



**Jason Edens**  
**MN BC 629837**  
**NABCEP Certified**  
**[www.rreal.org](http://www.rreal.org)**

The Power to make a difference



**RRREAL**

Rural Renewable Energy Alliance

*Fighting  
Energy Poverty with  
Solar Power*



# From Energy Assistance to Solar Assistance!





**Heat or eat?**

# Energy Assistance Today



A photograph of a weathered log cabin in winter. The cabin is made of dark, aged logs and has a gabled roof. The ground is covered in snow, and there are bare trees in the background under a clear blue sky. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text "Is Energy Assistance a Solution?".

# **Is Energy Assistance a Solution?**

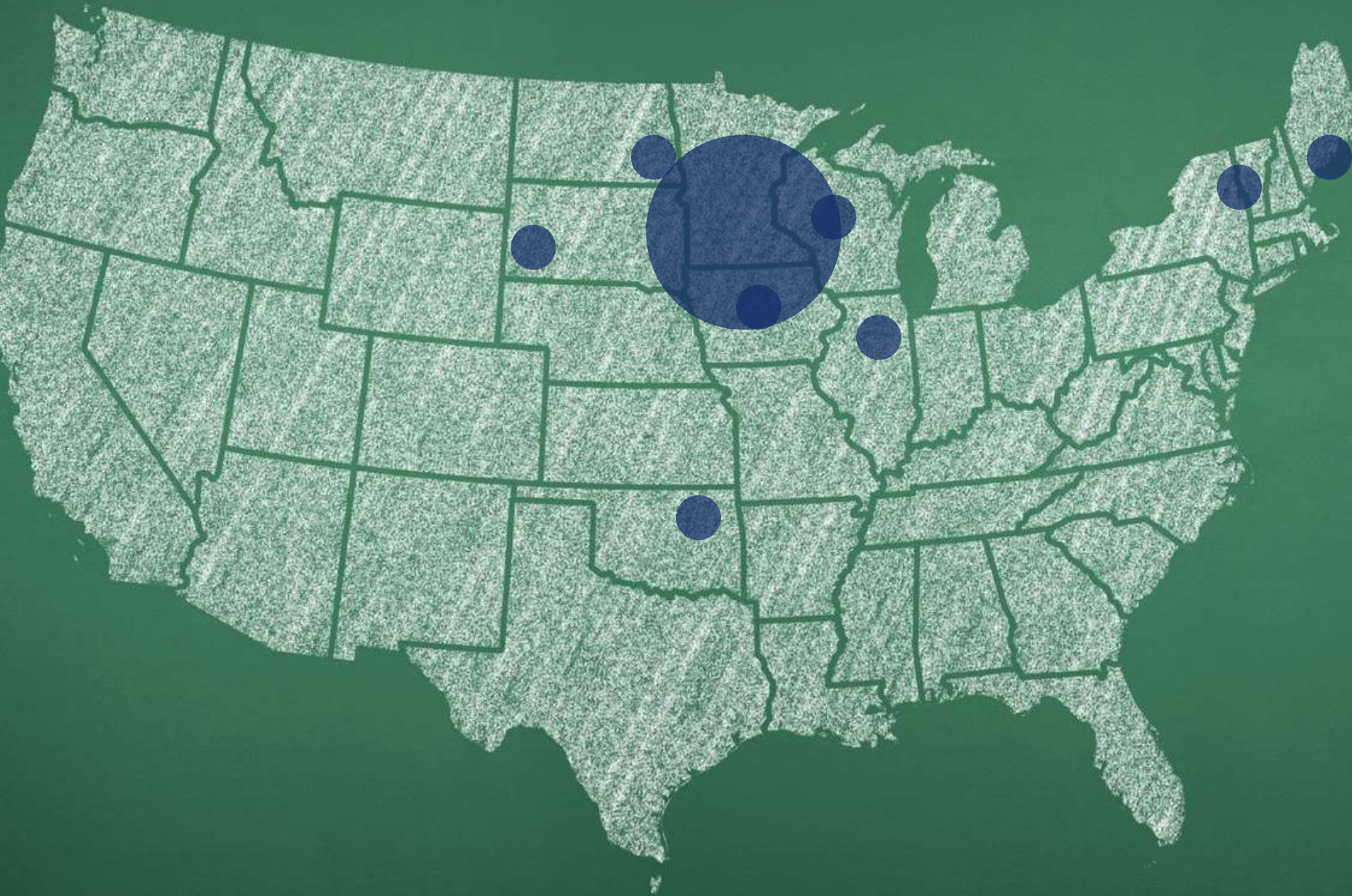


**SOLution!**



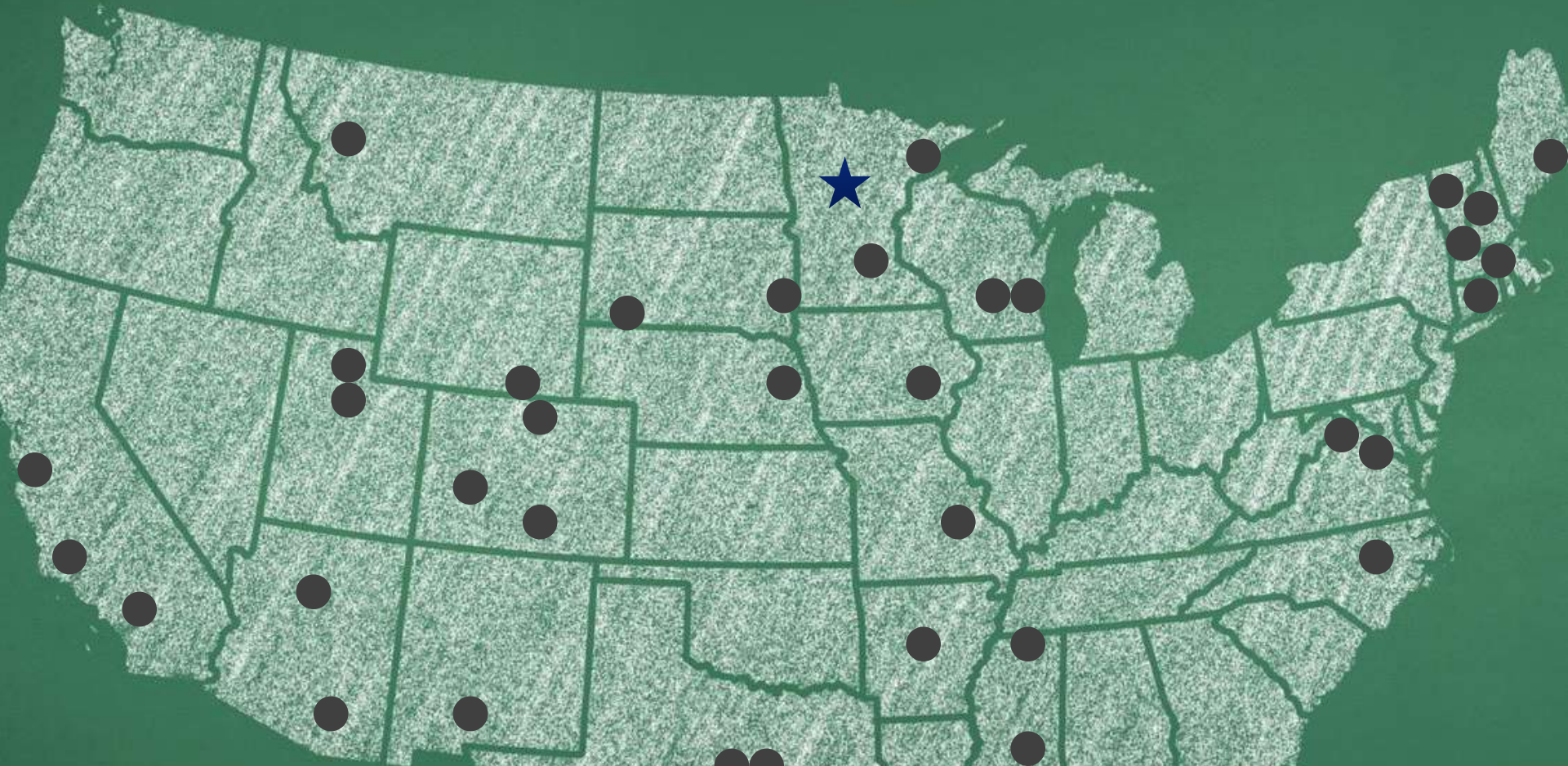
**Solar is the future  
of low-income  
energy assistance**







**Empowered—not entitled!**



**Ending the Renewable Divide!**

# L.I.H.E.A.P.

Energy Assistance

**IS THE COMMON DENOMINATOR!**





# **96% of U.S. Counties 1000 Agencies**

**Every  
community  
action agency in  
the nation could  
benefit from  
community  
solar.**




Rural Renewable Energy Alliance

# Community Solar *for* Community Action: *A new model of low-income energy assistance!*



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**  
U.S. Department of Health  
and Human Services  
330 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**



 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMMERCE**

Helping People. Changing Lives.  
**community Action.**  
PARTNERSHIP  
AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

Helping People. Changing Lives.  
**community Action.**  
PARTNERSHIP  
AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

Helping People. Changing Lives.  
**community Action.**  
PARTNERSHIP  
AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

Helping People. Changing Lives.  
**community Action.**  
PARTNERSHIP  
AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

