WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Energy Program

CSEP Certification Documentation Guide
Site Inspection

General rules for photographic documentation

1. Clear enough to zoom in and read fine print for photos that include text
2. Capture the entire object
3. Review the requirements twice and submit once
4. Follow the below guidelines on what to capture
5. Only applications with all required documentation will be reviewed.

Solar Array Photograph

What to photograph: include a photo or photos that capture all modules in the array.

Tips for photographing arrays

- **Work with your installer or contractor early on.** Share this guide with them and request photos of the completed array
- Include the full solar array(s) with all modules clearly visible in the photograph and avoid glare or visual obstructions
- If a single, unobstructed photograph of the array is not possible you may submit multiple partial photos that capture the entire array
- Drone photographs are preferred
- Use drones, extendable camera poles, or from nearby buildings
- Photograph midday when shadows are minimal

Below is an example of a good photograph taken with a drone:

Below is an example of good photographs taken from the ground. In this instance the administrator took multiple photographs to capture all modules in the solar array:

Inverter Photographs

What to photograph: All visible electrical equipment associated with the solar array.

String inverters:

- Front-facing photograph of each inverter so the entire unit and labeling are visible and a wide shot showing all units together if there are multiple

Microinverters:

- Photo of a Combiner Panel (if applicable)
- Photo of any central communication or data-collection equipment associated with the microinverters (if available)

Tips for photographing inverters

- **Work with your installer or contractor early on.** Share this guide with them and request photos of inverters
- Take photos during daylight with sufficient lighting but minimal glare
- Ensure manufacturer labels and status screens (if present) are legible
- If equipment is in a tight location, take multiple photos from different angles so all sides are documented

Below is an example of a good photograph of string inverters and a combiner box:

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Photographs

What to photograph:

1. A wide shot of the BESS in relation to the project site
2. Exterior of the battery enclosures, with at least one close-up of manufacturer labels/nameplates

Tips for photographing BESS

- **Work with your installer or contractor early on**. Share this guide with them and request photos of the BESS.
- Take photos during daylight with sufficient lighting but minimal glare.
- Stand directly in front of the enclosures for at least one photo to minimize distortion.
- If equipment is in a tight or partially enclosed location, take additional photos from different angles so all sides are documented.

Below are examples of a good, complete set of photos of the BESS: