

End Poverty in California with Solar (EPICS): The Pippin Orchard Solar Project in Watsonville, California

Video link: <https://youtu.be/6ScH4IMDIKg>

Imagine a world in which disadvantaged communities' corporations owned and operated their own solar plus storage systems, sold low-cost electricity to their residents and generated enough revenue to fund a Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) for low-income households. *Ending Poverty in California with Solar*, or "EPICS," seeks to do exactly that. EPICS resembles the Alaska Oil Dividend. By contrast, EPICS gets its energy from the sun, whose energy falls on everyone and everything, and is free for the taking. A GBI provides a fixed monthly payment to individuals and families who meet stipulated income requirements but, in contrast to welfare or unemployment insurance, comes with no strings or obligations attached. The EPICS team, which includes community-based organizations, other non-profits and for-profit companies, is designing a solar-GBI project for Pippin Orchards, a 126-unit low-income housing development in Watsonville, California. Pippin Orchard's household income limit is \$67,000 for a family of four, targeted to farmworker families, teachers, low-income workers, homeless transition aged youth and disabled individuals. EPICS is a project of the Sustainable Systems Research Foundation and its partners and is based on Robert Stayton's proposal in *Solar Dividends—How Solar Energy can Generate a Basic Income for Everyone on Earth* (2019).

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