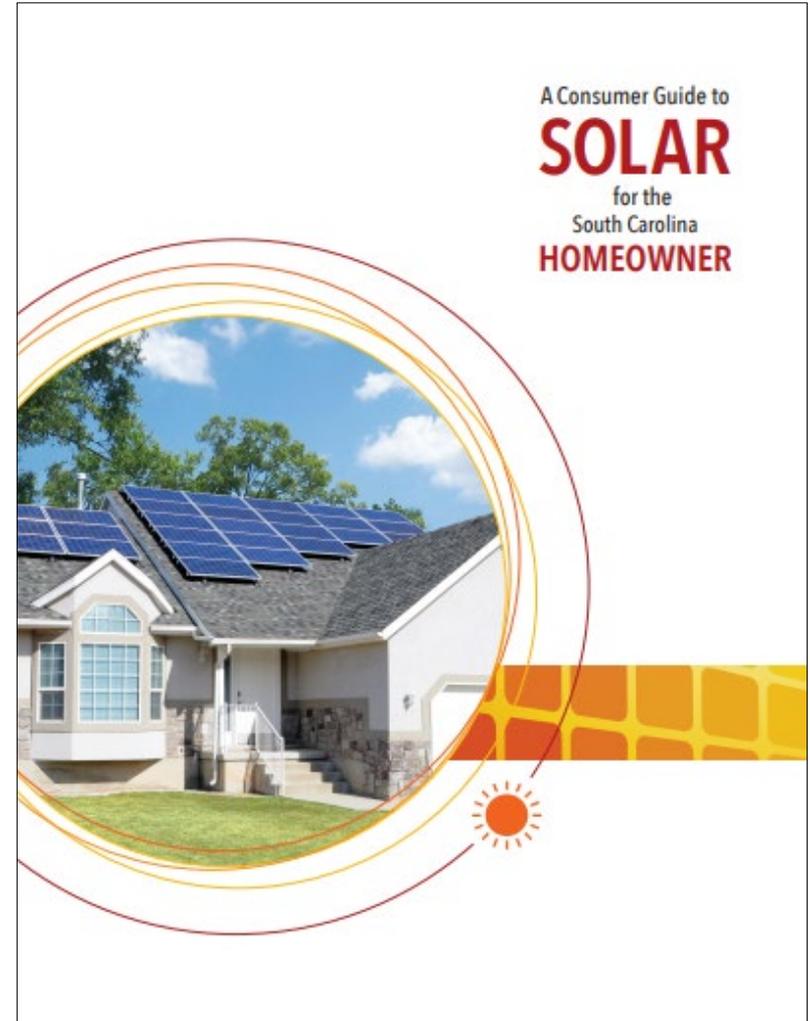




## Summary of the South Carolina Energy Freedom Act

SEPTEMBER 2019

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff  
ENERGY OFFICE



*Questions?*

# Contact

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*Note: This presentation is solely provided as a high-level summary of Act 62. It is not meant to constitute legal advice and the Office of Regulatory Staff is not responsible for any errors or omissions.*

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