



## AB 693 Multifamily Affordable Housing Renewable Energy Program

### SUMMARY

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AB 693 would create a new program, called Solar CARE, to give low-income tenants of multifamily affordable housing projects the ability to benefit from on-site solar installations. This bill will bring local solar power to low-income communities who are often last to benefit from green technologies, in addition to promoting local jobs, renewable energy, and cleaner air for the state.

### BACKGROUND

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Ten years ago, California had just 200 MW of solar on 50,000 roofs. Today, we have more than 3,000 MW on 300,000 roofs. While this is a laudable accomplishment, the vast majority of these installations have been on single-family homes and businesses. Low-income residents, especially those who rent, have been left out of the opportunity to participate in California's solar energy revolution.

Although there are solar programs in place that attempt to benefit low-income apartment residents, the benefits are not being fully realized. Specifically, under the California Solar Initiative (CSI), relatively few low-income renters received direct energy savings benefits from the Multifamily Affordable Solar Homes (MASH) program when it was first launched. New MASH funding and program incentives authorized by AB 217 (Bradford, 2013) are expected to help address this gap. However, the impact will be restricted by existing commitments for common-area-only installations and limited available resources to scale installations to also serve residents.

This bill attempts to change this by subsidizing the installation of solar panels for multifamily affordable housing tenants. Participants will have lower electricity bills because their reliance on the grid will be offset through their own solar generation.

Additionally, Solar CARE will reduce the fiscal demand on the California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) Program because customers of Solar CARE will overlap with participants of CARE without removing any customers from the current CARE program<sup>1</sup>.

### THIS BILL

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- Directs the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to create a new program to install 300 MW of rooftop solar on multifamily affordable housing units through 2030.
- The program would direct \$100 million per year in funds from the electric sector cap and trade auction revenues (SB 1018, 2012).
- The funds will fully subsidize installation of 300 MW of solar on qualified multifamily affordable housing units to benefit onsite tenant load.
- Incorporates energy efficiency measures into the Solar CARE program.

### SUPPORT

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California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA)  
 Union of Concerned Scientists  
 Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton  
 Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice  
 CA League of Conservation Voters  
 Sierra Club  
 Audubon California  
 Coalition for Clean Air  
 U.S. Green Building Council  
 Asian Pacific Environmental Network  
 Solar City  
 Climate Action Campaign  
 The Utility Reform Network (SIA)

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<sup>1</sup> Low-income customers that are enrolled in the CARE program receive a 30-35 percent reduction on their electric bills. This reduction is subsidized by ratepayers.

California Solar Energy Industries Association  
(CALSEIA)  
Communities for a Better Environment  
Center on Race, Poverty, & the Environment  
CA Housing Partnership Corporation (SIA)  
Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable  
Economy (CAUSE)  
Vote Solar  
Environmental Health Coalition

## **OPPOSITION**

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CalTax

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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