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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **SSRF announces program to provide Californians with a basic income from a solar dividend**

The Sustainable Systems Research Foundation today announced the launch of “Ending Poverty in California with Solar” (EPICS), based on Robert Stayton’s *Solar Dividends—How Solar Energy can Generate a Basic Income for Everyone on Earth* (Santa Cruz, Calif.: Sandstone, 2019). EPICS aims to provide every resident of California with a basic income by 2060. Unlike other basic income proposals, which rely on funding through taxes, EPICS will sell solar-generated power into the state’s electricity grid and return the proceeds to each individual’s bank account, with no strings attached and no income restrictions.

How is such a program possible?

**First**, solar energy falls on everyone and everything. The quantity of solar energy that hits the Earth *every hour* is greater than humans generate and consume in one year. *No one owns that energy*. EPICS proposes to give every resident of the state one lifetime share in the California Solar Energy Commons (CalSEC), entitling the shareholder to ownership of the energy falling on an area equivalent to that covered by a 10 kW solar photovoltaic array.

**Second**, every resident of California will receive revenues from the sale of electricity generated by that solar photovoltaic array, or roughly 13,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity per year (equal to the electricity use of two or more California houses, depending on size). With the appropriate tariff pricing, residents could receive as much as \$1,000 per month from sale of electricity.

**Third**, these solar arrays will be installed in solar farms, and financed by revenues generated during the first few years of operation. Individuals will not need to install anything on their houses to benefit from EPICS.

**Finally**, EPICS requires no means testing; it will be available to every California resident, regardless of income.

California has established aggressive renewable energy goals and is committed to electrification of significant portions of the state’s economy. EPICS can go a long way toward achieving those goals, while reducing both greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels and the state’s high poverty rates. EPICS is the future, so join with SSRF now to make it happen.

The **Sustainable Systems Research Foundation** is a green think tank based in Santa Cruz, California that designs, develops and deploys local projects and programs to promote community development through “citizen science and engineering.” SSRF addresses complex and wicked environmental and sustainability problems that defy singular technical or social solutions and which require the bringing together of numerous stakeholders with competing interests, capacities and approaches. For more information, visit <https://sustainablesystemsfoundation.org/>.

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