

LPDD Top Tens: Distributed Renewable Energy

Updated May 2021

LPDD.org is an extraordinarily vast database, spanning more than 2,000 model laws, best practices, and policy documents touching on 34 different pathways to reducing emissions in the United States, at every level of government (and some in the private sector). To help the busy changemaker approach our database in a brief time, we've drafted *Top 10* lists for a subset of these pathways, highlighting some of the most interesting model laws or other resources that state or local governments can utilize.

Top 10 State and Local Resources on Distributed Renewable Energy

1. **[State]** [LPDD Model Law: State Community Solar Legislation](#). Our team has authored model legislation for states that have not yet adopted community solar, allowing customers without suitable property for personal solar to buy into a community array.
2. **[State]** [IREC Shared Renewables Resources](#). Community renewable programs allow customers without the means or suitable property for renewable energy to buy into a shared, local system. The Interstate Renewable Energy Council has produced model rules and a policy catalogue for states considering such programs.
3. **[State]** [ABA Model Solar Access Law](#). This model state legislation addresses all forms of solar energy and sources of obstruction, helping ensure solar systems aren't blocked from sunlight.
4. **[Local]** [Massachusetts DOER Model Zoning for the Regulation of Solar Energy Systems](#). This model zoning and accompanying guidance were prepared to assist Massachusetts cities and towns in establishing standards to facilitate development of solar energy systems.
5. **[Local]** [Grow Solar Local Zoning Toolkits](#). These toolkits provide advice on permitting, planning, and zoning for local governments. They offer specific analysis, including model ordinances, for Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois municipalities.
6. **[State & Local]** [National Manual on Valuing Distributed Energy Resources \("DERs"\)](#). This manual provides a set of policy-neutral methodologies to support single- and multi-DER benefit-cost analysis for: energy efficiency, demand response, distributed generation, distributed storage, and building and vehicle electrification. The manual is intended for use by jurisdictions to help inform which resources to acquire to meet the jurisdiction's policy goals and objectives.
7. **[Local]** [Model Small-Scale Solar-Siting Ordinance](#). This model ordinance would govern all new solar energy systems of up to 10 kilowatts, and includes provisions regarding permits, appeals, safety, and zoning for future solar access.
8. **[State]** [DC's Solar for All Program](#). A model program for delivering the benefits of distributed energy to low-income customers. Solar for All's specific targets are to provide the benefits of solar energy to 100,000 low-income households and to reduce their electricity bills by 50% by December 31, 2032.
9. **[State]** [Michigan's Property Tax Exemption for Distributed Generation](#). An achievable measure to increase incentives for the installation of distributed generation systems less than 150 kW.
10. **[Local]** [Schaumburg IL's District Thermal Zoning](#). District thermal systems can help decarbonize a district within a city by providing access to low-carbon heat and hot water. Schaumburg, IL encourages district energy systems in its zoning code, while reducing barriers by providing clear guidelines for construction.