Government of Meghalaya

Department of Power

Notification

No. Date: xx/xx/201x

Preamble

Access to reliable and affordable electricity is the principal requirement for sustainable growth of the State. The Government of Meghalaya is committed to provide 24/7 power supply to all in the State in a systematic manner. The Government is equally conscious toward the aspects related to climate change and environment and is committed to encourage the use of renewable energy in all its forms.

The Government of India (GoI) has set a target of 100 gigawatt (GW) of solar energy generation in India by 2022, of which 40 GW is to be achieved from grid-connected solar photovoltaic (GRPV) systems. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), GoI has subsequently allocated 40 GW of GRPV target to all the States.

Meghalaya, true to its name as 'the abode of clouds' receives annual rainfall as high as 12,000 millimetre (mm) making it the wettest state in India. The hilly state, with the abundance of rainfall, also maintains a very high forest cover of about 70% of the total area of 22,430 square kilometres (sq. km). The solar potential for Meghalaya (estimated at 6 gigawatt peak [GWp] by the National Institute of Solar Energy) is significant despite the low irradiation level due to cloud cover and rainfall. The State has already set-up around 1.7 GW of off-grid solar PV installations commissioned under the National Solar Mission and Special Area Development Program. However, with an increasing level of electrification, these systems are becoming redundant. In the wake of achieving 100% electrification, installation of GRPV systems vis-à-vis off-grid provides multiple benefits to the stakeholders.

Solar energy provides the ability to generate power on distributed basis in both rural and urban areas. The high forest cover provides GRPV systems with low ecological footprint stated as the best suited path for solar installations for the State. These systems, thus, facilitate minimization of distribution losses and helps to overcome the challenges posed by the difficult terrain. GRPV systems are consumer-driven deployments that enable rapid capacity addition with short lead times. From an energy security perspective, solar is available in abundance. Thus, solar is stated as the most secure of all sources.

The State is presently experiencing an increasing trend in economic activity. As a result, the State can benefit from the adoption of clean energy through GRPV systems. Further, to achieve a sustainable development route that provides advancement in economic as well as environmental objectives, the Government of Meghalaya is determined and taking necessary steps to encourage generation based on renewable energy sources.

The Government of Meghalaya is committed to promote solar energy deployment and utilize the State's

potential for meeting the energy needs. However, due to the State's plateau terrain, rich forest cover, climatic conditions, difficulty in land availability, it is imperative that GRPV deployment is relatively beneficial vis-à-vis large scale ground mounted system. Therefore, the Government of Meghalaya understands that there is a need to lay down dedicated framework for this sector.

Accordingly, to align with the aim of GoI and to promote the GRPV systems, the Government of Meghalaya, hereby notifies, the **"Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic System Policy for Meghalaya - 2018".**

1. Title of the Policy

This policy shall be known as the **"Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic System Policy for Meghalaya - 2018"**.

2. Definitions and Interpretations

a. "Act" means Electricity Act 2003, including amendments thereto;

b. "Distribution Licensee" means a person granted a license under Section 14 of the Act authorizing him to operate and maintain a distribution system for supplying electricity to the consumers in his area of supply;

c. "Eligible Entities" means any person which shall include any company or body corporate or association or body of individuals, whether incorporated or not, or artificial juridical person shall be eligible to set up plant and receive benefits under this policy;

d. "Nodal Agency" means the Meghalaya New and Renewable Energy Development Agency;

e. "Obligated Entities" means entities obligated to fulfil the Renewable Power Purchase Obligation as prescribed by the Electricity Regulatory Commission;

f. "Premises" means and includes rooftops or any areas on the land, building or infrastructure or part or combination thereof in respect to which a separate meter has been provided by the Distribution Licensee for the supply of electricity;

g. "Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic Plant" or "Rooftop Solar PV System" or "Grid Connected Solar Rooftop Photovoltaic System" or "GRPV" means the solar photovoltaic power system installed on any part of the premises located within the area of distribution licensee that uses solar energy for its direct conversion into electricity.

All other words and expressions used in this Policy although not specifically defined herein above, but defined in the Act, shall have the meaning assigned to them in the Act. The other words and expressions used herein but not specifically defined in this Policy or in the Act but defined under any law passed by the Parliament/State Legislation applicable to the electricity industry in the State shall have the meaning assigned to them in such law.

