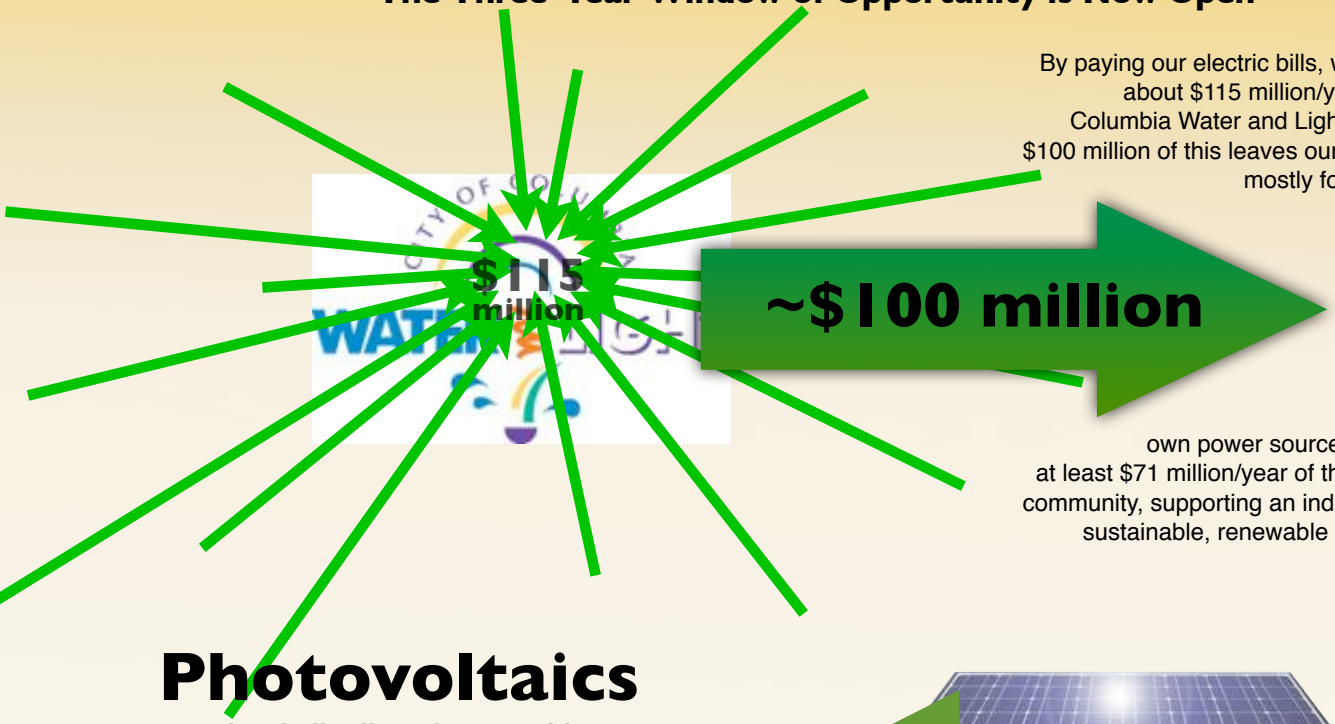
Local Energy and Economic Development:
Technical and Financial Barriers Have Fallen,
The Three-Year Window of Opportunity is Now Open

