

SB 366: Renewable Energy for All

Clean, affordable solar power is delivering health and economic benefits across California, and we need to ensure that those benefits are felt by all. Families who rent and those with low credit scores or limited financial means currently face real barriers to solar participation.

SB 366 would ensure that low-income families have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from our state's growing solar economy through a community solar program that works for them.



What is SB 366?

SB 366 by Senator Connie Leyva expands renewable energy and increases savings for low-income customers. It improves and provides an equity focus to the Green Tariff Shared Renewables Program established by SB 43 by expanding available megawatts for shared renewable energy projects located in environmental justice communities. SB 366 is co-sponsored by the Asian Pacific Environmental Network and the California Environmental Justice Alliance.

How will SB 366 improve your community?

SB 366 will unlock access to clean energy for disadvantaged communities through the state's existing shared solar program. While the Green Tariff Solar Renewables (GTSR) program seeks to promote solar development and environmental benefits, there is an additional fee for subscribers, which puts those benefits out of reach for low-income residents. That extra cost is a financial burden to customers who can least afford – but would most benefit – from renewable energy access. SB 366 aims to improve the GTSR program by ensuring that it financially benefits low-income customers and has a strong environmental justice focus.

What does solar expansion mean for environmental justice communities?

Healthier Communities

Reduced reliance on polluting power plants improves air quality, which is especially important for disadvantaged communities that have disproportionately borne the burden of our dependence on fossil fuels.

Reduces Energy Bills

Low-income households have an average energy burden that is approximately three times higher than high-income households and pay an average of 25-40% of their income on utility bills alone. Making renewable energy more affordable ensures low-income customers receive a meaningful bill savings.

Climate Leadership

Given the current political climate, it's more important than ever that California continue leading the nation in building a clean energy economy that's good for our communities and our climate.



Why do we need SB 366?

SB 366 will ensure that low-income communities throughout California have equal opportunity and access to energy efficient services and programs that will improve their wellbeing. This legislation will help remove many of the barriers that continue to limit residents from fully participating in energy programs.

Currently, the utilities have signed over 100 MW of contracts for new shared solar projects under the GTSR program, but only 2 MW of those projects will be located in environmental justice communities. SB 366 is a renewed approach to improving the program by encouraging solar deployment in EJ communities.



"Last year, my family couldn't afford to pay our PG&E bill each month. At the end of the year, they sent us a bill for over \$2000 and threatened to shut off our electricity if we didn't pay. Without donations and support from our community, they would have shut off our power at the coldest time of the year."

SB 366 will help low-income families like mine access the benefits of solar that we urgently need. Living in Richmond, a community that faces constant pollution from the Chevron Refinery, we need clean energy and we also need to reduce our energy bills. Many of us can't afford to put solar on our rooftop, but by passing bills like SB 366, all of us can benefit from the solar economy."

Lipo Chanthanasak
Richmond Leader, Asian Pacific Environmental Network

"During the summer when temperatures hit over 100F in Pacoima, air conditioner units become a luxury for families struggling to make ends means. Like many families, we would only use one small fan to keep the bedroom where five of us were sleeping cool. Thanks to a recently adopted shared program by LADWP, high utility bills will no longer be a barrier for families to enjoy cooler homes."

SB 366 will expand shared solar like the LADWP program and provide much needed economic relief for low-income families that are living paycheck to paycheck, and ensure low-income households can finally enjoy cooler homes in the summer heat, while saving on their utility bills."

Felipe Escobar
Community Organizer, Pacoima Beautiful

