



# LEAN Energy US

## Scaling a Just Transition—Opportunities in Federal Legislation for CCAs

December 16, 2021



*Harnessing the Power of Communities*

# Guest Speakers



**Mike Gordon**  
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Joule Assets



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Director of Strategy  
Joule Assets

# Today's Agenda

1. **How CCAs can effectively drive community solar and storage and target benefits towards low income customers**
2. **Pilot proposal to the federal government**
3. **Building stakeholder engagement with federal agencies**
4. **Thank you and Wrap-up**



**What Joule does:** [Joule Community Power](#) works to develop a clean energy future by bringing the *power of choice* to municipalities with a current focus on New York State, empowering local decision-making, enabling equitable access to cleaner and cheaper energy, and prioritizing access to renewable energy for underserved communities.



**The Approach:** Through Community Choice Aggregation (“CCA”), Joule helps municipalities join together to aggregate the buying power of residents at large enough scale to negotiate more favorable terms of their energy contracts, decrease electricity costs, designate renewable generation sources, choose clean energy, increase consumer protection, select a default energy services company, support local renewable generation, and deliver the benefits of solar, or other renewables, to entire communities.

# Scaling a Just Transition

Clean Energy Infrastructure  
For Social Equity



# Contents

## 1. Key Policy Tools

- **Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)**
- **Recent Innovation: Integrating CCA with community renewables**

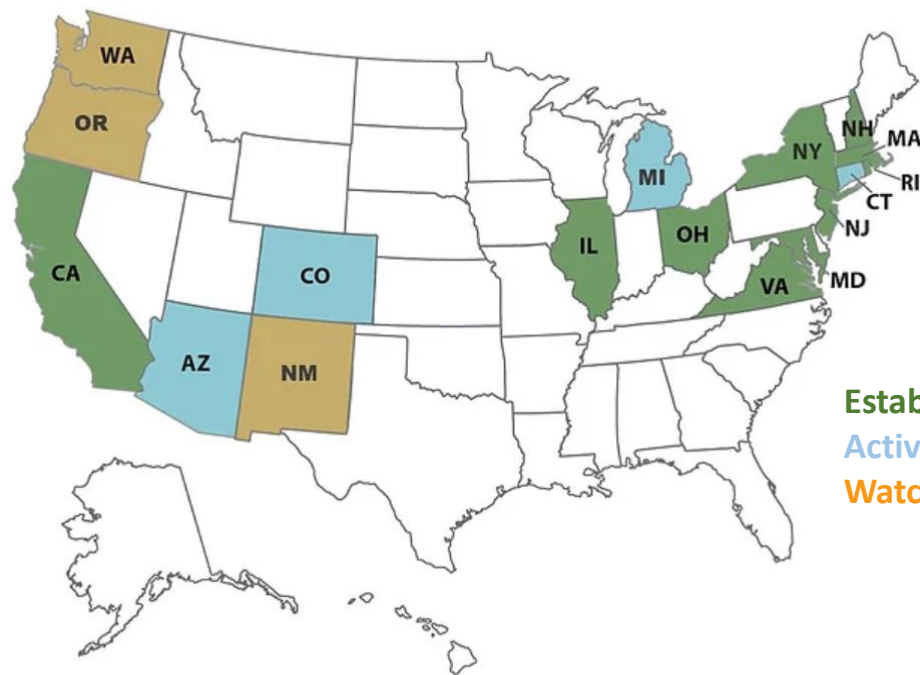
## 2. Catalyzing A Just Transition At Scale

- **Program Vision**
- **Core Objectives**
- **Approach for Connecting with Federal Stakeholders**

# 1. Key Policy Tool: Community Choice Aggregation



CCA allows **municipalities** to determine default energy offerings (e.g., renewable electricity) within their service territory, in order to purchase and/or develop power on behalf of the residents and businesses.



Established by law in 10 States  
Actively Investigating  
Watch List/Potential

The classic model of CCA is an electricity supply model that works in partnership with the region's existing utility, which continues to deliver power, maintain the grid, provide consolidated billing and other customer services.

# 1. Key Policy Tool: Recent Innovation: An Integrated Model

New York state is **the only state** which allows CCA municipalities to distribute “Community Distributed Generation” credits through an opt-out subscription model.