3. Objectives

The Government introduces **Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic System Policy for Meghalaya - 2018** with the following specific objectives;

a. To develop solar energy as part of an overall strategy of providing affordable, reliable, 24/7 power to all citizens, incorporating energy storage and demand side management;

b. To increase the dependence on solar energy and to disseminate environment awareness among the people of the State;

c. To create a robust investment climate and explore the feasibility of new and innovative metering arrangements and business models;

d. To promote skill development and create employment opportunities for the youth of the State;

e. To encourage market-based approaches and public-private partnerships to drive demand and adoption of GRPV systems, and develop initiatives to raise public awareness of GRPV in Meghalaya;

f. To establish framework for implementation, monitoring and compliance, address supply chain and logistics, and ensure periodic review of the policy;

g. To enable the obligated entities of the State in complying with the Solar Purchase Obligation as specified by the Meghalaya State Electricity Regulatory Commission (MSERC).

4. Legislative Framework for Policy

Several provisions under the Electricity Act, 2003 mandate the Electricity Regulatory Commissions' and the Governments' to take necessary steps for promotion of renewable energy. Section 108 of the Act mandates the Government to give directions to the State Commission in the matter of policy involving public interest. Accordingly, the State Government, in exercise of its powers, formulates this policy.

5. Operative Period

1. The policy shall come into effect from the date of its notification and shall remain valid up to FY 2021-22, until superseded or modified by another policy.
2. The Government may undertake review of this Policy at regular time intervals and modify/amend the provisions of the Policy as and when required with a view of any technological advancement and/or to remove difficulties.
3. The Eligible Entities participating under this policy shall continue to be eligible for the incentives declared under this policy, for an envisaged period.

6. Target

1. The State shall strive to achieve the objectives of the policy and aim to comply with the target of 50 MW by 2022 as proposed by MNRE for the State.
2. The State Distribution Licensee and State Nodal Agency shall take necessary measure and ensure that **at least** 1 MW GRPV system is installed in each division of the area of the distribution licensee, special consideration shall be given while defining the targets for rural divisions of the Distribution Licensee.
3. This target is distributed during policy period as follows:

RTSPV Target	**Yearly Target Distribution**			
	FY 2018-19	**FY 2019-20**	**FY 2020-21**	**FY 2021-22**
50	**8 MW**	**14 MW**	**18 MW**	**18 MW**

4. To help develop a robust implementation plan, the GRPV target is further apportioned based on the consumer segment.

Consumer Segment	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	Incentive Mechanism, if Any
Residential	3	6	8	10	MNRE - CFA 70%, until applicable
Government	3	4	2	2	Achievement linked incentive, until applicable
Commercial	1	2	4	4	-
Industrial	1	2	4	2	-

7. Metering Arrangement

The State shall promote the development of GRPV systems on rooftops for meeting electricity needs and/or injecting surplus electricity into the distribution grid in compliance with the appropriate MSERC Regulations, applicable from time to time. Thus, GRPV systems may be installed on Government /Social/public buildings/non-government building, domestic, commercial and industrial establishments on all applicable metering basis. The consumer(s) is/are free to choose any of the applicable metering arrangements listed under this policy. The applicable tariff regulation including tariff for GRPV systems for either of the cases shall be notified by MSERC.

A) Net Metering

In this arrangement, the energy generated from GRPV systems installed at premises of eligible entity is consumed by the consumer and surplus electricity, if any, is delivered to the distribution licensee after off-setting the electricity supplied by the distribution licensee during the applicable billing period.

The metering and billing arrangement should comply with appropriate Regulations and Guidelines, technical standards and safety measures of CEA/MSERC.

Virtual Net Metering

To extend the benefits of GRPV systems to eligible entities with shared rooftop space and/or without suitable rooftop space, the policy shall promote the concept of virtual net metering. Virtual net metering is an energy credit accounting through billing which allows multiple consumers across consumer categories to share benefits from a GRPV system.

The detailed implementation framework/guidelines for Virtual Net Metering shall be notified by the power department/nodal agency.

B) Gross Metering

In this arrangement, entire energy generated from a GRPV system installed at premises of eligible entity is delivered to the distribution licensee. To encourage installation of GRPV systems on buildings that envisage to sell energy to the distribution licensee at a stipulated tariff approved by the MSERC, the distribution licensee shall facilitate the provision of Gross Metering.

The metering and billing arrangement should comply with appropriate Regulations and

Guidelines, technical standards and safety measures of CEA/MSERC.

