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Equitable Community Solar

Abstract: Community shared solar enables energy consumers to access the benefits of renewable energy without installing equipment themselves or seeking finance. Community solar is now one of the fastest growing renewable energy market segments and holds the potential to greatly expand the beneficiaries of a clean energy transition and advance energy justice and energy democracy. But community shared solar policies—now implemented in nearly half of all U.S. states—and voluntary utility-led programs do not universally center equity. In this presentation, Prof. Gabe Chan from the University of Minnesota will discuss ongoing research on the current state of community shared solar in the United States and efforts by legislators, regulators, developers, and community-based organizations to create equitable community solar.

Bio: **Dr. Gabriel Chan** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs in the Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy Area. In his research and engagement, Prof. Chan examines public policy to inform how technological innovation can enable a more rapid and equitable energy transition in domains such as community solar, consumer-owned electric utilities, and national innovation policy. Prof. Chan is a Faculty Associate of the UMN Institute on the Environment and Affiliate Faculty at the UMN Law School. He holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy from Harvard University and undergraduate degrees from M.I.T. in Political Science and in Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Science.