Overview of PBI Design Issues

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Performance Based Solar Incentives Workshop

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Overall Policy Goal

Achieve subsidy-free market in CA, with 3000 MW installed within 11 years, through the use of incentives that are designed to assure full expected energy performance from installed PV systems



Objective

- Existing PBI programs
- Structures available to PV incentive programs
- Key concerns from various perspectives
- Possible next steps

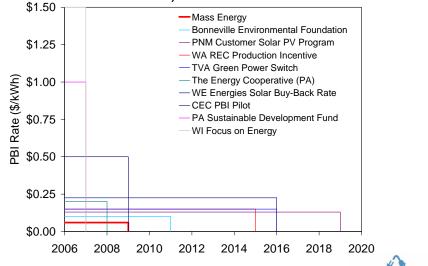


Questions to Answer

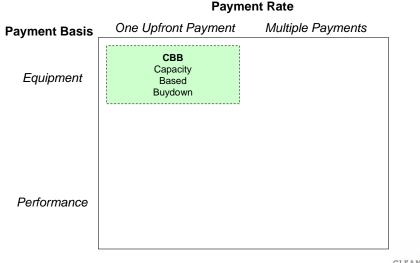
- How to optimize performance based incentives
 - Performance based incentive (PBI)
 - What should the PBI rate and duration be?
 - Should structure be constant or variable? Etc.
 - Hybrid structure
 - What fraction should be PBI and what fraction upfront payment?
 - Other?



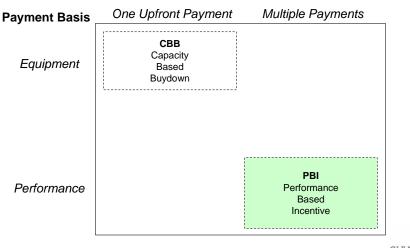
There is a Wide Variety of Existing PBI Programs (Both Rate & Duration)



Most PV Incentive Programs are Capacity Based

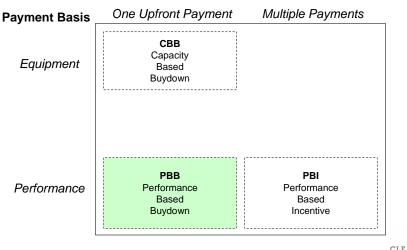


Performance Based Incentives (PBI) Protect Against Poor Design, Installation & Performance



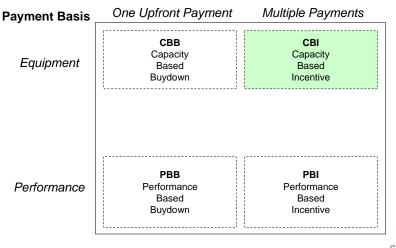
Payment Rate

Performance Based Buydown (PBB) Pays Upfront with an Adjustment Made Over Time



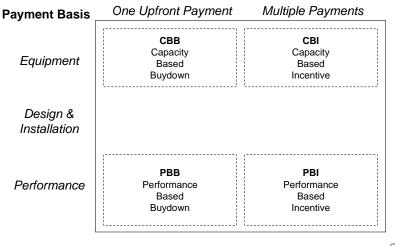
Payment Rate

Capacity Based Incentive Is Paid Over Time



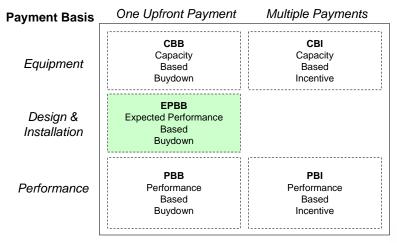
Payment Rate

Expand Framework



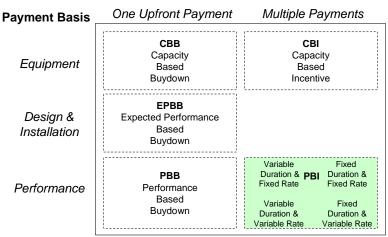
Payment Rate

Expected Performance Based Buydown (EPBB) Pays Based on Expected Performance



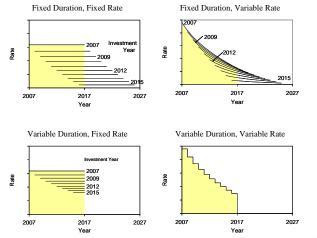
Payment Rate

There are Various Types of PBI Structures



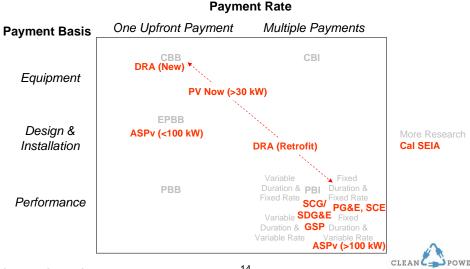
Payment Rate

Variations on PBI Structure

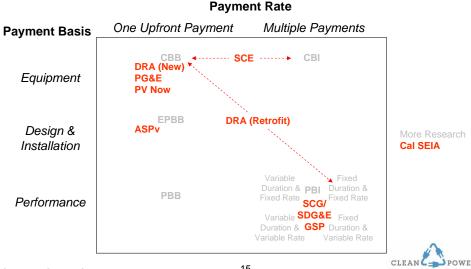




CSI Proposals: Non-Residential Customers



CSI Proposals: Residential Customers



Key Concerns from Various Perspectives

- Incentive Agency or Utility
 - Use of ratepayer funds (program cost vs. energy production)
 - Annual budget effects
- Manufacturer & System Reseller
 - Product sale
 - Product innovation
- Customer
 - Economic feasibility



Strengths and Weaknesses (Program/Utility Perspective)

	CBB	CBI	EPBB	PBB	PBI		
Program's Use of Ratepayer Money (\$ per kWh)							
Direct Program Cost							
Capitalizes on agency's lower discount rate	+	-	+	+	-		
Reduces production risk premium required by customers	+	+	+	_	-		
Promotes product innovation	-	-	+/-	+	+		
Maximizes state and federal tax benefits	?	?	?	?	?		
Indirect & Administrative Cost							
Minimizes number of payments to make to customer	+	_	+	+/-	-		
Reduces need to verify system performance for payment	+	+	+/-	-	-		
Minimizes number of customer interactions	+	-	+	_	-		
Assurance of Energy Production							
Protects against poor system design and installation	-	-	+/-	+	+		
Protects against poor long-term system performance	-	-	-	+/-	+		
Other Factors							
Simple to have constant annual budget w/o escrow account	+	-	+	+	-		
Structure can correspond to value being obtained over time	-	+	-	+	+		
Easy to promote time-varying value of power	+	+	+	+	-		



Strengths and Weaknesses (Manufacturer & Reseller Perspective)

	CBB	CBI	EPBB	PBB	PBI	
Product Sale						
Promotes ease of sale	+	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	
Represents transition from status quo	+	-	+/-	-	-	
Reduces need for additional warranties	+	+	+	-	-	
Product innovation						
Rewards products w/ high kWh production per kW capacity	-	-	+/-	+	+	
Rewards products (e.g. inverters) with long life times	-	-	-	+	+	
Lessens need to meet agency equipment perf. standards	-	-	-	+	+	



Strengths and Weaknesses (Customer Perspective)

	CBB	CBI	EPBB	PBB	PBI
Customer Economics					
Minimizes payment risk	+	+	+	-	-
Reduces initial capital/loan amount required by customer	+	-	+	+	-
May improve long-term system performance	-	-	-	+	+
Can be engineered to provide various cash flow streams	-	+	-	-	+



Next Steps

- Create apples-to-apples comparison of all proposals
- Evaluate results from multiple perspectives

