

Energy Democracy: Supporting Community Innovation

Challenges and Opportunities for Communities
of Color and Tribal Nations Briefing

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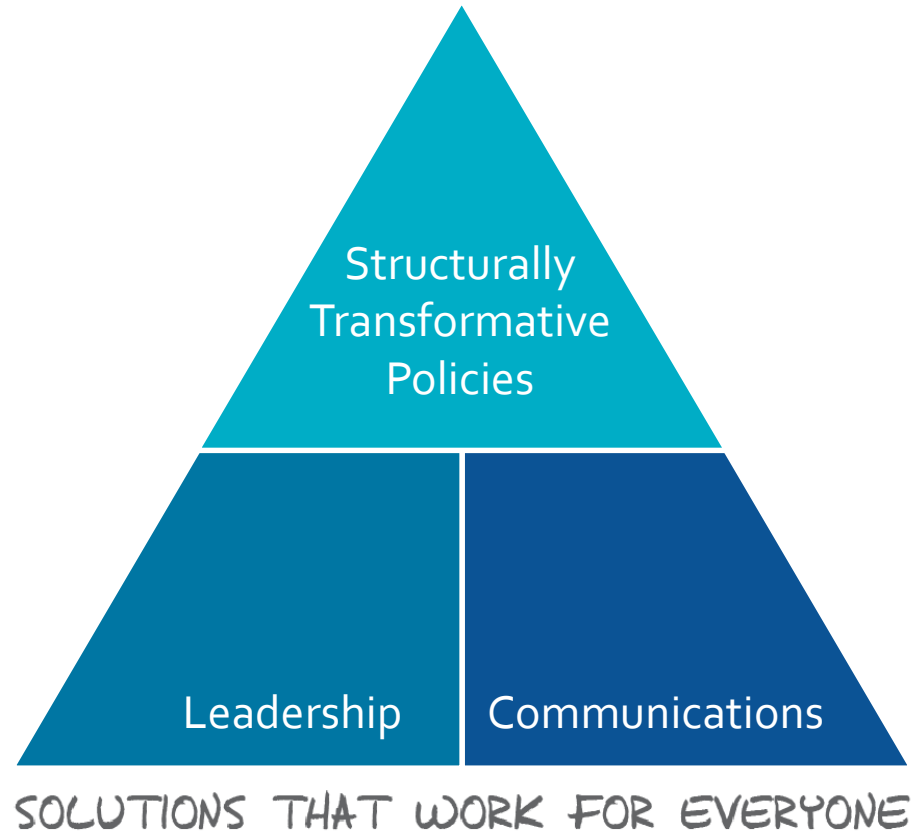
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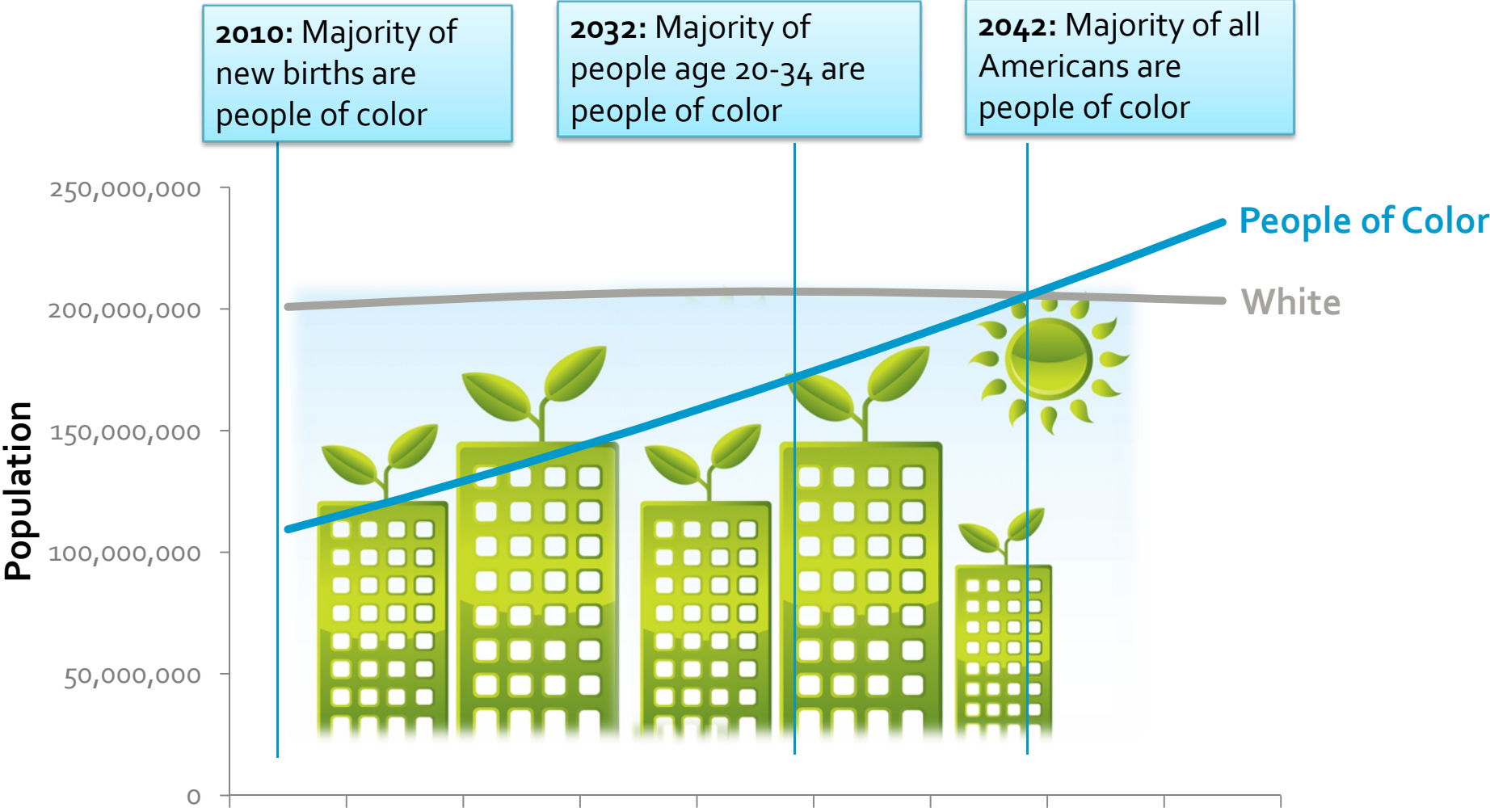
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- Ideas
- Leadership
- Communications



