

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) RESIDENTIAL REBATE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

These guidelines govern the procedures and qualifications for incentives under the Austin Energy Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Residential Rebate Program.

I. Eligibility and Funding

- A. Applicants must have Austin Energy residential electric service and/or own the property within the Austin Energy service zone, where the PV system is to be installed.
- B. Customers who have previously participated in the Solar Education program may not re-participate at the same address.
- C. Leased solar PV systems are not eligible to participate in this program.
- D. Customer must complete the solar education module and pass the test within the six months prior to applying for a rebate.
- E. **Minimum System Size:** 3 kW-ac (3.6 kW-dc), or 2.5kW-ac (3kW-dc) if sized to meet at least 80% of annual consumption.
- F. **Maximum System Size:** PV systems shall not be sized to produce more than 110% of the annual energy consumption of the connected load. This shall be determined based on historical usage for existing buildings or modeled consumption for new construction or alterations. System designs exceeding 110% of demonstrated consumption must include a letter of justification for the sizing (installing a pool, purchasing an EV, e.g.) with the application and are subject to Austin Energy review.
- G. The rebate payment will be issued by the City of Austin and mailed to the customer once the system has been interconnected and inspected to verify that it meets all program requirements.
- H. The rebate amount will be specified when the application is submitted, and will be stated in the Letter of Intent (LOI) issued by Austin Energy to the customer and contractor once the application is accepted.
- I. Request for electrical inspection for completed project must occur within 120 days of LOI receipt. For new construction, the allotment will not exceed 365 days from the issuance of the LOI. If project is not completed before the Letter of Intent expires customer may reapply at the applicable rebate level at that time.
- J. The PV system must be contracted and permitted by a participating contractor, listed on Austin Energy's [residential solar rebate program website](#). A subcontractor may be used for installation, but must be listed on the Customer Agreement Form (CAF).
- K. Only a participating contractor (listed on the Austin Energy website and in good standing) may submit an application on a customer's behalf. A participating solar contractor may not submit a customer application on behalf of a company that is not on the Austin Energy list of participating contractors (e.g. as a subcontractor to a suspended company or solar sales company which is not a participating contractor in the program).

Austin Energy guidelines and incentive levels are subject to change without prior notice, and Austin Energy reserves the right to refuse any application or request for incentive payment for systems that do not meet all program requirements.



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II. Installation Requirements

- A. The PV system must be electrically interconnected and attached to permanent, non-mobile structures.
- B. Production models must be used to communicate expected annual production to customers. Production estimates shall include any production impacts due to losses, array azimuth, tilt and shading specific to the project proposed.
- C. The system must be sited in a location where a minimum of 75% of the total solar resource fraction (TSRF) is available to the system. A shade analysis (such as those generated by Solmetric Suneye or Solar Pathfinder, describing the percentage of the available solar resource that the solar array will receive, accounting for losses, shading, array azimuth, and tilt) must be made available within 10 business days of a request by Austin Energy or will result in a violation.
- D. Equipment must be listed by the California Energy Commission on its website, www.gosolarcalifornia.org, to be eligible.
- E. All PV system components eligible for a rebate must be new and have a 10-year warranty to protect against defects and undue degradation of electrical generation output.
- F. The participating contractor must warrant that the workmanship be free from defects for a minimum of 10 years.
- G. All PV systems must be interconnected to Austin Energy's electrical grid, at customer's expense, in accordance with Austin Energy's Distribution Interconnection Guide, which can be found at the [Electric Service Design & Planning](#) section of the website.
- H. Installation must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations, and must be according to manufacturer's standards. In some municipal jurisdictions within the Austin Energy service territory, building permits are required for PV system installations.
- I. All roof penetrations must be flashed, unless pre-approved by Austin Energy. Requests for approval should be accompanied by compatibility documentation from the racking system manufacturer specific to the roof type that it is to be installed on, and written acknowledgement by the home owner that they have been notified that the roof will be penetrated and what method of attachment will be used.
- J. For PV system installations on flat roof structures, ground mounted, mounted in a manner that is not in alignment with the contour of the roof, or if the module(s) extend beyond the roof plane, an engineer stamped drawing is required to be provided to the Austin Energy inspector prior to scheduling an electric inspection.
- K. Clamping attachments (such as S-5 Clamps) must be rated by the manufacturer to be compatible with the roofing system.

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- L. System designs require review and endorsement from a North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) PV Installation Professional or PV Design Specialist.

III. Required Documentation

Minimum documentation submittal requirements listed below. Austin Energy may request additional documentation at the program's discretion. Electronic signatures must include a verifiable tracking method (DocuSign, etc.). For the purposes of this program, all signatures which are not obtained *in person* (a "wet" signature), are considered electronic signatures (including but not limited to: type font and copied image files).

A. At the time of application:

1. Proposed system layout, including an approved NABCEP endorsement.
2. Austin Energy Customer Agreement Form (CAF) signed by PV system purchaser, including the Renewable Energy Credit (REC) Agreement.

B. At the time of final inspection request:

1. Customer signed final invoice, including:
 - i. Customer name and installation address.
 - ii. Participating contractor name and contact address.
 - iii. Make, model, and quantities of all solar module and inverter equipment included in costs.
 - iv. Installation 10-year warranty statement.
 - v. Total solar installation cost. Costs that are not eligible for federal tax credits or local incentives must be itemized separately.

IV. Additional Requirements

- A. Austin Energy guidelines and rebate levels are subject to change without prior notice, and Austin Energy may refuse any rebate application that does not meet all requirements.
- B. Participating Contractors are required to release customers from contractual obligations upon customer's request without penalty at any time prior to the Austin Energy issuance of a LOI for their project.
- C. Customers who participate in the Solar Photovoltaic Rebate Program are not eligible for smart meter opt-out.
- D. Customer is responsible for maintaining the operational efficiency of all qualifying measures for a period of no less than twenty (25) years from the date of installation. If the PV system is removed from Austin Energy service territory or disconnected from Austin Energy's grid within ten years of installation, the applicant may be subject to a prorated forfeiture of the incentives received.
- E. All residential solar customers will be billed according to Austin Energy's [Value of Solar tariff](#).

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Austin Energy is not a manufacturer, supplier, or guarantor of PV equipment or contractors. Austin Energy, whether by making available a list of participating contractors and equipment sources or otherwise, makes no representations or warranties of any nature, directly or indirectly, express or implied, as to performance of the contractor or reliability, performance, durability, condition, or quality of any PV system.

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