What is Local Clean Energy Ownership?

Local clean energy ownership means that local residents have meaningful decision-making power over how clean energy projects are constructed and how their benefits are distributed.

Local clean energy projects may be owned by an individual, a group of individuals, or an entire community.

Local Ownership Steps Up the Benefits of Clean Energy

Local Clean Energy
- Climate
- Health
- Lower Costs

Locally Owned Clean Energy
- Local Jobs
- Bill Savings
- No Transport Costs
- Resiliency

Locally owned projects tend to fall mostly on the "local" side.

3 Dimensions of Local Clean Energy Ownership

1. Owners
2. Governance
3. Benefits

Advantage Local

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Households save on **Energy Costs** and **Build Wealth.**

Owning your own rooftop solar panels = an extra $12,000 in lifetime savings, compared to third-party ownership.

Being a part-owner and subscriber of a community solar cooperative = an extra $14,000 in lifetime savings, compared to third-party ownership.

Rooftop solar increases home values **$4,000 per kilowatt** according to a 2015 estimate!

Local clean energy projects are **shared community assets** that build economic resilience and stability.

Locally owned rooftop and community solar projects provide **3x the value** to local owners, energy users, local banks, landowners, and local governments.

If all small solar installed in 2021 was locally owned, it could have created almost **$7.5 billion in extra value** for host communities, compared to outside ownership.

One study found that locally owned wind farms might create **1.1 to 3.1x more jobs** than outside-owned projects during construction.

Communities reinvest in the **Local Economy**, create new **Local Jobs**, and build **Local Power.**

Research from several countries has found that residents prefer **local or community ownership** of wind energy and that it’s associated with more positive attitudes to development.

In a 2011 case study, **45%** of residents of a German town home to community-owned wind turbines had a **positive opinion** of future local wind development, compared to only 16% in another town with a wind project owned largely by outside entities.

Local clean energy ownership is **essential** to create the public pressure and political will needed to **counter energy monopolies, address energy injustices, and confront the climate crisis.**
Local Clean Energy Ownership for All

Because of bad government policies and lobbying from big energy monopolies, local clean energy ownership isn’t accessible to **All Communities** right now.

**Take the example of rooftop solar.**

Rooftop solar adopter **incomes skew high**, especially for host-owned systems. The median household income of all 2021 solar adopters was $110,000 compared to a national median of $63,000.

**Black and Hispanic households are underrepresented** among solar adopters. Residents of **disadvantaged communities** are only **11% of adopters nationally**.

These disparities are the result of **structural barriers** to clean energy ownership, including racial and socioeconomic gaps in homeownership, wealth, and financing, as well as **energy system-specific barriers**, like high upfront costs, inadequate government incentives and policies, and utility interference.

**We Must Expand Access** to individual clean energy ownership and shared community ownership, so all people—no matter their race, income, renting status, or location—can own part of the clean energy future.

**Here’s how.**

- **Address high upfront costs**, including by improving clean energy tax incentives, providing direct grants and accessible financing, and reforming securities regulations.
- **Pass supportive policies**, including fair compensation for clean energy owners and shared solar programs that enable community ownership.
- **Incentivize local ownership**, including through “adders,” prioritization, and carveouts for locally owned projects in clean energy programs.
- **Provide technical support** for locally owned clean energy projects.