## The Integrated Model:

- Eliminates the need for individual credit checks
- Single bill
- Guarantees electricity bill savings
- Supports energy generation from local solar farms and storage facilities
- Prioritizes low- to moderate-income (LMI) consumers



## 2. Catalyzing A Just Transition At Scale



### Federal Targets for Community Solar

U.S. Department of Energy National Community Solar Partnership Target:  
To enable community solar systems to power the equivalent of....

**5 million households by 2025  
and  
create \$1 billion in energy bill savings**

There is enough community solar installed in the U.S. today to power 600,000 households—achieving DOE’s new NSCP target would mean an increase of more than **700%** in the next four years.

# 1. Key Policy Tool: Community Choice Aggregation



## Impact of Opt-Out Model



WITHOUT CCA

**1-5%**

of New Yorkers switch  
to clean energy



AREAS WITH CCA

**80-90%**

of New Yorkers power their  
home with clean energy

## 2. Catalyzing A Just Transition At Scale

### Core Objectives

Support  
community-led  
grid  
improvements

Allow CDG  
assets to be  
deployed at  
scale

Use CCA and CDG,  
in tandem, as key  
policy tools to  
achieve Justice40  
goals.

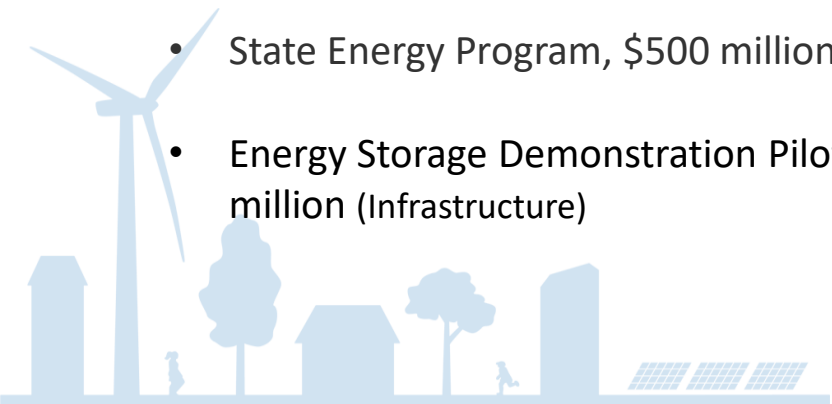
Justice40 is a whole-of-government effort to ensure that Federal agencies work with states and local communities to deliver at least **40 percent of the overall benefits** from Federal investments in climate and clean energy **to disadvantaged communities.**

## 2. Catalyzing A Just Transition At Scale



### Newly Available Funds

- Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid, \$5 billion (Infrastructure)
- Electric Grid Reliability and Resilience Research, Development and Demonstration, \$5 billion (Infrastructure)
- Transmission Facilitation Program, \$2.5 billion (Infrastructure)
- Deployment of Technologies to Enhance Grid Flexibility, \$3 billion (Infrastructure)
- State Energy Program, \$500 million (Infrastructure)
- Energy Storage Demonstration Pilot Grant Program, \$355 million (Infrastructure)
- Increase in energy credit for solar and wind facilities placed in service in connection with low-income communities. (BBB)
- Extension and modification of energy credit (tax credit for the cost of energy property) (BBB)
- Elective payment for energy property and electricity produced from certain renewable resources. (BBB)



## 2. Catalyzing A Just Transition At Scale



### Funding Proposals to be Piloted

- Federally Funded **Adders for EJ solar and storage** conditioned upon **local employment**
- Federally Funded **Adders for solar and storage** project co-located with **critical community infrastructure**
- Low-Cost Federal Financing that fund **debt for EJ solar and storage**
- Low-Cost Federal Financing for **fleet electrification with transit hubs** in EJ communities
- Lowest-Cost Federal Financing for necessary **grid improvements to allow EJ solar and storage** conditioned upon formal **community engagement** and authority



## 2. Catalyzing A Just Transition At Scale



### Program Vision - New York Pilot

**An integrated CCA model to be used as a vehicle to deliver all aspects of the energy transition in a socially equitable manner at scale.** This pilot program could exhibit measurable results:

#### SOLAR

1,500 newly constructed MWs of **solar capacity**, strategically distributed throughout NY.

#### STORAGE

500 newly constructed MWs of **storage capacity**, strategically distributed throughout NY.

#### COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

200,000+ hours of education and **community organization**. Funding for job training hubs and career pipelines.

#### ACCESSIBILITY

**100+ Environmental Justice Communities** involved, and 250,000 households reached. Dispersion of \$16 million in bill credits, each year.

## 2. Catalyzing A Just Transition At Scale

### Components of the Pilot

**Services and software  
to reduce friction for  
as of right programs**

- Private Sector

**Supplemental adders  
to encourage clean  
energy development**

- Governments and deployed by the private sector

**Governance and  
planning programs**

- Networks of non-profits, NGOs and market stakeholders

## 2. Catalyzing A Just Transition At Scale



### Pilot Opportunities



The NY pilot is enabled by the existing regulatory structure.

We aim for CCAs to work with regulators to participate in the pilot.

Invitation: We will work with municipalities to apply to your state regulator for authority to offer credits on an opt out basis

Contact: Claire Dépit  
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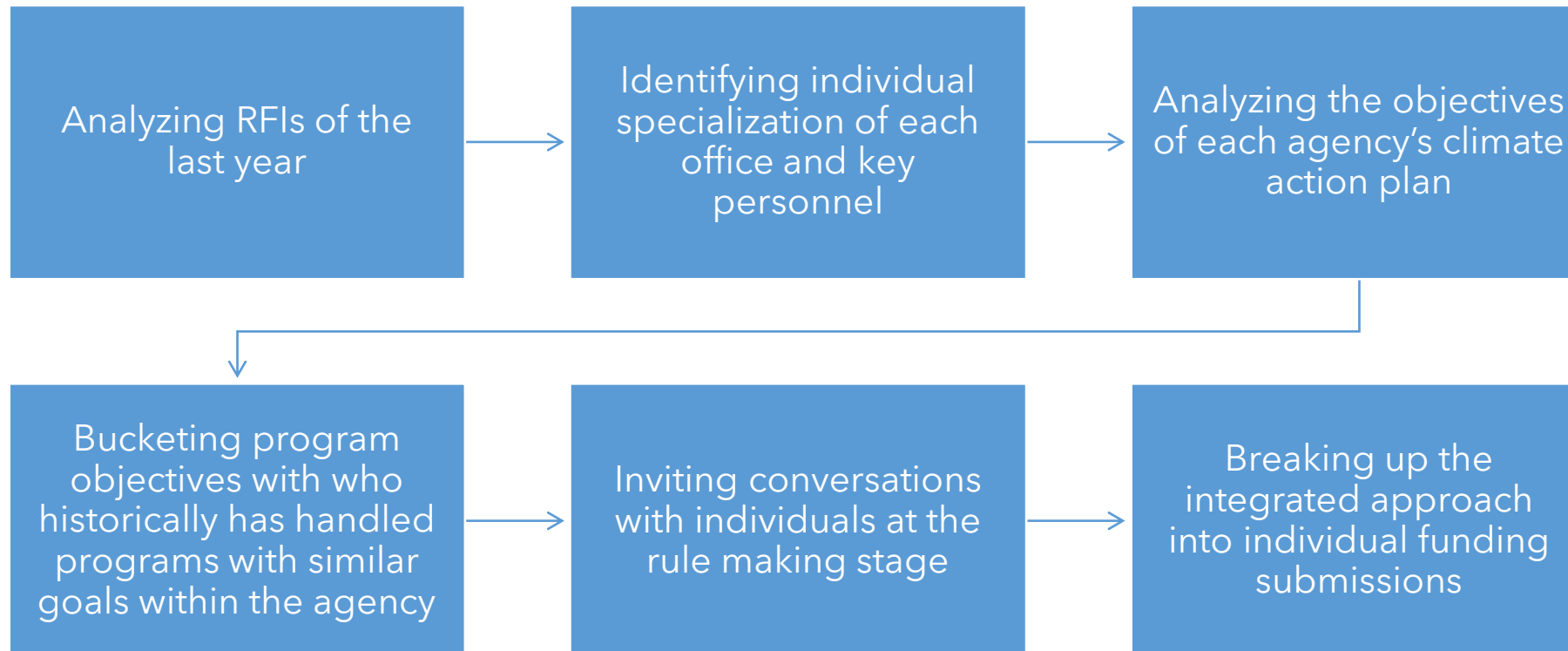


