



***Inflation Reduction Act
Implications for Solar & Affordable Housing***

September 8, 2022

Agenda

1. **Putting the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in context**
2. **The Investment Tax Credit (ITC) Boost**
3. **Direct Pay for Nonprofits**
4. **Domestic Content**
5. **EJ “Adders”**
 - a. Location-Based
 - b. Affordable Multifamily: Tenant Benefit
 - c. Low Income Community Solar

Q&A Session (20 Minutes) Please add all questions to the Q&A box.

Who We Are

- **Mission:** To expand access to clean energy in underinvested communities
- **About:** Boston-based development company building projects in MA, NY
- **Focus:** Affordable Housing, Nonprofit, Small Commercial
- **Mechanics:** Aggregating solar projects for low-cost, high quality installations and impact financing



Summer Series of Webinars

June 9

**Solar 101 +
Financing and
Contracting**

Great for Developers

[Recording](#)

July 14

**Solar Design for
New Construction**

*Great for Architects
and Developers*

[Recording](#)

August 11

**Zoning &
Certifications**

*Great for Architects
and Developers*

[Recording](#)

LISC BOSTON

40  **MACDC**
Celebrating 40 years

STAR Program

Our collective goal:

Support the installation of 4 MW of solar over the next 18 months in affordable housing.

STAR participants receive:

- *Grants for staff time support*
- *Free technical services*

Thus Far...

88

Sites

12

Developers

2.3_{MW}

Total solar capacity

LISC BOSTON

40*+* MACDC
Celebrating 40 years

Putting New Policy In Context

In 2009, the Recovery Act (AARTTA) established [1603 Grants](#) for solar PV and other technologies.

- Provided 30% cash grants
- Funded over 100,000 systems until 2012 when the program ran out of funds.
- In 2013, an IRS audit confirmed that there was no system to track if owners took the cash grant or the tax credit, which allowed some to fraudulently “double dip” with the program.

Implications: Successor programs like Direct Pay with the IRA is likely to be **paperwork heavy**.

An aerial photograph of a white clock tower with a green dome, situated on a roof with solar panels. The tower has two clock faces and a bell tower section. The surrounding area includes a town with various buildings, trees, and a parking lot with several cars. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

IRA Summary

Investment Tax Credit Boost

22% → 30%

Change: From 2022 to 2032, the investment tax credit for solar will be 30%.

Implication: Significant savings to affordable housing developers, both for ownership, as well as no-cost financing options.

Investment Tax Credit New Requirements

Project Size: To qualify for the 30% ITC and all associated policy adders, projects must either be:

- A) < 1 MW AC (~all multifamily projects)
- B) If > 1 MW AC in size, must meet prevailing wage + apprenticeship requirements.

Direct Pay

Change: Qualifying tax-exempt entities will be able to receive direct cash payments for the full value of the ITC.*

Implication: Owning your own solar array as a nonprofit just got a lot more cost effective.

* Beginning in 2024, increasing “domestic content” requirements take effect in order to receive the full direct payment. Details in the next slides.

High Five for Direct Pay



Direct Pay Qualifiers

Any organization exempt from paying income taxes can qualify for Direct Pay. *We believe* this will include wholly owned 501c3 subsidiaries.

LLC's and LP's with tax investors (any existing LIHTC properties) are not eligible for Direct Pay.

Organizations not eligible for the tax credit or Direct Pay can still receive the benefits of the IRA through no-cost financing options (eg PPAs)

New ITC Transfer Rules

- Previously, the solar ITC needed to flow to the owning entity.
- In affordable housing LIHTC deals, that meant bundling the ITC with LIHTC and selling to the equity investor, which was often more legal effort than it was worth.


“Assignment” In 2023, the IRA will allow for the ITC to be “assigned” to a for profit entity, offering an easier pathway to monetize the tax credit in LIHTC deals. Investors will need to be educated and some legal expense will be required when doing for the 1st time.

Investment Tax Credit Eligibility

The following categories are eligible ITC “basis”:

- **Equipment** (panels, inverters, all racking)
- Installation **labor**
- Solar company **sales & overhead**
- **Battery** storage
- Utility **grid upgrades** & interconnection costs
 - e.g. transformers

*Just added with the
new policy!*



Takeaway: All Upfront Costs Are Now Eligible!

Not Eligible: Ongoing maintenance (can prepay to get around this)

Nonprofit Direct Pay Example

	35 kW-DC Direct Purchase for a Nonprofit	
	<i>Before IRA</i>	<i>After IRA</i>
Upfront Cost	\$150,000	\$150,000
<i>Direct Pay Reimbursement</i>	\$0	\$45,000 (30%)
Return after Payback	\$165,000	\$210,000
<i>Payback Period</i>	11 years	7 years
<i>IRR (Internal Rate of Return)</i>	7.61%	12.38%

4.77% boost in Nonprofit Ownership IRR

Direct Pay Domestic Content Requirements

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027...
USA Manufactured Goods	40%	40%	45%	50%	55%
USA Steel & Iron*	100%				

* Steel & Iron only relevant for ground mounts & canopies. Rooftop racking uses plastic or aluminum.

