

PEOPLE POWER SOLAR COOPERATIVE



Problem

Unfortunately, we've got 99 problems that culminate in systemic solar energy injustice.

- 5.9 million households in CA alone (54% of the state) do not have access to solar power because they are renters or have shaded roofs.
- Even more lack access to the necessary credit or capital.
- California, and many parts of the country, lacks viable shared solar laws, such as virtual net-metering, that facilitate community-ownership of solar projects.

Solution

People Power Solar Cooperative's model engages everyday people to build, co-own and steward their own renewable energy projects in their local neighborhoods. People of any socio-economic background can now put up to \$1,000 towards a solar project and earn an annual dividend. We are:

- Developing technologies to address the significant social hurdles needed to enable this collective action.
- Providing communities with the tools and resources to navigate the technical, administrative, legal, and social challenges of community energy development and ownership.
- Developing an online portal to enable the large-scale online investment in and organization of distributed, community-owned solar power. This is an **open-source, cooperatively managed** set of software services that can be managed and shared with other cooperative's nationwide, including the People's Solar Energy Fund that aggregates solar coops across the country.

Accomplishments

In March 2019, People Power Solar Cooperative installed our first project as the first cooperatively-owned residential project in California.

Community-ownership means activated members of the community developing energy projects:

- **160 Owners** - Member-owners who purchased shares of the cooperative to get financial benefit of community solar
- **74%** cannot go solar
- **8 Models** - We have worked with member-owners to try seven models of energy ownership
- **68 Sites** - Member-owners stewarded conversation around energy ownership with 68 site hosts.
- **12 Training Sessions** on wealth building with energy ownership
- **People's Solar Energy Fund** - Established non-extractive financing and technical assistance support for community-led and community-owned solar projects.

Plan

People Power Solar Cooperative will

- 1) Conduct user research interviews with at least three energy cooperatives nationwide in order to identify project needs and potential development partners moving forward;
- 2) Identify the online services with the highest need and divide shared services off from the monolithic alpha-version of the web application developed for us previously by Blueprint; and
- 3) Design a code management structure across these shared open-source projects that guarantees they continue to serve the needs of their cooperative users moving forward.
- 4) Launch the platform and start distributing annual dividends in a cost-effective way to build wealth with energy justice.

PEOPLE POWER SOLAR COOPERATIVE