## 2. Catalyzing A Just Transition At Scale



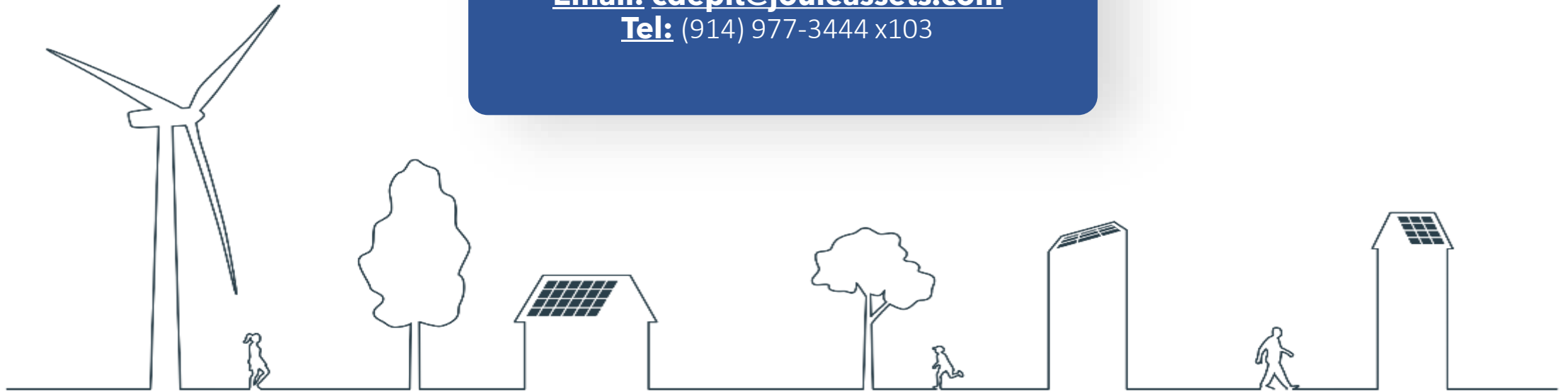
### Agency Approach & LEAN Proposal

**Core Agencies:** Department of Energy, Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency and Internal Revenue Service





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[www.joulecommunitypower.com](http://www.joulecommunitypower.com)

# About Joule



Joule, the only CCA Administrator in NY State with a Public Service-Commission-approved implementation plan that integrates community solar, launched **the first and only** community choice solar program in the country, bringing the benefits of solar to entire communities.



Having created the blueprint to guide communities through a smooth and empowering process that moves energy consumers away from fossil fuels to clean energy, Joule aims to scale its Community Power model across NY State and beyond.



**Joule represents more than 330,000 NYS households  
and small businesses across 40+ municipalities**

## 2. Catalyzing A Just Transition At Scale



### Agency Targeting - Connecting with Federal Stakeholders

**Federally Funded Adders** for EJ solar and storage

**Low-Cost Federal Financing to Banks** that fund debt for the EJ solar and storage with limited basis point mark-up

**Lowest-Cost Federal Financing** for necessary grid improvements to allow EJ solar and storage

**Tax Credit System**

**Pilot**

*Department of Energy (DOE)*

- *Loans Program Office*
- *Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy*
- *Office of Electricity Delivery & Energy Reliability*
- *Office of Technology Transition*

*Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

*Department of Transportation (DOT)*

*Internal Revenue Service (IRS)*

*DOE - Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations*

# 1. Key Policy Tool: Community Choice Aggregation



## Positive Impact of CCA in New York State Since 2015



**150 municipalities** representing **3.2 million people** have passed local laws to enable CCA, including **1.2 million** low- to moderate-income residents.



Over **770,000 Tons** of carbon dioxide emissions, avoided.



**3 million** MWh of renewable energy supply were provided to over 51 municipalities.



Over **117,000 hours** of public education provided.

