



Community Solar Investment Options

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June 2014

Introduction



- Community groups
- Priorities
 - Ethical investment
 - Help the environment
 - Community resilience
- Pooled investments

ATA's Role



- Explore options using Sunulator
- Feasibility study
- Group will need advice from others, eg:
 - Legal
 - Tax
 - Financial advice
 - Administration
 - Solar Installer

Solar Investment Options



1. Consumer owned
2. Community Owned
3. Project Financing
4. Community Retailer

1. Consumer Owned

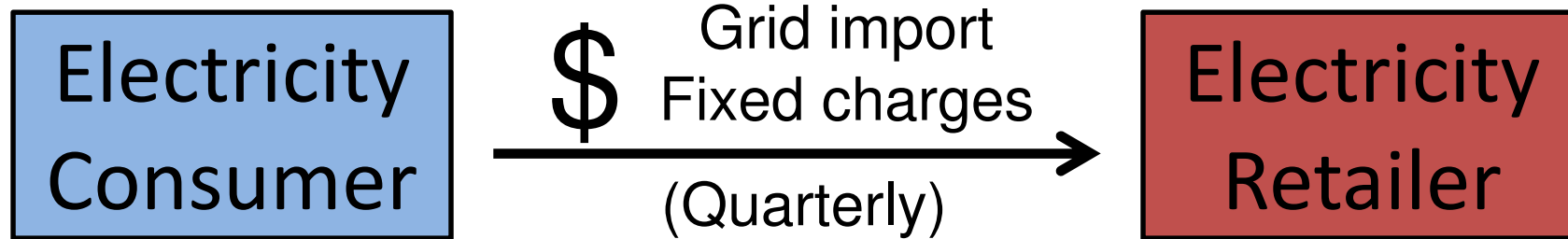


- Simple option
- “Consumer” is the organisation consuming electricity.
 - Eg community centre, household, business



