“An Introduction to Tax Equity Finance for Solar and Wind Projects"

Presented by

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Abstract: Solar and wind energy are an increasing part of the U.S. energy generation portfolio. The IRS provides tax incentives to continue this growth. However, many system owners cannot fully use these tax incentives. Instead, developers work with so-called tax equity investors (more commonly referred to as simply Tax Equity) to invest in these systems in a way that most effectively monetizes these incentives, as well as lessens the financial burden of owning the systems. Tax Equity is a multi-billion-dollar industry, but financing these deals requires developers and investors to build complex financial structures that both follow the tax law and net high returns for both parties. This introduction will highlight the following main topics: Renewable energy financing via power purchase agreements; roles of developers, customers, and investors in common tax equity structures; and key considerations in tax equity investments.

Bio: Dr. Sussman focuses primarily on projects in renewable energy, energy storage, and structured finance. He is a recognized thought leader in the economics of storage and combined solar plus storage offerings, helping to develop some of financing options offered by various solar and storage developers. Before coming to Woodlawn Associates in 2015, he spent almost a decade as a scientific researcher. His most recent work was in new materials and fabrication methods for energy storage devices at McGill University in Montreal.

Dr. Sussman holds a PhD from McGill in materials engineering, and is an alum of the Energy Systems Engineering Institute, where he was part of the inaugural class in 2010. He also earned his B.S. in materials science and engineering from Lehigh in 2009.