# 1. Key Policy Tool: Community Distributed Generation



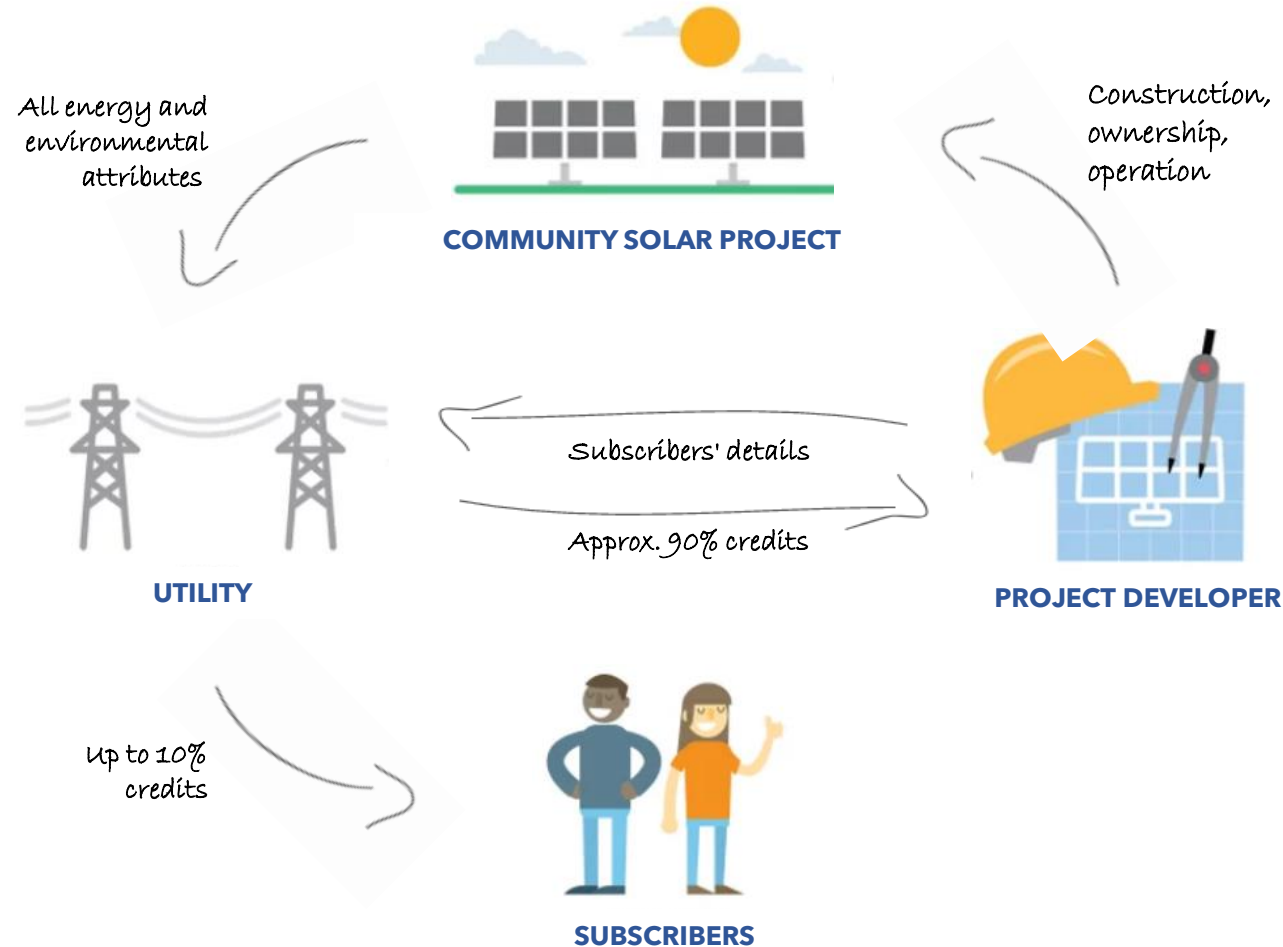
Community Distributed Generation (CDG) is a type of Distributed Energy Resource that **expands access to renewable energy**.

Community Distributed Generation assets involve:

- **Community solar**
- **Wind power**
- **Hydro power**
- **Standalone or co-located storage**

CDG enables renewable ownership by customers unable to install on-site solar panels or other clean energy technologies.

# 1. Key Policy Tool: Community Distributed Generation



## Explainer of CDG in New York State.

Adapted from SolSmart's Toolkit for Local Governments, and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's Materials on CDG.

# Thank you and Wrap-Up



**Many thanks Mike and Divia!**

**Help LEAN to build stakeholder engagement with Federal agencies on behalf of CCAs!**

Please contact Alison Elliott at LEAN Energy US

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415-264-1313

<https://www.leanenergyus.org/support-us>