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Demographic Shifts Mean a New Majority



Why Community Scale ?

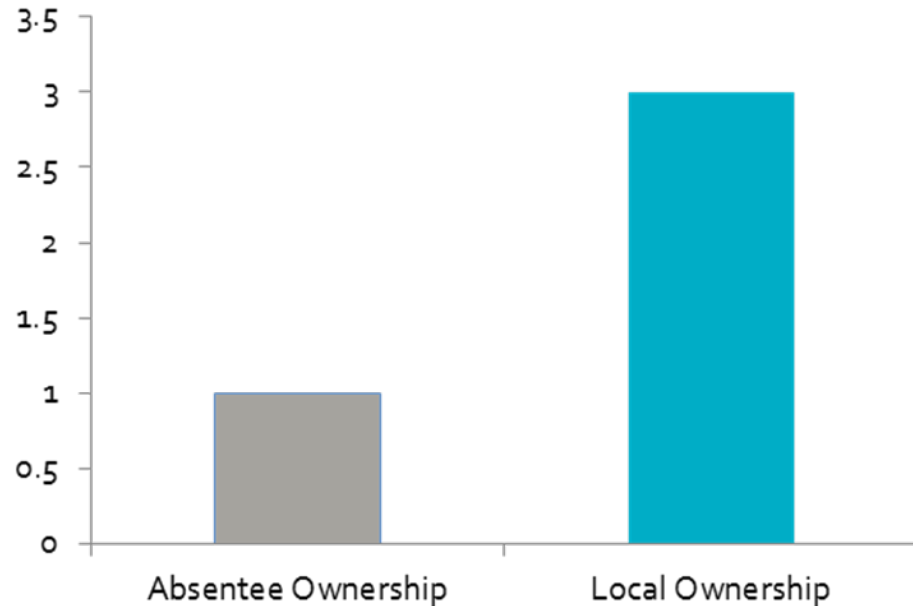
Huge potential for producing renewable energy

Local renewables create jobs

Efficient and Cost-Saving

Builds Political Economy

Jobs Created per Megawatt of Energy Produced in Wind Power



Source: NREL "Economic Development Impacts of Community Wind Projects"