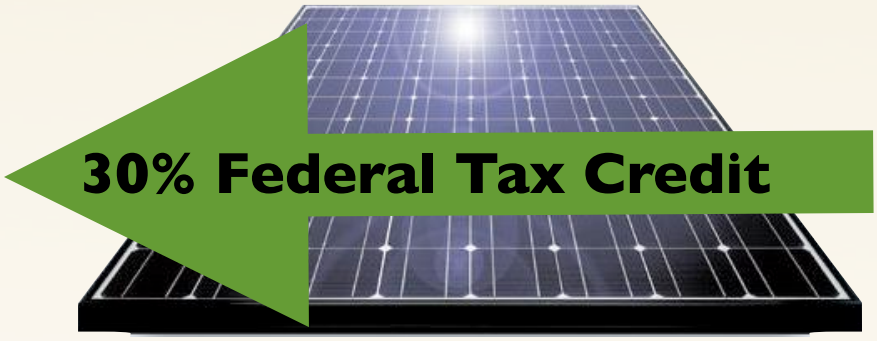


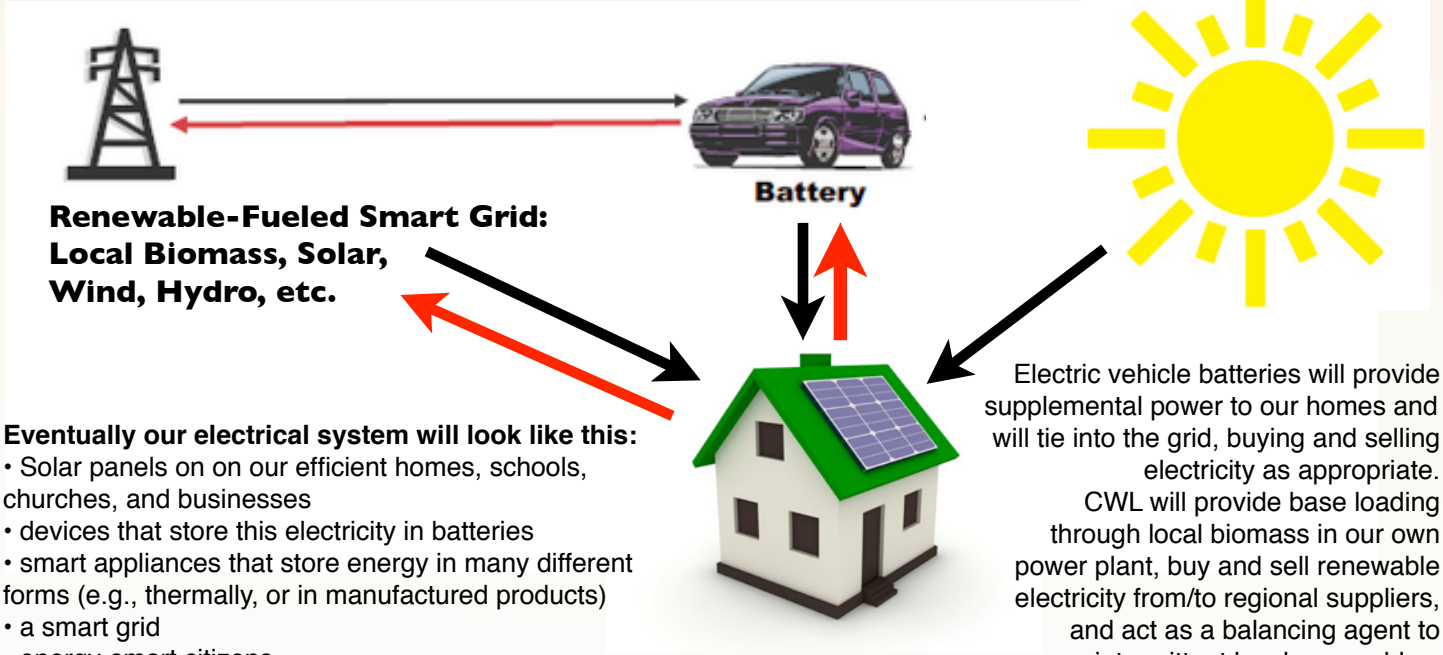
By paying our electric bills, we all contribute about $115 million/year to our utility, Columbia Water and Light (CWL). About $100 million of this leaves our local economy, mostly for coal, gas, and purchased fossil fuel energy.

As we develop our own power sources, we can keep at least $71 million/year of this money in our community, supporting an independent, local, sustainable, renewable energy industry.

Photovoltaics

- local, distributed, renewable
- creates good jobs
- spurs outside investment
- peaks at the right time
- affordable, bankable
- funded mostly by local residents and businesses (who earn ~7% AROI)
- keeps money in our local economy
- pulls federal $ into local economy (ONLY through 2016)





Eventually our electrical system will look like this:
- Solar panels on on our efficient homes, schools, churches, and businesses
- devices that store this electricity in batteries
- smart appliances that store energy in many different forms (e.g., thermally, or in manufactured products)
- a smart grid
- energy-smart citizens

Electric vehicle batteries will provide supplemental power to our homes and will tie into the grid, buying and selling electricity as appropriate. CWL will provide base loading through local biomass in our own power plant, buy and sell renewable electricity from/to regional suppliers, and act as a balancing agent to manage intermittent local renewables.

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