8. Business Models

Business models are critical to develop an investment-friendly climate in the GRPV sector. Further, to achieve the target of 50 MW as laid out under this policy, it is pertinent to incorporate the best possible business models to lay the foundation for large scale deployment of GRPV in the State. Robust business models ensure investors/developers adequate return on their business. There are multiple ways and means for an investor/developer to generate maximum possible revenue out of their investment such as, through a PPA with the rooftop owner/distribution licensee/open access consumer or through direct sale of equipment and engineering services.

Additionally, large scale GRPV deployment needs proactive participation from the distribution licensee. However, it is realized that the distribution licensees experience revenue impact due to adoption of GRPV. Nonetheless, in the wake of changing business environment, the distribution licensee can ill afford to operate in the conventional way, i.e., maintaining wires/network and supplying power to consumers. Distribution licensee shall explore new business streams such as adopting utility driven business models for rooftop solar. This approach shall not only facilitate and expedite rooftop deployment but also open up new revenue streams for the distribution licensee.

To facilitate and achieve maximum possible GRPV in the State and to help distribution licensees minimize revenue impact due to large scale deployment of rooftop solar, it is advisable for the distribution licensees to actively explore utility driven business models as laid out in this policy, so as to open new revenue streams.

Accordingly, the Government of Meghalaya envisage following business models to develop vibrant and dynamic market.

A) Self-Owned

Self-Owned business model, also known as capital expenditure based (capex) business model, is the most common business model for solar rooftop deployment. Under this business model, a consumer develops solar rooftop system within their premises to own, operate and generate electricity to be used for own consumption within the premises (under net metering) or sell to the utility (under gross metering).

B) Third Party/Renewable Energy Service Company

Renewable Energy Service Company, popularly known as RESCO, is a third party based business model. Under this model, a RESCO builds, owns and operates solar rooftop plants in the consumer's premises to generate and sell electricity to the consumer (under net metering) or to the utility (under gross metering). Consumer and RESCO signs a Power Purchase Agreement and/or Roof Lease Agreement on mutually agreed basis, which covers tariff of electricity, tenure of the agreement, ownership at the end of the tenure etc.

C) Utility Driven

Distribution licenses ("Utilities") can increase their participation in the solar rooftop sector

through facilitation and/or direct investment. Through facilitation, utility may aggregate demand and facilitate procurement of the systems (Self-Owned Model) or services (RESCO Model). As a facilitator, the utility may charge a facilitation fee, to facilitate a solar rooftop transaction. Through investing, the utility may aggregate demand and invest equity in developing these projects (Self-Owned Model) or providing services (RESCO Model). Utilities can also play a key role in financing these systems through tying up with the financial institutions either as a lender or as a collection agency.

As distribution is a regulated business, the Government of Meghalaya shall work with the MSERC, MNREDA, and distribution licensees in the State to develop detailed guidelines for utility based business models to facilitate the growth of sectors and engage utilities proactively.

MNREDA shall submit a concept note on utility driven business models within three months from the date of notification of this policy to the Government of Meghalaya.

9. Implementation Plan for GRPV Systems Connected With the Network of Distribution Licensee

The State shall encourage implementation of the target specified for GRPV systems, connected with the network of the distribution licensee, as mentioned in segments below. Provided that the eligible entity shall own or be in legal possession of the rooftop or terrace on which entity intends to install the GRPV system.

A) Segment I: Gross Metering Mechanism

In order to facilitate deployment of GRPV systems, the State shall encourage setting-up of GRPV systems for generation and sale of electricity to the Distribution Licensee of the State. The Nodal Agency shall formulate suitable approach, after due public consultation process, and organize a competitive bidding to discover the rate at which the electricity shall be purchased by the Distribution Licensees of the State.

B) Segment II: Net Metering Mechanism

The State shall promote development of GRPV systems for meeting one's electricity requirements and injecting surplus electricity into the distribution system. These GRPV systems can be owned by the consumer or any other person may also be permitted to implement the GRPV system in the premises of the consumer.

A suitable framework for the implementation of net and gross metering mechanism shall be specified by the MSERC for the development of GRPV sector in the State. The MNREDA shall submit, to the Government of Meghalaya and MSERC, GRPV system's capital cost benchmarking, both with and without storage, within three months from the date of notification of this Policy.