1. Consumer Owned

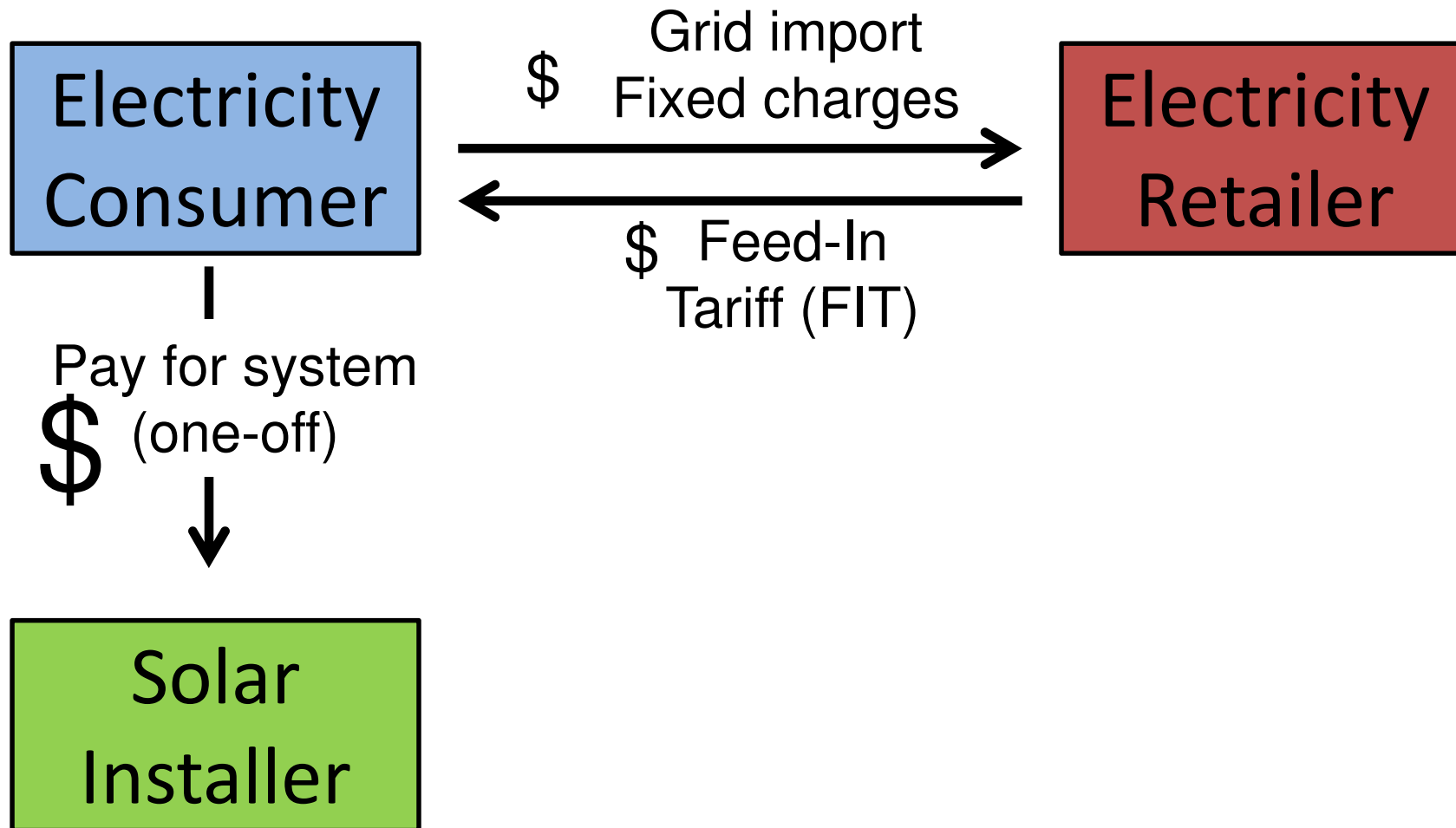
- Before solar





1. Consumer Owned

- After solar



2. Community Owned



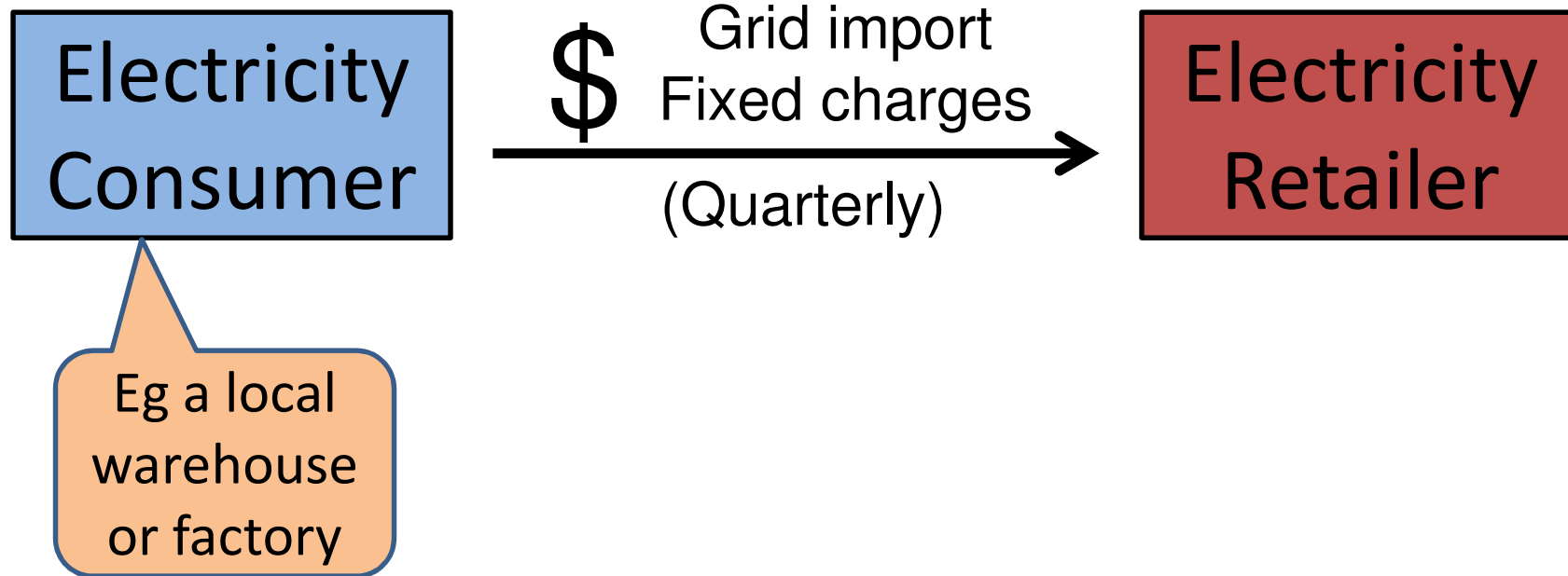
- “Host site” electricity consumer
 - Eg local warehouse or factory
 - Solar panels on the roof
 - Meter on the solar inverter

