

Innovation for Our Energy Future

### Lessons Learned from the U.S. Photovoltaics Industry: Implications for Distributed Wind

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#### PV Production 1995 - 2005



#### From "Our Solar Power Future: The U.S. Photovoltaics Industry Roadmap Through 2030 and Beyond"





### **PV in American Markets**

- More than 2000 solar installations (REPiS, 2003)
  - 36% Residential
    - Mostly CA, CO, and AZ\*
    - High BTC in NY, IL, HI, NC, CA, NJ, MD, PA, VA, CO
  - 56% Non-residential (schools and government buildings)
  - 8% Commercial
    - Mostly CA, TX, HI, and IL\*
    - High BTC in NY, MA, NC, CA, NJ, HI, MT, AZ, OR, RI
- Global nature of PV manufacturing
  - Historical U.S. dominance gone forever
  - U.S. Wind holds the dominant part of world market
- PV dealer/distributors often deal in small wind: natural synergy at distribution level
- \* Commercial Solar Energy Market Potential Study ECONorthwest Feb 2004

## How Has PV Grown Market Share Despite Relatively High Costs?

- Grassroots advocacy to influence state and local policy
- Communication networks
  - Early links to electric utility industry, State Energy Offices through IREC
  - "NCPV Hotline": link to industry, NGOs, govt. decision-makers
- "Schools Going Solar" program
- Strategies to work with, create other government programs
  - State Energy Offices
  - CSTRR
- Consumer appeal of personal control of electricity
  - Comparative ease of PV installation
  - On retail side of meter



#### Stakeholders Invest When Sum of Values Exceeds Price of PV





### **PV and Wind Resources are Complementary** – seasonally and daily



Hours of sunshine or average

## **DOE's PV Initiatives**

- **Goal:** Increased deployment of PV technologies
- Approach
  - PV4U: electric utility integration issues
  - Million Solar Roofs: grassroots approach to elimination, mitigation of market barriers to rooftop solar technologies
    - More than 930 partners nationwide at program conclusion
  - Solar America Initiative (proposed, 2006)
    - Two parts: R&D and "Technology Acceptance" (deployment)
    - Proposed 9-year duration
    - Focus: urban infrastructure
    - Goal: cost competitive with conventional grid electricity by 2015
    - Focused on commercial PV
- **Opportunities for Small Wind** 
  - Link with existing MSR partner network
    - Expand existing pilot work started with Northeast MSR partners 9
    - Develop wind version of NCPV Hotline



### PV in Schools: 2.7 MW installed (REPiS 2003)

• **Goals:** Capitalize on multiple opportunities of school settings: (1) Education mission: educate students and, by extension, their parents; (2) Technology visibility (schools as community hub); (3) Energy security (schools as emergency shelters)

#### Approaches

- "Schools Going Solar" www.irecusa.org/schools/
- New York's School Power Naturally www.powernaturally.org/Programs/SchoolPowerNatu rally
- Florida's SunSmart Schools Progam benefits

#### • Opportunity for Small Wind

- Comparative "sexiness" of small wind
  - "Watching PV is just as exciting as watching toast brown"
- Low cost using commercial micro-turbines



**National Renewable Energy Laboratory** 

## **PV Zoning**

- Goal: Reduce "hassle factor" of PV installation
- Approach
  - PV in Seattle ruled "outright use"
  - Place articles about zoning issues in trade journals
  - Work with Homeowner's Associations for PV acceptance
    - MSR project
- Opportunities for Small Wind
  - Develop articles for variety of trade and professional journals
  - Work with SEPA
    - Communicate with utilities interested in distributed generation



### **PV** Approach to Net Metering

- Goal: Reduce hassle factor
- Approach
  - Drop net metering requirement for systems 10 kW and less
    - Excess capacity unlikely in smaller systems
  - Use net metering policy as step toward standardized interconnection
- **Opportunity for Small Wind** 
  - Work with PV industry to develop standardized interconnection standards
  - Acquire larger cap limits for net metering
  - Link with biomass



## **PV** Certification/Training

**Goal:** Establish credibility with consumers

### Approaches

- NABCEP installer certification:
  - Voluntary
  - Too soon to assess market impacts
  - All states do not recognize NABCEP certification as legitimate alternative to their own process
- IREC Workforce Training efforts
- No PV hardware certification program yet

### Opportunities for Small Wind

- Wind has IEC standard and draft AWEA standard need SWT standard
- NABCEP Wind Installer Certification in development
  - Integrate manufacturers training with NABCEP certification
- Workforce training through community colleges



### **Different PV Policy Incentives**

• Goal: Grow market share

#### Approaches

- Federal Investment Tax Credit combined incentives increase economic benefits
- Production Incentive:
  - Market-driven
  - Works well for organizations with fiduciary responsibilities
  - Consumer function as utility and then become advocates for properly aligned incentives
- New RPS policy with solar set-aside or increased credit for solar
  - DG technologies sometimes shut out by utility-scale wind

### • **Opportunity for Small Wind**

- Partner with DG advocates to adopt all DG technologies on inclusive federal and state policies
  - FITC, RPS, and PI





### Current Renewable Energy Market Drivers in the United States



### **RE Electricity Opportunities**

#### **Expected RE Capacity by Driver**



### **Renewables Portfolio Standards**







Missouri Department of Natural Resources

### **Opportunities for Distributed Wind**

# Messaging

- Aggregate DG to include small wind, solar thermal, PV, others
  - May facilitate coalition-building
- Categorize small wind as energy efficiency ullet
  - Systems under 10 kW do not meet total needs of household
  - Unlike EE, small DG has measurable results
  - Either define as conservation measures or supply-side resource
  - Consider defining DG by scale and ownership instead of technology



## **Future Opportunities**

### • Industry

- Develop package products for consumers that are simple and use multiple technologies
- Work for mutually beneficial DG inclusive policy
  - Federal Investment Tax Credit
  - RPS set-asides and extra credit for DG
  - Productivity incentives
  - Standardized national interconnection



# Future Opportunities - 2

#### Government

- Economic tools across DG (wind, PV, solar thermal, biomass, etc.)
- Federal role help communicate about what's happening with DG across state boundaries
- Write articles NACO journals to get information out about zoning
- Develop "value" proposition for distributed wind
- Wind for Schools program (see poster on NREL pilot project M. Kelly)
- Working with state utility regulators to incorporate DG as part of IRP
- Continue to work market barriers such as zoning defined guidelines in place – help minimize consumer hassle factors
- Facilitate small wind on government procurement lists



## **Future Opportunities - 3**

#### • Advocacy

- Develop new consumer group conversant on DG
  - SEIA unable to support small wind in Colorado
  - Need a new group without history of supporting one DG technology
  - Operate with foundation funds
- Build constituency by developing production incentives (PI) that turn consumers into political interest group by making them the utility
  - PI are beneficial since they are market-driven, ensure long-term production, and lessen probability that U.S. incentives will add a roller-coaster effect to the market like the '80s
  - PI works well for organizations with fiduciary responsibilities
- Once regional/state advocacy groups matured work on reducing hassle factor; e.g., zoning policies



## **Future Opportunities - 4**

#### Joint

- DG industries need to work together
- Bring robustness to the DG industry through hardware performance certification
  - Develop standards and certification protocol
  - Form a Distributed Generation Certification Corporation
- Need side-by-side strategies to develop utility sector and educate consumers on energy
  - Can't rely on one-on-one communication; need to develop information through various channels