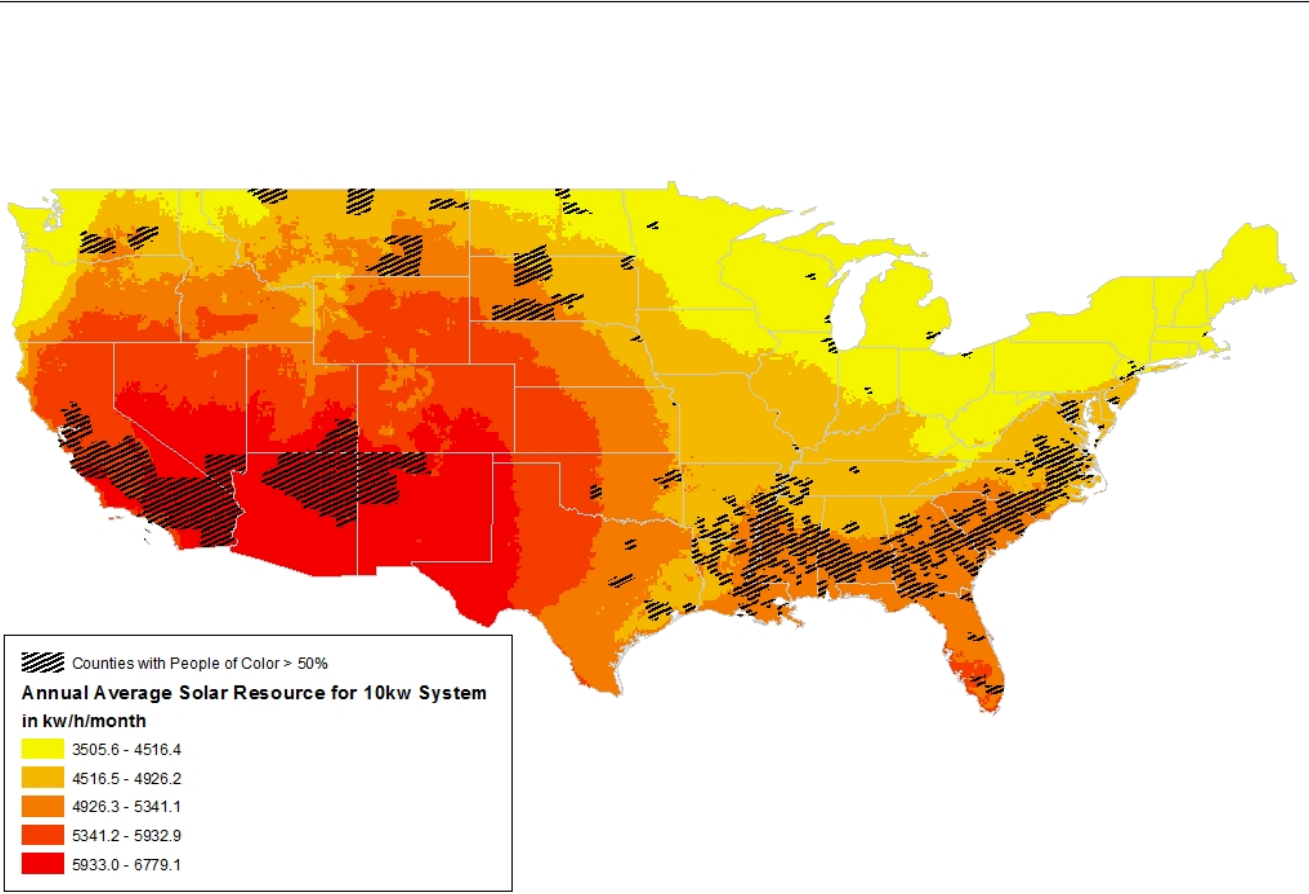


Communities of Color Live in Areas with Great Solar Potential

Solar PV Potential in Lower 48 States
with Majority People of Color (by County)