  
**RREAL**  
Rural Renewable Energy Alliance



## Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Energy Assistance Program

- 200kW Community Solar array
- Serving community with >40% poverty
- Funding: grants
- To be commissioned in fall 2016
- Utility Engagement
- Owned by Leech Lake Band



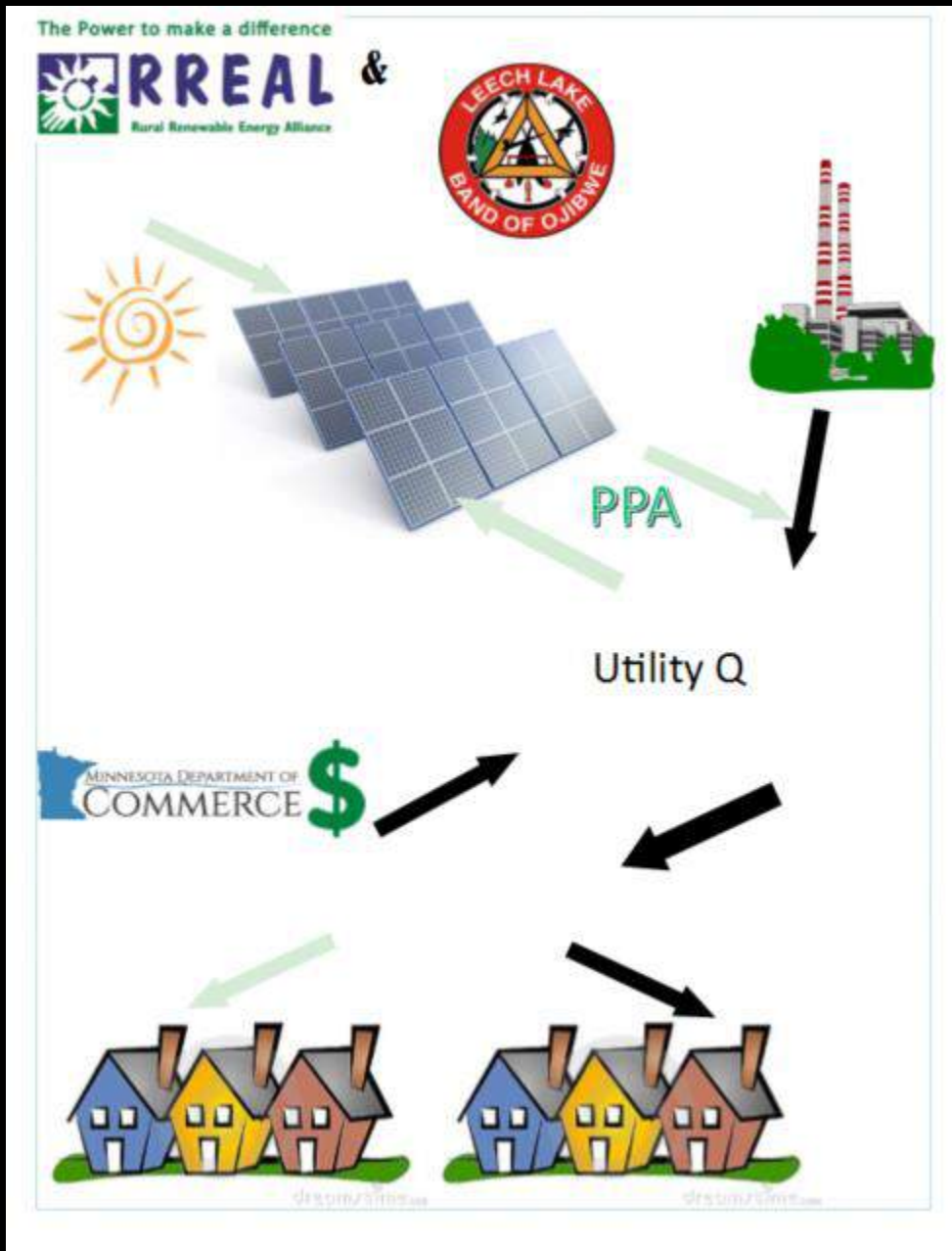
The Power to make a difference



# Community Solar *for* Community Action

Model 1:

- Cash flow positive from day 1
- Other models proposed with other utilities
- Beyond “Community Solar”




# Community Solar *for* Community Action

Model 2: Market driven

- Community Action Agencies do outreach
- Third party developer/financier
- Xcel Energy utility
- Low-income families receive energy assistance to eliminate cost of subscription
- Subscriptions are transferable annually

# National Community Solar Partnership



“...the Administration is announcing a new initiative to increase access to solar energy for all Americans, in particular low- and moderate- income communities...”

# Energy assistance?



**Or solar assistance?**

