



## Grow Solar Wisconsin Issue Brief- Clean Energy Choice

Clean Energy Choice allows utility customers to contract with third parties to install own and operate renewable energy systems on their premises to purchase the system's electricity and/or heat from the third party. In states where clean energy choice is allowed, system hosts commonly purchase the energy at a price lower than the utility's price. This third party ownership of the renewable energy system, through a clean energy contract, significantly reduces the first cost barrier and ownership risks for government, not for profit, businesses and home owners.

### Problem

Wisconsin law does not specifically address third-party sales of energy to utility customers; creating an ambiguous situation that could expose third-party providers to being regulated as a public utility, which hinders developers from installing systems.

### Policy Need

A law is needed to clearly permit a third-party owner of a renewable energy system, located on a host's premises, to sell the output from that system to the host customer without being defined as a public utility. This is best accomplished by exempting third-party system owners from the definition of a public utility, provided that the sale of energy is limited strictly to the host customer.

The model bill language is being circulated, for support in the Wisconsin 2013 Legislative session, and can be found on the Grow Solar Wisconsin website.

### Needed Actions

- Expressions of support for the Clean Energy Choice bill
- Having clean energy advocates, installers, prospective owners and possible large system hosts visit Legislators asking for their support

### Contact

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