

Solar-backed Bonds

- All materials produced by individual participant Ryan Reams
- Seeking financial support in the form of prize money and material support in the form of guidance and legitimacy in order to launch a new financing mechanism for solar investment, scalable from municipalities to national energy grid and any size in between
- Basics of the financing mechanism, called a Solar-backed Bond (SBB):
 - Pays at a rate equivalent to the same dollar amount spent on consumer-grade solar panels for the region in question
 - Uses aggregated funds to make larger-scale solar investments, for the purposes of this competition a facility capable of powering a singular rural municipality that is very much in need of investment
 - Pays off the debt-based financing mechanism using the large efficiency gap between utility-grade and consumer-grade panels, with ample revenue left over for O&M and profit for the operating entity
 - Repeatable, scalable, and very much in need of a pilot program to demonstrate their value
- Competitor has a wealth of connections in and strong personal motivations to contribute to the community in question (Dermott, Arkansas)