



LABC Solar Roundtable 2015 Fact Sheet

About the FiT Program

The Feed-in-Tariff (FiT) program, launched by LADWP in 2012, enables local commercial property owners to sell solar power generated from rooftops and parking lots back to LADWP at a competitive fixed rate. Spearheaded by the Los Angeles Business Council Institute and the CLEAN LA Solar Coalition, the FiT program provides an opportunity for the LADWP to access the abundant solar energy available on more than 10,000 acres of rooftops in Los Angeles.

Since the program's launch, over 2,000 new jobs have been created and more than \$300 million in direct investment has been made. Over 2.7 million tons of GHG emissions have been displaced.

40% of the FiT's first four tranches are located in "solar equity hotspots" - neighborhoods with abundant rooftops and a high level of need for economic investment and jobs. The LABC and CLEAN LA Solar Coalition are working with job training organizations, such as Homeboy Industries, who target less advantaged workers residing in solar equity hotspots as they train the next generation of solar installation technicians.

Previous research commissioned by the LA Business Council has demonstrated that a 150 MW FiT would be a major economic catalyst for Los Angeles, generating \$500 million in economic activity at full scale and creating 4,500 jobs in solar installation, maintenance, sales, and other fields.

Los Angeles Solar Now and into the Future: Key findings from new UCLA-USC research commissioned by the LABC Institute

Currently, LADWP has authorized 100 megawatts of power under the FiT program, yet only 6.5 megawatts are operational. Another 8.2 megawatts of projects are under contract and awaiting construction, with another 56 megawatts in the pipeline. The LADWP has taken steps to streamline the application and implementation process, including: automating application and project tracking via a web-based platform; automating a voucher system for FiT invoices, payments, and energy reporting; and improving customer communication through automated messaging. Also, the Mayor's new online dashboard closely tracks the FiT program's progress as it continues to grow.

The UCLA-USC research concluded that more needs to be done to streamline and expedite the process to support successful implementation of the 150 MW FiT. UCLA and USC researchers make several key recommendations, including:

- Appropriately staff the Feed-in Tariff program. In 2013, 30 full time staff were budgeted. Today there are 3 FTEs.
- Take a new approach to the program's waiting list, prioritizing projects by operational viability and economic benefits rather than simple chronology.
- Actively encourage "solar equity" projects and utilize local hiring guidelines, and incentivize the employment of underserved workers to reach full equity potential.
- Review proposed design for Expanded FiT based on lessons learned from the 150 MW FiT.

UCLA and USC researchers find that expanding DWP's portfolio of local solar programs to 1,500 MW by 2025 would have exponentially greater benefits for the City, including:

- Creating more than 36,000 new job years
- Generating enough energy to power 355,000 homes
- Cutting greenhouse gas emissions by more than 26 million metric tons
- Helping the City of Los Angeles achieve the state's renewable energy mandates