Based on the capital cost benchmarking and after considering other State specific parameters, MSERC shall notify feed-in tariff applicable for GRPV systems set up under gross metering framework in the State. This feed-in tariff shall act as a ceiling limit in the competitive bidding process organized by the Nodal Agency/distribution licensee. Further, MSERC shall notify this feed-in tariff linked to the GRPV

system size. To discover low price due to economies of scale, the Government of Meghalaya proposes that only system sizes beyond 5 kWp shall only be tendered.

The eligible entities shall be allowed one-time irrevocable option to participate either in the net metering mechanism or in feed-in tariff mechanism, as specified by the MSERC, under this policy. However, the plants already implemented under the respective framework, prior to the announcement of this policy, shall continue to enjoy the benefits of applied framework.

The State shall encourage implementation of GRPV systems as per the following consumer categories;

A) Residential, Institutional and Social Sector

1. Nodal Agency shall take appropriate measures to satisfy the provisions of Grid Connected Rooftop and Small Solar Power Plants Programme of MNRE for availing the Central Financial Assistance.
2. Facilitation shall be provided to avail the Central Financial Assistance, as available, for the installation of GRPV systems.
3. The consumers shall implement GRPV following the regulatory framework as specified by the MSERC.
4. The Nodal Agency, if required, shall assess the requirement of a suitable payment security mechanism for the Institutional and Social Sector and shall submit it to the State Government for its perusal.
5. The Nodal Agency shall evolve appropriate market based mechanisms and submit, to the Department of Power – Government of Meghalaya within six months from the date of notification of this policy to encourage and facilitate the installation of GRPV systems with Net/Gross Metering on all residential buildings, colonies, townships, housing societies, private bungalows, farm houses, etc. All urban development and housing agencies, Municipal Corporation/Boards, banks etc. shall facilitate the deployment of solar project installations.

B) Government/Government Institutions

1. The Government of Meghalaya recommends the deployment of GRPV system plants under gross or net metering on all existing, upcoming, or proposed buildings of Government organizations, Government owned or aided hospitals, schools and other educational/technical/research institutes, hostels and training institutes such as Industrial Training Institutes (ITI), Fire Stations, Prisons, Hospitals/Dispensaries, stadiums, bus depots and bus stops, railway stations, sheds, parking lots, and any other State Government buildings, Warehouses (both under State Government agencies and private), Industrial estates and Industrial and factory sheds.
2. The Nodal Agency shall ensure active participation in the MNRE scheme on implementation of GRPV systems on the premises of the State Government department and State Public Sector Units namely ‘Achievement- Linked Incentive’ for Government Sector or any other incentive available under any Government scheme from time to time.
3. All the government owned organisation, semi government organisation, government aided organisation etc. shall endeavour to install GRPV system and generate and consume some

percentage of their annual electricity requirements from such plant. In all situations, the Nodal Agency shall ensure that all such government/government institution buildings with suitable rooftop area of 500 m^2 or above shall install a solar PV plant with a minimum (kWp) capacity computed as follows: Capacity in KWp = (Total shadow free rooftop area x 75%)/12 or 80% of the buildings' sanctioned connected load/contract demand whichever is lower. Area provisions may be calculated on rooftop @ 12 sq. meters per 1 kWp, as suggested by Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, referring the MNRE or as may be notified by Nodal Department. The Implementing Agency shall be authorized to survey and finalize the capacity of GRPV system to be installed on a government rooftop.

The departments, whose rooftop size is less than 500 sq. meters, shall also endeavour to install GRPV systems as far as possible.

4. The Nodal Agency shall develop a mechanism to identify the State Government buildings that fall under the above specified criteria (roof size 500 sq. meters and above). Furthermore, the nodal agency shall define a time frame by which the buildings have to conform to the above specified requirement and ensure this compliance. The implementing Agency shall also define a penalty mechanism for those buildings who fail to comply.
5. The Nodal Agency shall organize competitive bidding for selection of project developer or the project implementing agency, as the case may be, following a suitable mechanism.
6. The Nodal Agency shall assess the requirement of a suitable payment security mechanism and shall submit it to the State Government for its perusal.
7. The State Government shall also promote deployment of solar plants with Net/Gross Metering on the rooftops of Central Government Organizations and other public bodies through suitable advisory and consultative means to facilitate the solar energy targets of the State.