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027...
% of ITC If Domestic Content <u>Not Met</u>	100% (30%)	90% (27%)	85% (25%)	0% (0%)	0% (0%)
% of ITC If Domestic Content <u>Met</u>	100% (30%)				

Note: System eligibility is determined based on the year that it is placed in service (i.e. built + turned on).

Direct Pay Exceptions

Domestic Content **requirement is waived** for Direct Pay if:

- Domestic materials increase costs by >25%
- Domestic materials aren't available in reasonable quantity or quality.

(How and when these qualifications would be formally set by the government is still to be determined.)

Domestic Content Adder

Whether or not you're receiving Direct Pay, your project can qualify for an ITC adder by meeting the domestic content requirements noted in the previous slide.

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027...
Domestic Content Adder Bonus	+10%				

How Achievable Is Domestic Content Adder?




We don't yet know how "40%" will be measured.
(Perhaps by cubic feet? Likely by cost.)

For small commercial projects (e.g. multifamily):

- **Modules:** Some domestic modules are being sold today (e.g. Silfab) by smaller manufacturers. Could be enough by itself to qualify. Likely that additional cost of modules will be greater than the value of the 10% adder.
- **Inverters:** No current pathway in MA for domestic
- **Racking:** Varies; likely possible to be procured from domestic manufacturers at higher cost.

Takeaway: likely neutral value proposition until 2024 or 2025 when it will make sense if going for Direct Pay.

