

Continued Support of Distributed Generation in New York State

Generate Capital, Inc.

In April 2020, NY Green Bank (“NYGB”) provided \$26.9 million in back-leveraged credit facilities (the “Term Loans”) to finance the acquisition of 14 community distributed generation (“CDG”) solar projects sponsored by Generate Capital, Inc. (“Generate”) in New York State (“NYS or the State”). These transactions are expected to provide NYS residents and businesses a greater variety of energy choices and, ultimately, lower-cost clean energy opportunities.

Transaction Description

Generate builds, owns and operates sustainable infrastructure in the United States.

With its commitment to the Term Loans, NYGB supported the deployment of 40 MW of CDG projects in NYS. These transactions will help NYGB continue to demonstrate the viability of distributed generation in the State, draw new investors and financial institutions into the marketplace, and lower the cost of capital in this market sector. Increased solar deployment will continue to drive activity in the State, which will help NYS meet its 6.0 GW solar target by 2025. Consumers are expected to be the ultimate beneficiaries in the form of broader access to lower-cost clean energy generation, with corresponding resiliency, affordability, choice, and environmental benefits.

This Transaction Profile is provided pursuant to the “NY Green Bank – Metrics, Reporting & Evaluation Plan, Version 3.0” (the “Metrics Plan”) developed in collaboration with the NYS Department of Public Service and filed with the New York Public Service Commission (the “Commission”) on June 20, 2016.¹ This Transaction Profile contains specific information in connection with the Generate transactions entered into in April 2020, as required by the Metrics Plan.

Form of NYGB Investment

NYGB Product	Product Sub-Type	Committed Capital
Asset Loan & Investment	Term Loan	\$26.9 million

Location(s) of Underlying Project(s)

Statewide.² Projects are located New York State Electric & Gas, Central Hudson Gas & Electric, Rochester Gas & Electric utility territories.

Types of Client & Counterparty Organizations that are Transaction Participants

	Name	Participant Type
Sponsor	Generate Capital, Inc.	Energy Project Owner and Operator

¹ Case 13-M-0412.

² Defined as projects located in four or more regions of the State.

Summary of Financing Market Objectives & Barriers Addressed

Beneficiary	Market Barrier	Financing Solution
Solar Project Developers	Financing beyond construction is sometimes an inefficient use of sponsor equity, which limits project deployment efforts and effectively restricts the amount of distributed generation development in NYS.	These transactions encourage a more efficient use of sponsor equity and supports project development efforts in NYS by providing term financing to a project developer. NYGB's role helps to create an easier pathway forward for developers and enable greater deployment of distributed generation assets throughout the State.
Capital Markets Participants	As a relatively new form of clean energy project, CDG lacks financing precedents and has limited performance history in NYS. As such, it can be more difficult for private sector capital providers to assess and price the underlying risk exposures associated with distributed generation project investments.	Projects supported by these transactions will generate project and customer performance data to draw new investors and financial institutions into the marketplace by demonstrating that competitive risk-return profiles can be achieved by distributed generation enabled business models.
CDG Subscribers	Due to project siting, property ownership and consumer preference issues, on-site solar project installations may not be viable for many NYS homeowners, renters, and businesses. This limits the number of solar projects getting done to those with suitably sited homes or businesses.	These transactions support the deployment of CDG solar projects, which provide those who are not otherwise able to install solar energy generation systems on their property (e.g., homeowners whose rooftops cannot support solar systems, renters and those who cannot afford solar stand-alone systems), with increased access to clean, low-cost energy, regardless of where their home or business is located.

Technologies Involved

Technology	Measures
Renewable Energy	Solar photovoltaic systems

Metrics & Evaluation Plan

Planned Energy & Environmental Metrics

NYGB's minimum investment criteria require that NYGB-supported transactions have the potential for energy savings and/or clean energy generation that will contribute to greenhouse gas ("**GHG**") reductions in support of the State's energy policies.³ In addition, the Metrics Plan requires that the following energy and environmental measures, applicable to these transactions, be reported:⁴

- Estimated gross lifetime and first-year clean energy generated (MWh);
- Estimated gross clean energy generation installed capacity (MW); and
- Estimated gross lifetime and first-year GHG emission reductions (metric tons).