C) Commercial and Industrial

The State Government shall promote deployment of GRPV systems on the premises of hotels, private guest houses, private transit hostels, private students' hostels, marriage houses, commercial establishments, cinema & theatres, private ware-houses, industries etc. These institutions shall be encouraged to implement GRPV systems, of suitable capacity, on the roof of their premises/area and generate electricity for sale to the distribution licensee or for their self-consumption.

10. Possible Operating Modes

The general configuration adopted for deployment of GRPV systems in India is without storage capacity. However, Meghalaya had pursued deployment of solar PV systems with storage in the past as off-grid systems. The storage component has been an enabling feature for the State prone to climatic and seismic sensitivities. By allowing GRPV systems with storage, the State strives to set an example in the region. Thus, the State endeavours to promote GRPV systems, both, with and without storage. A minimal storage component shall enhance the reliability of power supply in the region. The State hopes to design and promote a unique and innovative GRPV program incorporating the storage component which opens pathways to increased self-consumption and improved grid services.

Therefore, the Nodal Agency shall submit a concept note within three months of notification of this policy highlighting the possibilities and action plan to convert existing off-grid solar PV systems into GRPV systems.

11. Incentives, Financial Arrangement and Support

The Nodal Agency shall assess need for any financial/non-financial assistance to eligible entities and submit a proposal to the State Government. The following incentives shall be available for the GRPV systems implemented by the eligible entities, as applicable, during the operative period of the policy,

A) Exemption From the Payment of Electricity Duty and Cess

The electricity generated from GRPV systems and consumed by any Person, shall be exempted from payment of the Electricity Duty and Cess as specified by the State Government, for a period of 10 years from the date of commissioning of the power plant. Provided the categories exempted from payment of the electricity duty as specified under The Electricity Duty Act and/or Rules or any other guideline, if announced, by the State Government shall be applied.

B) Payment of Open Access Charges

The applicability of payment of Open Access Charges and Losses will be as per appropriate regulations and the terms and conditions specified by MSERC, from time to time. MSERC shall consider for exemption of payment of Open Access Charges for a suitable term if the electricity is generated and consumed within the State.

C) Exemption from Payment of Conversion Charges

The implementation of GRPV systems shall be permitted by the State planning department, after necessary scrutiny. The residential consumers opting for implementation of rooftop solar photovoltaic power plant under sale to grid shall be exempted from conversion of house tax to commercial tax.

D) Wheeling Charges

The applicability of payment of wheeling charges and losses will be as per the terms and conditions specified by MSERC, from time to time. MSERC shall consider for exemption of payment of Wheeling Charges for a suitable term.

E) Cross Subsidy Surcharge and Additional Surcharge

For a period of 10 years from the date of commissioning of the GRPV system, the cross subsidy surcharge shall not be levied for sale of electricity to a Person other than Distribution Licensee. Provided that the sale of electricity is taking place within the State boundary. Provided also that the buyer is maintaining the contracted demand with the Distribution Licensee. The eligible entities shall continue to pay the additional surcharge, if applicable and as specified by MSERC.

For captive consumption, cross subsidy surcharge shall not be levied.

F) Height of the Module Structure

The height of the module structure carrying rooftop solar panels, in addition to the building height, shall not be counted towards total height of the building as permitted by building bye laws, except near airports where building regulations issued by the Airports Authority of India

take precedence.

No approval will be required from concerned Municipal Corporation or Urban Development Bodies for putting up solar plants in existing or new buildings. However, the Municipal Corporation or Urban Development Bodies shall undertake inspection of the plant from safety view point and suggest necessary improvements, if any. The support structure on which rooftop solar panels are installed shall be a temporary structure. The elevated structure should not be used for any other commercial activities. If structures are to be used for commercial activities, necessary approvals will be mandatory and fee shall be paid as per the rules of Municipal Corporation.

G) Inspection by Electrical Inspector

In compliance to the Rule 47A of Indian Electricity Rules, 1956 the installation and testing of rooftop solar power plant (up to 500 kW), proposed to be connected to the network of the Distribution Licensee, will be exempted from the inspection by the Electrical Inspector of the State. The appropriate Distribution Licensee shall undertake the inspection of the rooftop solar power plant up to 500 kW before commissioning.

H) Budgetary Support (CFA and Incentive on First-Cum-First-Serve Basis)

The Nodal Agency shall undertake detailed assessment of the support required for encouraging implementation of targets identified under this policy for implementation of GRPV and submit the fund requirements for consideration of the Government for budgetary support.

