

Title: *Community shared solar policy adoption in the U.S.*

Author: Gilbert Michaud, Ph.D., Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs,  
Ohio University

Short Statement: This research focuses on community shared solar, a model that allows multiple consumers to share the costs and benefits of ownership in an off-site solar energy facility, which is only permitted through formal legislation in about 15 states. Through telephone interviews with policy experts across the U.S. from the solar industry, environmental groups, government, and electric utilities, this research discovers that electric utility lobbying and an overall lack of attention have hindered community solar enabling legislation. However, opportunities exist for future development via increased participation, collaboration, and key events that may alter the policy equilibrium. Such research is useful in understanding how historically laggard states may adopt community solar legislation in the future, which, in turn, can contribute to a society that is increasingly utilizing renewable energy generation technology.