The estimated gross lifetime and first-year energy and environmental impacts of the Term Loans are as follows:

³ Case 13-M-0412, "Order Establishing New York Green Bank and Providing Initial Capitalization" issued and effective December 19, 2013 of the Commission, Ordering Clause 6 at pages 24 – 25.

⁴ See Metrics Plan, Section 2.0, pages 2 - 6.

Energy/Environmental Impact	Lifetime Low Estimate	Lifetime High Estimate	First-Year Low Estimate	First-Year High Estimate
Estimated clean energy generated (MWh)	1,108,719.26	1,167,072.90	44,348.77	46,682.92
Estimated clean energy generation installed capacity (MW) ⁵	40.25	40.25	N/A	
Estimated GHG emission reductions (metric tons)	554,711.67	583,907.02	22,188.47	23,356.28

Planned Market Characterization Baseline & Market Transformation Potential

The Metrics Plan requires that market evaluation occur when a critical mass of NYGB financing and investment arrangements are put in place. Market evaluation activities commenced in 2018 on sectors that NYGB has supported since inception, consistent with the requirement for such assessments approximately three to five years following initial NYGB capital deployments.⁶ NYSERDA collected baseline data for the solar sector in 2019 and will update the data to include indicators specific to this transaction. NYSERDA will use baseline data collected for indicators as a comparison point against which to assess market progress in the later studies. Progress indicators are defined below for the short, medium and long terms.

NYGB expects that program and/or future market evaluation will demonstrate progress across short-term indicators; including:

- Size (i.e., generation capacity and expected dollar value) and location of projects financed by the Term Loan;
- Aggregate expected energy generation for projects financed by the Term Loan; and
- The number of projects that finalize construction financing arrangements.

NYGB expects that program tracking and/or future market evaluation will demonstrate progress across medium- and long-term indicators; including:

- Increased market volume of CDG projects;
- Increased general understanding of renewable energy benefits by financial community;
- Increased awareness and use of CDG subscriber performance data by financing entities;
- Increased awareness and use of project/technology performance data by financing entities;
- Demonstration of competitive risk-return profiles for CDG investment;
- Decreased project costs;
- Increased volume of secondary market financing of distributed solar assets; and
- Presence and number of new lending participants.

Proposed Method of Outcome/Impact Evaluation (by NYSERDA) & Timeframe

NYSERDA will evaluate the direct and indirect impacts that the Term Loans will have on the clean energy finance markets and the energy/environmental benefits delivered by these transactions.

Market evaluation will assess the short, medium and long-term indicators identified above. Methods will include analysis of program data along with interviews and surveys of market participants (e.g., project subscribers, financial community) to track information including but not limited to: participation rates, project scale information, interest in solar financing (generally and with regard to CDG specifically), and influence of NYGB's participation on financial markets. As noted, NYSERDA collected baseline data on key indicators in its first phase evaluation during 2018 – 19. Later follow-up studies will assess progress against baseline levels for other market segments as those evolve. The specific timing of these efforts may be revised based on experience or other factors as NYGB's investment portfolio further develops and evolves.

Impact evaluation will assess which of the projects funded under the Term Loans.

⁵ Installed clean energy generation capacity at full deployment of funds is the same for first-year and lifetime duration.

⁶ See Metrics Plan, Section 3.3 at page 7.

In accordance with the Metrics Plan, NYGB will track Generate projects that receive incentives or funding from other entities (e.g., utility, other NYSERDA program) to minimize any double-counting activity on a consolidated basis. As set out in the Metrics Plan, evaluation sampling approaches will also be used as a mechanism to estimate overlap and minimize double counting. NYSERDA and NYGB will attempt to coordinate market and impact evaluation activities for projects that receive support from multiple sources in order to maximize the efficiency of data collection and avoid participant survey fatigue.