Instructions for Running the Beta Version of SAM:

Here are links to a Beta version of SAM for Windows and Mac with an initial implementation of the Community Solar financial model for your review:

- Windows: https://samrepo.nrelcloud.org/beta-releases/sam-beta-windows-2021-9-10.exe
- Mac: https://samrepo.nrelcloud.org/beta-releases/sam-beta-osx-2021-9-10.dmg

This model is still under development, so this is an opportunity for you to provide suggestions for improvements or changes that would make it more useful for your projects.

To download and install the Beta version:

1. Click the appropriate link above and save the installation file to your computer's Download folder or any other folder.

2. In Windows, double-click the .exe file to start the installation process. On a Mac, double-click the .dmg file to open it and drag the SAM icon to your applications folder. If you need help with messages about allowing apps from an unknown publisher or installing unverified software, please see the installation instructions on the SAM Downloads page for either Windows or Mac at https://sam.nrel.gov/download.

This version will install in its own folder so it will not interfere with any other versions of SAM on your computer.

3. Start SAM and follow the instructions to register the software: If this is the first time you have installed SAM, type your email address and click **Register** to request a SAM registration key. You should receive a registration email from sam.support@nrel.gov within a few minutes. If you have used SAM before, copy and paste your SAM registration key and click **Confirm**. (You only need one registration key: You can use the same key for different versions of SAM and for versions of SAM installed on different computers.) If you don't have the registration email with your key, type your email address and click **Register** to resend your key.

The Beta version expires after a few months, so we recommend removing it after you finish testing it. You can remove it in Windows by going to the c:/SAM/2021.9.10 folder and running the unins000.exe program (or you can just delete the folder). On a Mac, drag the SAM app icon to the Trash folder

To try out the new Community Solar model:

1. Start SAM and click **Start a new project**. Then create a PVWatts / Community Solar case. (We will implement the community solar financial model for the Detailed PV and PV Storage configurations after we finalize the model.)

2. Click through the buttons in the navigation menu along the left side of the SAM window and review the inputs. Start at the top with the Location and Resource page and move downward. Press the Help button at the top right corner of the window to find information about the inputs on each page.

- Inputs for the new model are on the Community Solar inputs page. The model is based on the Single Owner financial model, so the inputs on the other pages are the same as those for that model.

- Note that we separated the installation and operating costs into separate pages and added a new operating cost for land lease.
- The default values of inputs on the Community Solar input page are placeholder values for now.

3. Click **Simulate** at the bottom left corner of the window to run a simulation and review the results on the Cash Flow tab of the Results page.

- The metrics tables on the Summary tab show key metrics from the owner perspective for both the project and subscriber classes.
- The Cash Flow tab shows the project annual cash flows. At the end of the cash flow table is a detailed list of community solar variables for all subscriber classes.