



Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association

We Move Minnesota Solar + Storage Forward

MnSEIA's Guide to Commonly Used Solar + Storage Acronyms

General Solar + Storage Acronyms

- **C&I** = Commercial and Industrial Solar
- **CSG** = Community Solar Garden
- **DG** = Distributed Generation
- **DER** = Distributed Energy Resource
- **ESS** = Energy Storage System
- **G&T** = Generation and Transmission Utility (Makes wholesale power for other utilities)
- **GW** = Gigawatt (Minnesota surpassed 1 GW of solar energy in 2018)
- **IOU** = Investor-Owned Utility (Examples: MN Power, Xcel Energy, and Otter Tail Power)
- **IRP** = Integrated Resource Planning (Pertains to utilities)
- **IDP** = Integrated Distribution Plan
- **kW** = Kilowatt (Unit of energy commonly used in solar energy)
- **kWh** = Kilowatt hours (Duration of a unit of energy)
- **MW** = Megawatt (Unit of energy that equals 1,000 kW, 1 MW of solar development takes up about 5-8 acres of land)
- **MWH** = Megawatt hour
- **NEM** = Net Energy Metering (Traditional net-metering in Minnesota)
- **PPA** = Purchase Power Agreement (A contract for energy and capacity between developers and utilities)
- **PV** = Photovoltaic (Refers to traditional solar power panels)
- **QF** = Qualified Facility (Usually a distributed or home based solar producer subject to a utility or statutory provision)
- **REC** = Renewable Energy Credit (Certificate for clean energy produced, commonly used by companies to offset their carbon emissions)
- **RES or RPS** = Renewable Energy Standard or Renewable Portfolio Standard (State mandate for utilities to generate a percentage of clean energy)
- **RFP** = Request for Proposals
- **VOS** = Value of Solar (The rate Xcel gives to Community Solar Garden subscribers)



Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association

We Move Minnesota Solar + Storage Forward

Solar State Departments & Organizations Acronyms

- **ACP** = American Clean Power Association
- **CCSA** - Coalition for Community Solar Access (National trade association for community solar)
- **CEE** = Center for Energy and the Environment (Nonprofit partner)
- **CEEM** = Clean Energy Economy Minnesota (Nonprofit partner)
- **CEF** = Cooperative Energy Futures (Nonprofit partner)
- **CGA** = Clean Grid Alliance (Nonprofit partner)
- **CUB** = Consumers Utility Board (Nonprofit partner)
- **DER** = Division of Energy Resources (Division within MN Department of Commerce)
- **DLI** = Department of Labor and Industry
- **FERC** = Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (National quasi-judicial utility commission)
- **GRE** = Great River Energy (A Generation and Transmission Utility for cooperative utilities)
- **MISO** = Midcontinent Independent System Operator (Grid manager for central USA)
- **MMUA** = Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (Association of municipal utilities)
- **MN DIP** = Minnesota distributed interconnection procedures
- **MN DEED** = Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
- **MNIPL** = Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light (Nonprofit partner)
- **MN PCA** = Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- **MnSEIA** = Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association
- **MREA** = Midwest Renewable Energy Association (Renewable nonprofit)
- **MREA** = Minnesota Rural Electric Association (Association of cooperative utilities)
- **MRES** = Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (Renewable nonprofit)
- **NREL** = The National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- **PUC** = Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (State quasi-judicial agency regulating utility activity and handling dispute resolution for all energy resources)
- **PURPA** = Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (fed statute meant to promote renewable development and requires utilities to buy any solar energy offered from customers)
- **SEIA** = Solar Energy Industries Association (Federal solar advocacy trade association)