I) Creation of Meghalaya Solar Rooftop Fund/Meghalaya Solar Rooftop Battery Fund

The State Government shall devise creation of a Green Fund. The fund so created shall be utilized for organizing capacity building and training programme, creating awareness, offsetting the upfront capital cost, interest subvention through banks and any other aspect deemed necessary for the easy adoption of solar plants in the State.

J) Generation Based Incentives (GBI)

The MSERC and MNREDA shall undertake feasibility studies to identify list of consumer categories that requires GBI support. The GBI, if applicable, shall be made available by the distribution licensee as part of the consumer's electricity bill. The entire GBI amount incurred by the DISCOM shall be socialised vide passing it through as a part of Aggregate Revenue Requirement.

K) Through Private Investment

State Government shall attract private investments for installation of GRPV systems. The Nodal Agency shall facilitate and provide clearances and approvals from concerned departments.

12. Role of Nodal Agency

MNREDA, the State Nodal Agency, for the purpose mentioned in this Policy shall be responsible for effective implementation of this Policy in consultation with the State Government, eligible consumers, the Central Government, and other stakeholders. The Nodal Agency shall undertake following roles and responsibilities.

The Nodal Agency shall facilitate the eligible entities in implementing the solar plant and undertake the following activities;

A) Strategy for the Development of GRPV Sector

The Nodal Agency shall arrange to formulate a strategy/roadmap for the overall development of GRPV sector in the State with special emphasis on creating market for service providers, small and medium enterprises, employment generation, scheme development, etc. This long term strategy/roadmap, encompassing the entire operative period of this policy, shall be submitted to the Government of Meghalaya for scrutiny and approval within three months from the date of notification of this policy. Further, the Nodal Agency, in association with the distribution licensee, shall submit annual review/modifications in the strategy/road map during the first quarter of every financial year up to the operative period of this policy.

The strategy/road map shall highlight actions to be taken up by the stakeholders, involved in the process of implementation of a GRPV system. After the approval of the strategy/road map, the Nodal Agency and the Distribution Licensees shall publish it on their website for larger dissemination.

B) Announcement of Scheme

The Nodal Agency shall bring out a comprehensive scheme to implement the targets specified under the policy. The scheme should elaborate the appropriate process for invitation of bids/applications, incentives and central financial assistance, if any, targets, implementation mechanisms etc.

C) Demand Aggregation

The Nodal Agency with the help of local urban bodies shall, from time to time, undertake the process of demand aggregation in the residential, institutional, social sector and Government/Public institutions for the deployment of GRPV system.

D) Empanelment of Vendors

To accelerate GRPV deployment in the state, the Nodal agency shall notify vendor empanelment guidelines within <xx> months from the date of notification of the policy.

E) Plug-n-Play GRPV Kits

The Nodal Agency shall work with GRPV system and equipment suppliers to build solar kits/packs to facilitate easy demonstration/buying of plants by the consumers.

F) Facilitation in the Development of GRPV System

The Nodal Agency shall facilitate project developers in setting up of GRPV including sanctions/statutory clearances that may be essential for the development and commissioning of GRPV projects from number of Government agencies/departments. MNREDA will provide requisite clearances through a “Single Window Clearance Mechanism” for the development of GRPV system.

The Nodal Agency shall be a single point of contact for potential investors/consumers. This can go far off in improving the overall investment climate of the State.

G) Identification of Government Buildings and Facilitation of Its Allotment for GRPV Development

The Nodal Agency shall identify government building and shall coordinate with the Government departments, prepare transparent procedure, take necessary approvals and clearances for the allotment of Government buildings rooftop to the project developers for the development of GRPV system.

H) Support in Establishing Protocols/Procedures for Easy Adoption of Solar Power

The Nodal Agency shall also support the distribution licensee in developing protocols and procedures for metering, connectivity with the electricity system, and Power Purchase Agreements etc. for easy adoption of GRPV power plants by the stakeholders.

I) Online Portal for Application Processing and Awareness Building

The Nodal Agency shall facilitate implementation of an elaborate and user-friendly platform (online portal, telephonic helpline) providing all the relevant information related to clearances and approvals, technology, incentives, system integrators, quality management and regulatory framework etc.

The Nodal Agency shall support all eligible entities in implementing GRPV system and shall introduce a web enabled platform, prepared with the support of the State Distribution Licensees, to submit the application for registration, for providing clearance and approvals by the distribution licensee, and energy accounting from the respective GRPV systems etc.