- Benefits for host site:
 - Community engagement
 - Environmental benefits
 - Hedge against future price increases

2. Community Owned



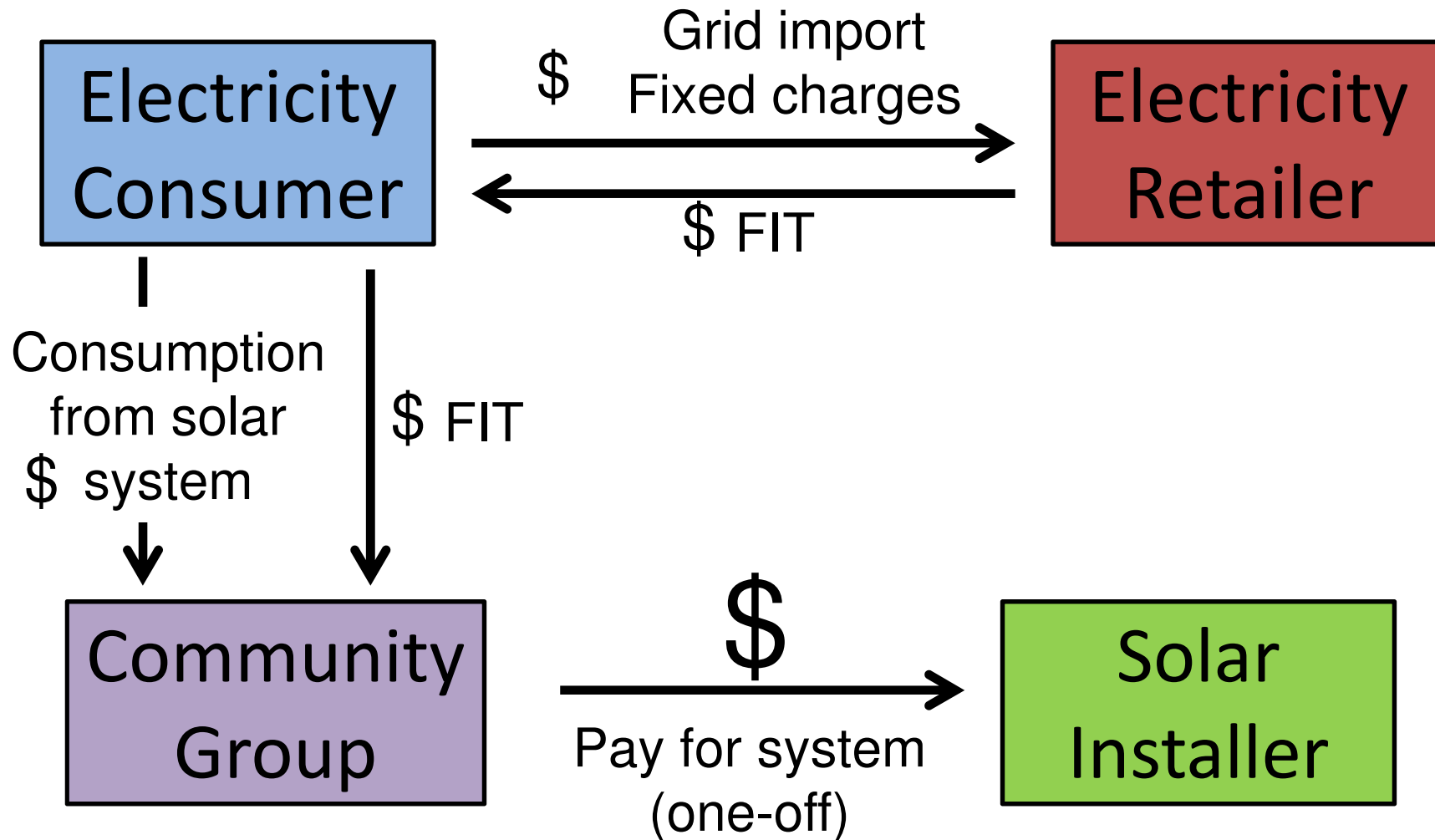
- Before solar



2. Community Owned



- After solar

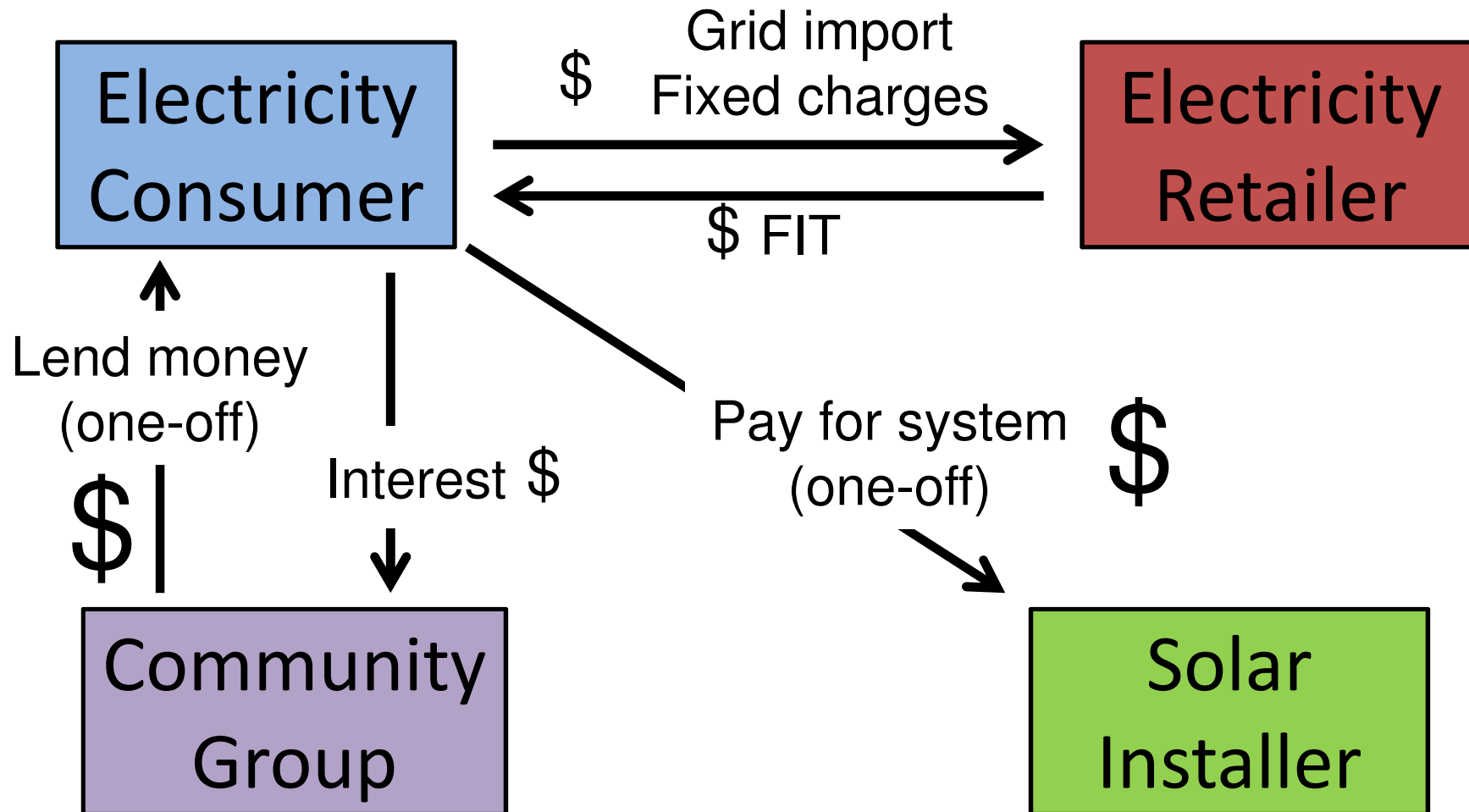


3. Project Financing



- Community group lends money to the consumer
- Consumer installs a solar system

3. Project Financing

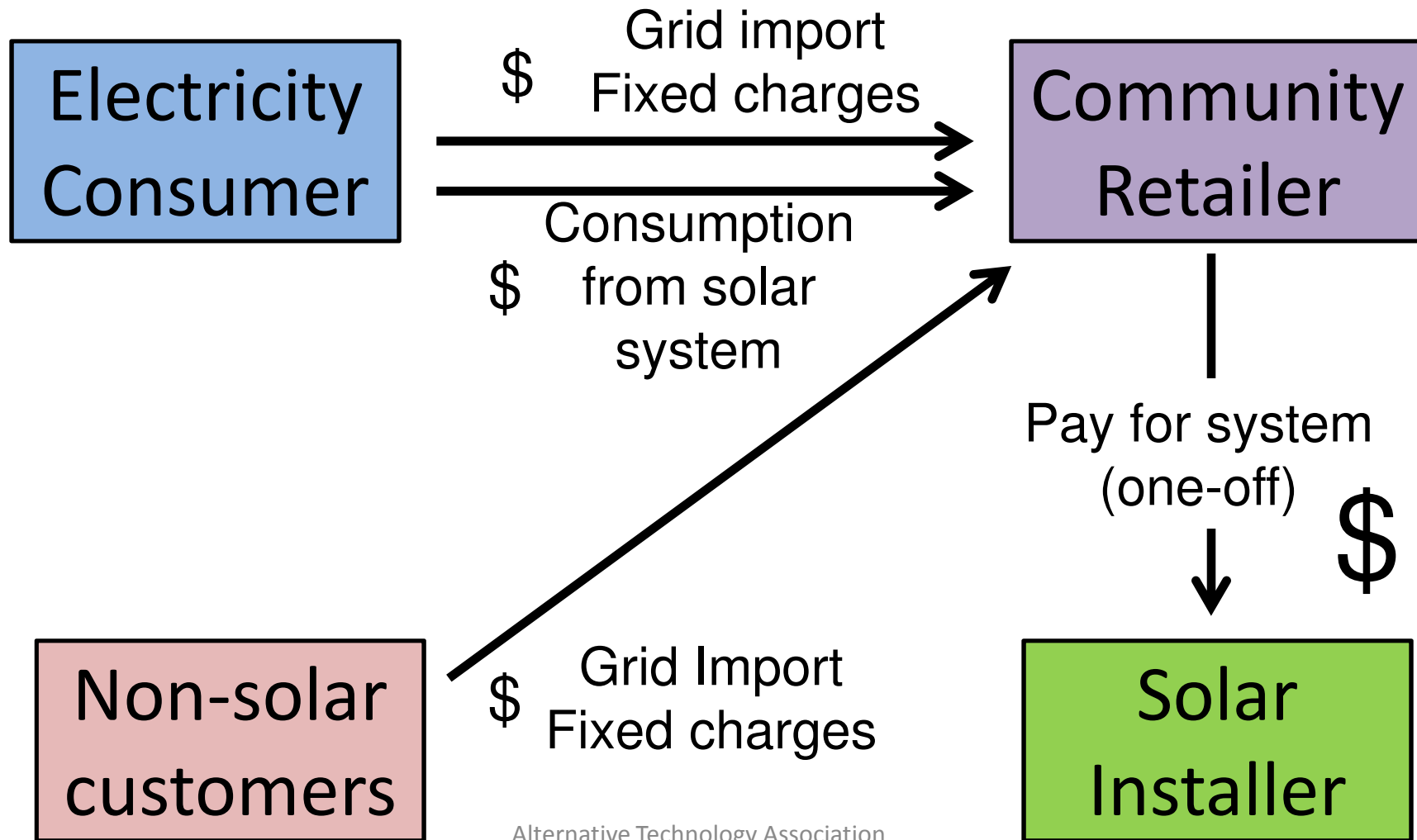


4. Community Retailer



- Community group becomes a retailer
 - Pays for solar install
 - Host site gets a single bill
- Sign up other consumers with retailer
 - Eg community members
- High setup costs, need economies of scale

4. Community Retailer



Investor perspective



- Wants to help community and environment
- Expects an annual dividend
- Depreciation reduces taxable income
- May receive other benefits eg tax situation.



Project Risks

- Who wears the risk?

Risk	1. Consumer Owned	2. Comm'ty Owned	3. Project Finance	4. Comm'ty Retailer
System breakdown	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●
FiT reduction	●	●*	●	-
Consumer walk-off	-	●	●	●
Less consumption	●	●*	●	●
Consumption tariff changes	●	●	●	-

● = Consumer, ● = Community Group, ● = Installer

* Depending on individual arrangements

How can Sunulator help?



- Assess economic feasibility for:
 - Community group (investors)
 - Host site
- Compare different scenarios
 - Select good host site
 - Minimise exports at a low FIT
 - Select system size to optimise goals
- For more info, see our presentation
“Solar Payback – the Devil is in the Detail”

Key points to take away



1. Several options to invest in solar
2. Communities can gain benefits
3. ATA's Sunulator helps with feasibility
4. Specialist advice required
 - Legal, tax, financial advice, admin, installation

Questions?

