
SENATE BILL 5555

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senator Ericksen

Read first time 01/23/19. Referred to Committee on Environment,
Energy & Technology.

1 AN ACT Relating to ensuring that components of solar energy
2 systems are produced in the United States or according to Washington
3 state environmental standards; and amending RCW 82.16.160.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 82.16.160 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 36 s 5 are each
6 amended to read as follows:

7 The definitions in this section apply throughout this section and
8 RCW 82.16.165, 82.16.170, and 82.16.175 unless the context clearly
9 requires otherwise.

10 (1) "Administrator" means the utility, nonprofit, or other local
11 housing authority that organizes and administers a community solar
12 project as provided in RCW 82.16.165 and 82.16.170.

13 (2) "Certification" means the authorization issued by the
14 Washington State University extension energy program establishing a
15 person's eligibility to receive annual incentive payments from the
16 person's utility for the program term.

17 (3) "Commercial-scale system" means a renewable energy system or
18 systems other than a community solar project or a shared commercial
19 solar project with a combined nameplate capacity greater than twelve
20 kilowatts that meets the applicable system eligibility requirements
21 established in RCW 82.16.165.

1 (4) "Community solar project" means a solar energy system that
2 has a direct current nameplate generating capacity that is no larger
3 than one thousand kilowatts and meets the applicable eligibility
4 requirements established in RCW 82.16.165 and 82.16.170.

5 (5) "Consumer-owned utility" has the same meaning as in RCW
6 19.280.020.

7 (6) "Customer-owner" means the owner of a residential-scale or
8 commercial-scale renewable energy system, where such owner is not a
9 utility and such owner is a customer of the utility and either owns
10 the premises where the renewable energy system is installed or
11 occupies the premises.

12 (7) "Electric utility" or "utility" means a consumer-owned
13 utility or investor-owned utility as those terms are defined in RCW
14 19.280.020.

15 (8) "Governing body" has the same meaning as provided in RCW
16 19.280.020.

17 (9) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership,
18 corporation, company, association, agency, or any other legal entity.

19 (10) "Program term" means: (a) For community solar projects,
20 eight years or until cumulative incentive payments for electricity
21 produced by the project reach fifty percent of the total system
22 price, including applicable sales tax, whichever occurs first; and
23 (b) for other renewable energy systems, including shared commercial
24 solar projects, eight years or until cumulative incentive payments
25 for electricity produced by a system reach fifty percent of the total
26 system price, including applicable sales tax, whichever occurs first.

27 (11) "Renewable energy system" means a solar energy system,
28 including a community solar project, an anaerobic digester as defined
29 in RCW 82.08.900, or a wind generator used for producing electricity.

30 (12) "Residential-scale system" means a renewable energy system
31 or systems located at a single situs with combined nameplate capacity
32 of twelve kilowatts or less that meets the applicable system
33 eligibility requirements established in RCW 82.16.165.

34 (13) "Shared commercial solar project" means a solar energy
35 system, owned or administered by an electric utility, with a combined
36 nameplate capacity of greater than one megawatt and not more than
37 five megawatts and meets the applicable eligibility requirements
38 established in RCW 82.16.165 and 82.16.175.

39 (14) "Solar energy system" means any device or combination of
40 devices or elements that rely upon direct sunlight as an energy

1 source for use in the generation of electricity. All components of a
2 solar energy system, including all solar modules as defined under RCW
3 82.16.110, must be:

4 (a) Entirely produced or manufactured in the United States; or

5 (b) Produced or manufactured in a facility located outside the
6 United States but that is certified by the department of ecology to
7 meet all relevant Washington state environmental, health, and safety
8 standards.

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