J) Support in Availing the Subsidy

The Nodal Agency shall facilitate the eligible entity to avail subsidy from Central and/or State Government. The subsidy may be credited directly to the eligible entity, upon submission of necessary documents.

K) Amendment in Bye-Laws

The Nodal Agency shall coordinate with the Housing and Urban Planning Department, identify and recommend necessary amendments in the Bye-Laws to facilitate extensive adoption of GRPV systems.

i. The height of the module structure carrying solar panels shall not be counted towards the total height of the building as permitted by building bylaws, except near airports where building regulations issued by the Airports Authority of India take precedence.

ii. No approval will be required from concerned Municipal Corporation or other Urban Development Bodies for putting up solar plants including any additional system for monitoring the performance of solar plant in existing or new buildings.

iii. The support structure on which rooftop solar panels are installed shall be a temporary structure built in accordance with local building codes.

L) Capacity Building, Awareness and Entrepreneurship

The Nodal Agency shall organize certified training programmes in consultation with the Skill Council for Green Jobs. The Nodal Agency shall organize Capacity Building and Training Sessions for participation by the segment stakeholders. The Nodal Agency shall also take necessary steps in creating awareness among the citizens of the State. In addition, the

specialised training programs, in association with National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), shall be designed to train electricians, mechanical and civil experts on solar. Skills will be developed across segments including – installation, operation and maintenance of solar projects, testing of solar products, solar resource assessment, refurbishment, etc.

M) Feasibility of Conversion of Off-Grid Systems to Grid Connected Systems

The Nodal Agency shall explore the feasibility of converting existing off-grid systems to GRPV. The Nodal Agency shall develop and submit a plan/proposal/pilot program to the empowered committee/state department within <xx> months.

N) Coordination With Government Departments

The State shall follow technical specifications and standards as specified by the MNRE, from time to time. The Nodal Agency shall provide its inputs to the MNRE for specifying new standards or amending existing technical specifications for different components of GRPV system.

O) Adoption of Best Practices and Business Models

The Nodal Agency from time to time, on its own motion or on the basis of a proposal received from stakeholders, shall undertake assessment of best practices adopted by other Indian States and other Countries for the promotion of GRPV. The report of such assessment shall be submitted to the State Government for its consideration.

P) Support to Urban Local Bodies/Smart City/Solar City Programme

The Nodal Agency shall extend its full cooperation towards realizing the solar installation targets as emphasized under the Smart City/Solar City Programme of the Government of India. In addition, the Nodal Agency shall encourage and support urban local bodies for proliferation of GRPV system in the State.

13. Roles of the Electricity Regulatory Commission

The MSERC shall on priority basis, notify appropriate regulatory framework for the promotion and deployment of GRPV in the State. The regulatory framework shall include enabling provisions for the implementation of the policy. Further, MSERC shall annually undertake GRPV capex benchmarking and notify feed-in-tariff.

14. Role of State Distribution Licensee

The Meghalaya Power Distribution Corporation Limited (MePDCL) shall be the implementing agency in their area of operations under this policy. Distribution Licensees shall extend their support and guidance to the eligible entities interested in setting up GRPV systems and its connectivity with grid. Distribution Licensee shall comply with the regulatory framework specified by MSERC as well as provisions contained in this policy.

Distribution Licensee's role includes -

A) Develop administrative procedure for application filling and processing within three months

from the date of notification of policy.

B) To set up GRPV cell headed by a Chief Engineer to administer the GRPV sector within three months from the date of notification of policy.

C) To provide banking facility for solar energy, incentives in the form of exclusion from open access charges, wheeling charges, transmission and distribution (T&D) loss for solar power, etc. may be provided as specified under this policy.

D) To perform feasibility study for connectivity with the local grid facility.

E) To facilitate capacity building of field officers.

F) To conduct technical studies to understand the impact of penetration of GRPV on the distribution system and evaluate the benefits from incorporating storage.

G) The evacuation infrastructure for the GRPV system wherever necessary shall be developed and augmented by the distribution licensees as per MSERC regulations in force.

H) To undertake financial impact assessment due to GRPV on DISCOM's revenue and explore possibilities of Utility centric business models to promote GRPV.

I) To finalize the specifications of the meters and empanel vendors. The rate of meters in respective categories should also be finalized so that the meter may be procured by the eligible entity and shall be installed by the Distribution Licensee.