Source: U.S. Census, NREL, ESRI

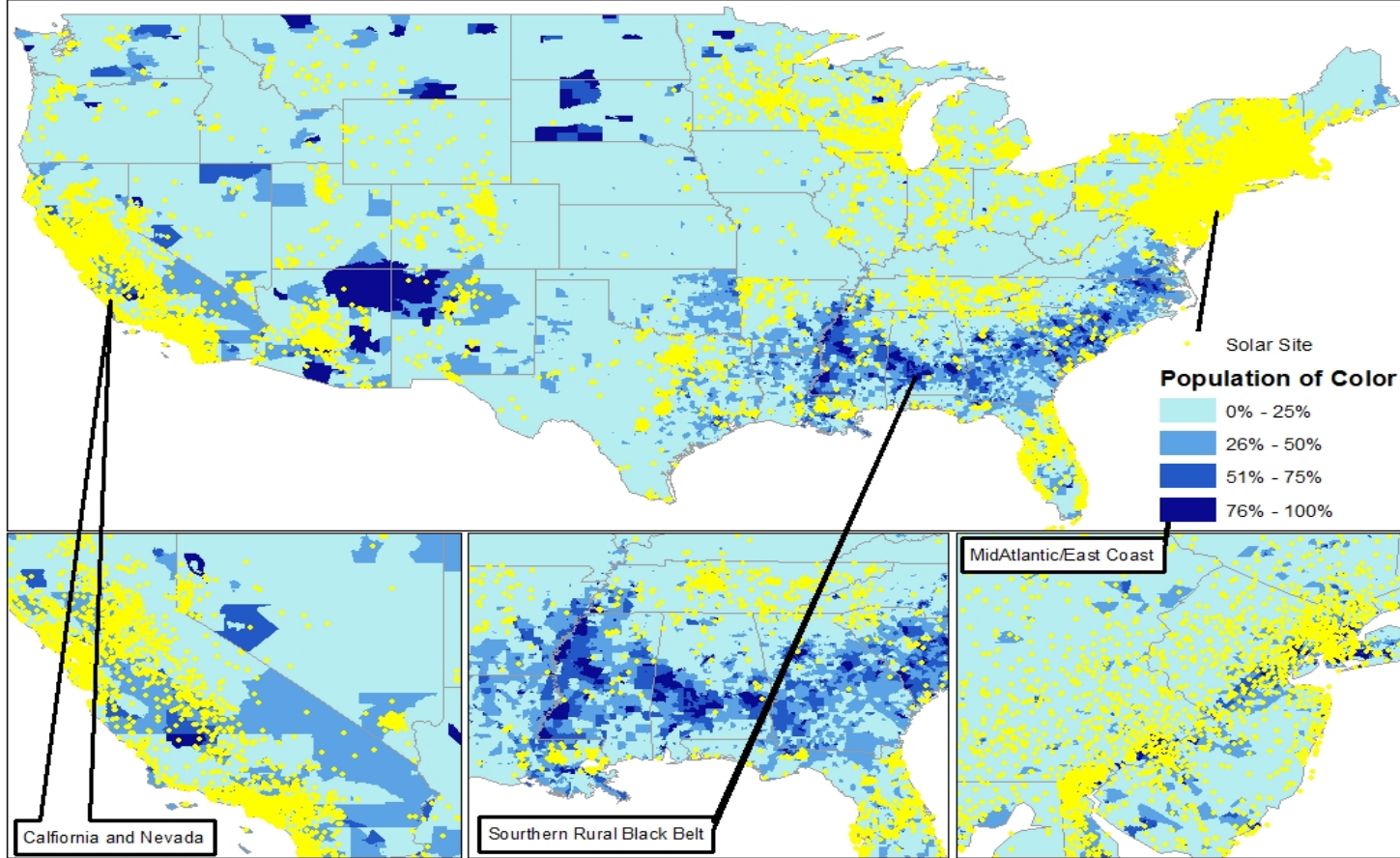
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Local Solar is not Happening in Communities of Color

**Current Solar PV Projects in the US
and Majority People of Color (by Census Tract)**
Source: U.S. Census, NREL Open PV, ESRI

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Communities of Color have the Assets to Develop Energy Democracy

- Engaged Climate Activists
- Local Leadership
- Strategic and Innovative Ideas
- Physical Infrastructure



Source: San Antonio Current: Southwest Workers Union



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Barriers to True Energy Democracy

- Lack of Property Ownership
- Lack of Inclusion in Local Planning Processes
- Lack of Technical and Legal Capacity Support
- Lack of Access to Capital and Financing



Federal Solutions to Achieve True Energy Democracy

- Set a national standard for Feed-in Tariff payments that support community-scale projects, **particularly in environmental justice communities.**
- Pilot *Energy Independence Districts* jointly supported by DOE and EPA in **areas with high poverty, poor health outcomes, low educational attainment, old housing stock, and environmental injustice.**
- Establish matching grant opportunities to support EID innovation through the proposed Energy Trust.





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