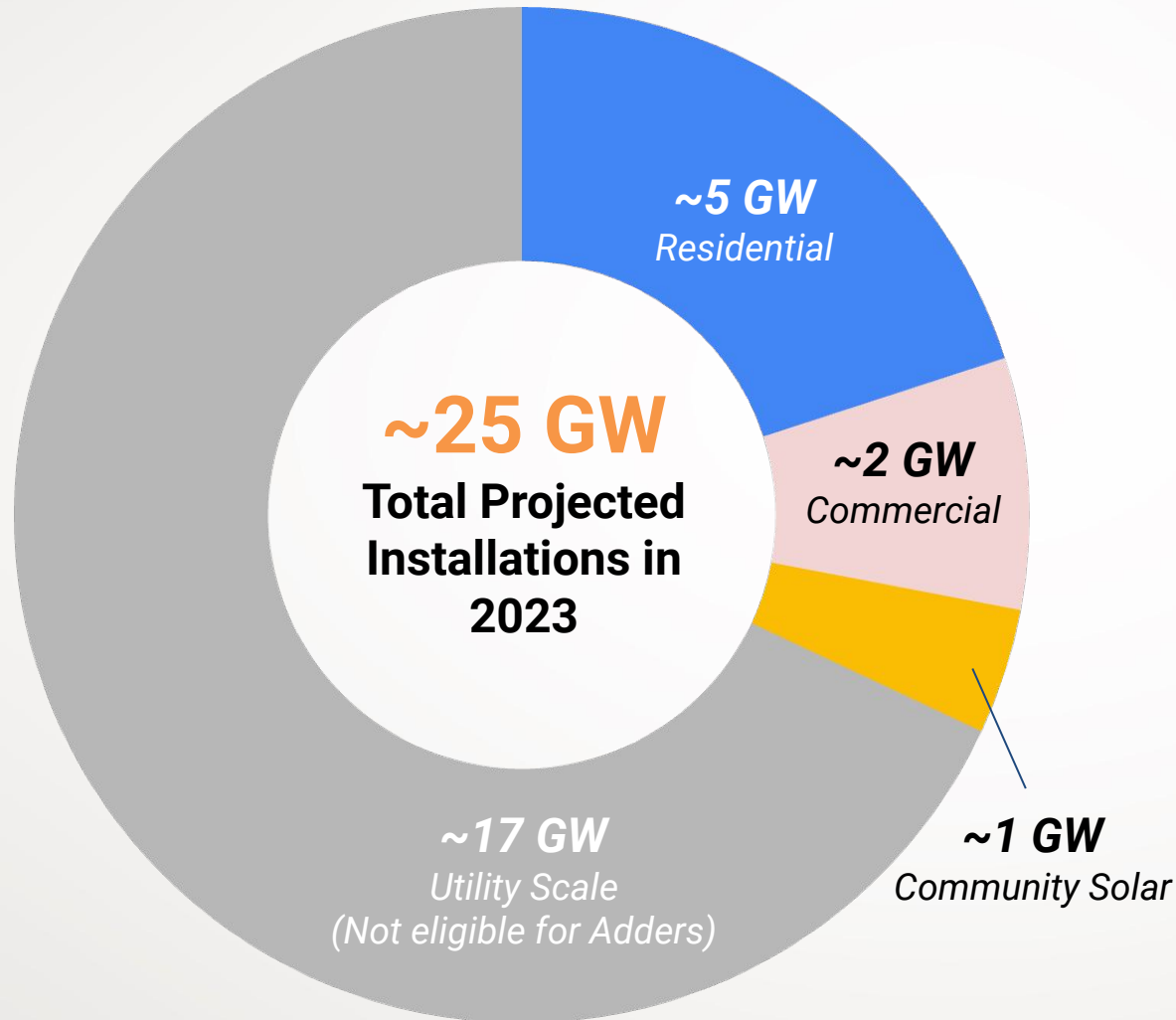
Environmental Justice Adders

Type	EJ Location 	Aff. Multifamily Tenant Benefit 	Low Income Community Solar 
Percentage Boost to ITC	+10%	+20%	+20%
Qualifications	Must be sited in a “low-income community” as defined in IRC 45D(e) - i.e. New Market Tax Credit Definition.	Must be located on a low-income residential building. + The financial benefits are “equitably distributed among the occupants”.	50% of output must go to low-income households, defined as income less than 80% of AMI.
Limitations	<p>Only one EJ adder per site. Only available for 2023 and 2024. Only 1.8GW allocated capacity per year. No rollover into 2025. First come, first serve allocation. Can be built up to 4 years after reserving.</p>		

We Love a Democratic Congress!



How Fast Will the Allocation Go?



1.8 GW of EJ Adders
in both 2023 & 2024.

If ~25% of projected
non-utility scale
projects qualify, that
will fully subscribe
allocation.

TLDR: Quickly!

How to Reserve Allocation

- Currently **TBD**.
- The Treasury has until **February 12, 2023** to finalize the guidelines / application process for how projects reserve their allocation.
- If modeled after state-based allocation processes (e.g. MA, NY, CA), allocation will likely require:
 - Signed Contract (e.g. Purchase or PPA, etc)
 - Interconnection Services Agreement (Utility)

Note: *Both items require a signed letter of intent and some upfront design / permitting work to get to.*

Adder Summary

Year	Base ITC	+	EJ Location	OR	EJ Tenant Benefit or LICSS	+	Domestic Content	=	Largest ITC Possible
2022	30%		-		-		-		30%
2023	30%		10%		20%		10%		60%
2024	30%		10%		20%		10%		60%
2025	30%		-		-		10%		40%
2031	30%		-		-		10%		40%

Strategic Next Steps

- The best thing to do now is to **sign an LOI** to get your project started towards design, contract prep, and initial permitting so you can be at the front of the line when the portal opens in 2023.
- If you have projects that you put on hold due to roof replacements or other barriers, **you should consider accelerating your roof replacements** to maximize potential benefits from the 2023/2024 EJ ITC adders.

An aerial photograph of a white clock tower with a green dome, situated on a roof with solar panels. The tower has two clock faces and a balcony. The surrounding area includes a town with various buildings, trees, and a parking lot with several cars. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

Taking Action

How to Work with Resonant

1. Client Provides Intake Info & Drawings
2. Review Feasibility Analysis (No Cost): 2 Wks
3. **Sign Letter of Intent (LOI)** with design retainer
4. Sign Contract: 3-4 months
5. Resonant delivers solar PV solution on a timeline that works for Client
6. *For New Construction: Installation is typically at very end of construction after all roof, HVAC, Plumbing work is complete + permanent power brought to site.*

New Project Intake Process

New Construction - Key info:

1. Groundbreaking date (estimated)
2. Project tax credits (LIHTC, Historic), and whether financing is closed or still pending.
3. Target building certification(s)
4. Electric service (3 phase vs. single phase)
5. Target solar output (kWh/year)
6. Common-area electricity usage (est.)
7. Drawing sets (roof 1st; then structural & electrical)

[Visit New Construction Webpage](#) - for intake sheet and submission process.

Additional Resources

Resonant Blog:

1. [New Construction: Estimating Electricity Usage & Why It Matters](#)
2. [Resonant Energy's "Solar Ready" Definition for New Construction](#)
(Designing for Solar)

Additional IRA Reading:

1. [SEIA Summary](#)
(Solar Only)
2. [NovoGradac Write Up](#)
(Full Policy Brief)

A wide-angle photograph of a rooftop solar panel array. The panels are dark blue and arranged in neat rows, held up by white concrete blocks. In the background, a city skyline is visible under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The buildings vary in height and style, including a prominent tall, thin skyscraper and a large, modern glass building.

Thank You!

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