15. Roles of the Inspectorate of Electricity

The Inspectorate of Electricity, Government of Meghalaya, shall on priority basis, notify appropriate time bound process and procedure, and safety framework for the promotion and deployment of GRPV systems in the State. This framework shall compliment the interconnection framework laid down by the distribution licensee's regulatory framework and shall include enabling provisions for the implementation of the policy. The Inspectorate of Electricity shall develop appropriate web-based application system for providing/undertaking safety clearance. This web-based application system shall be linked with the DISCOM's web-based application system for GRPV.

16. Procedure for Interconnectivity With the Distribution Licensee Grid

The procedure for interconnectivity of GRPV systems with the distribution licensee grid shall be in accordance with the provisions laid by the licensee and approved by MSERC. The licensee and the Nodal Agency shall submit, to the Government of Meghalaya and MSERC, a standardized and consumer-friendly interconnection procedure within one month from the date of publication of this policy under official gazette. This procedure shall include both the grant of interconnectivity with the distribution licensee's grid and subsidy approval.

Further, the distribution licensee in association with the Nodal Agency shall develop a web-based GRPV application portal for the grant of interconnectivity and subsidy approvals.

17. Monitoring of Parameters

All GRPV systems with system size of 10 kW and above reaping benefit under this policy shall install equipment to monitor climate parameters such as solar irradiance, wind speed, ambient air temperature, etc. and technical parameters such as electricity generated, electricity injected into the electricity system or self-consumed, current, voltage, etc. The monitoring report shall be submitted to the distribution licensee and the Nodal Agency at regular intervals for the plant's useful life through online mechanism. The distribution licensee and the Nodal Agency shall develop appropriate framework and necessary infrastructure to record such parameters within two months from the date of notification of this policy.

18. Solar Renewable Purchase Obligation

The quantum of electricity consumed by the eligible consumer, who is not defined as obligated entity, from the GRPV system shall qualify towards the compliance of solar Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) for the distribution licensee.

19. Empowered Committee

To oversee, monitor and resolve various issues arising out of this policy, an Empowered Committee will be constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary of the State. The Committee will have the following members:

aaaa	- Chairman
bbbb	- Member
cccc	- Member
dddd	- Member
…..	
Managing Director, Concerned Distribution Licensee	- Member
Director, Nodal Agency	– Member Secretary

The Chairman of the Committee is empowered to co-opt subject matter expert/s, if required. The Committee shall be authorized to deliberate and decide on the aspects related to implementation of this policy on its own motion or on the written representations by the stakeholder.

The Empowered Committee shall therefore provide their recommendations on,

a. Resolving key bottlenecks in implementation of solar power plants.
b. Deliberating on aspects to create fund for the development of GRPV systems.
c. Issues regarding facilitation of framework for interconnection with the network of distribution licensee.
d. Resolve any other inter-departmental issues that arise from time to time.
e. To suggest necessary amendments to the policy to remove difficulties in implementation.
f. Empowered Committee shall undertake half-yearly review of the sector and submit the report tto he Department of Energy, Government of Meghalaya.
g. Any other relevant aspect.

20. Removal of Difficulties

If any difficulty arises in giving effect to this policy, the Empowered Committee, is authorized to issue clarifications as well as interpretations to such provisions, as may appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty either on its own motion or after hearing those parties who have represented for change in any provisions.

Notwithstanding anything contained in these resolutions, the provisions of the Electricity Act 2003 and the applicable regulations issued by the State/Central Government from time to time shall prevail for the implementation of this policy.

21. Procedure for Modifications and Amendment of any Specific Provision

The Nodal Agency shall collect modification/amendment in policy from the stakeholder. The Nodal Agency shall study the suggested modification and amendment and draft the appropriate modification and amendment, if any, in policy and submit to the Empowered Committee for approval. The Empowered Committee shall examine the draft modification and amendment and suggest their recommendations to the Government of Meghalaya for modifications and amendment in policy. The Government of Meghalaya shall modify/amend the policy as per recommendations.

Principal Secretary
(Government of ----------)

Glossary

1. Abbreviations

a. "CEA" means Central Electricity Authority.
b. "FY" means Financial Year.
c. "GST" means Goods and Services Tax.
d. "kV" means kilovolt.
e. "kW" means kilowatt.
f. "kWh" means kilowatt hour.
g. "MNRE" means Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India.
h. "MW" means Megawatts.
i. "PV" means Photovoltaic(s).