

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) RESIDENTIAL REBATE PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND CUSTOMER AGREEMENT FORM

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

I. Eligibility and Funding

- A. Customers who have received a solar residential rebate since May 2018 are not eligible to participate at the same address.
- B. Applicants must have Austin Energy residential electric service and/or own the property within the Austin Energy service territory, where the PV system is to be installed.
- C. The applicant must own the PV system. Leased systems are not eligible for a rebate.
- D. The PV system must be electrically interconnected and attached to permanent, non-mobile structures.
- E. Applicants must complete the solar education module and pass the test prior to applying for a rebate.
- F. Austin Energy guidelines and rebate levels are subject to change without prior notice, and Austin Energy may deny a rebate application that does not meet all requirements.
- G. The rebate amount will be specified in the Letter of Intent (LOI) issued by Austin Energy to the applicant and contractor once the application is accepted.
- H. The rebate check will be issued by the City of Austin and mailed to the applicant once the system has been inspected and interconnected to verify that it meets all program and code requirements.
- I. Residential solar customers will be billed according to Austin Energy's [Value of Solar tariff](#).
- J. If the PV system is removed from Austin Energy service territory or disconnected from Austin Energy's grid within 10 years of installation, the applicant may be subject to a prorated forfeiture of the incentives received.
- K. Customers who participate in the Solar PV Rebate Program are not eligible for smart meter opt-out.

II. Participating Contractor Obligations

- A. The PV system must be contracted and permitted by the participating contractor submitting the application on the customer's behalf. These contractors are listed on Austin Energy's [residential solar rebate program website](#).
- B. The participating contractor must:
 - 1. Be listed as the promisor on the solar installation contract with the applicant.
 - 2. Submit a rebate application on the applicant's behalf.
 - 3. Obtain the permit for installation of the PV system.
 - 4. The use of a subcontractor is permissible but must be disclosed on the Customer Agreement Form (CAF).
- C. 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.
- D. Request for electrical inspection for completed project must take place:
 - 1. For existing construction within 120 days of LOI date.
 - 2. For new construction, within 365 days of LOI date.
 - 3. Projects not completed in this time may reapply at the applicable rebate level.
- E. Participating Contractors are required to release customers from contractual obligations upon request without penalty any time prior to the issuance of the LOI.

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.

Initials _____ Date _____



Solar Incentives

Effective 04/17/2020

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III. Installation Requirements

- A. Minimum System Size: 2.5kW-ac (3kW-dc)
- B. Maximum System Size: PV systems shall not be sized to produce more than 110% of the historical annual energy consumption of the connected load. Exceptions must be notated on the CAF.
- C. The system must be sited in a location where a minimum average of 75% of the total solar resource fraction (TSRF) is available to the system. An on-site, in-person shade analysis must be made available within 10 business days of a request by Austin Energy or will result in a violation.
- D. All installed PV system components must be new, listed by the [California Energy Commission](#), and under warranty for a minimum of 10 years (workmanship and equipment).
- E. 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.
- F. Clamping attachments (such as S-5 Clamps) must be rated by the manufacturer to be compatible with the roofing system.
- 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.
- H. Installation must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations, and must be according to manufacturer's standards. Individual jurisdictions should be contacted for local requirements, the City of Austin may not be aware of other local jurisdictional requirements.
- I. The City of Austin Development Services should be consulted about requirements for building permits and stamped drawings for PV installations on flat roof structures, ground mounted, mounted in a manner that is not in alignment with the contour of the roof, or where the module(s) extend beyond the roof plane.

IV. 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 (this includes: type font and copied image files).

- A. At the time of application:
 - 1. Proposed system layout, including an approved NABCEP endorsement.
 - 2. Austin Energy CAF, including the Renewable Energy Credit (REC) Agreement.
- B. At the time of final inspection request:

Final invoice (signed by customer), including:

 - 1. Customer name and installation address.
 - 2. Contractor name and address.
 - 3. Make, model, and quantities of solar module and inverter equipment.
 - 4. Total solar installation cost. Costs that are not eligible for federal tax credits or local incentives must be itemized separately.
 - 5. Warranty statement (minimum 10-year workmanship and equipment warranty).
May be included as a separate document or a line item on the invoice.

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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.

V. Customer Agreement

Please complete and sign below to confirm that you have 1) read and agree to the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Rebate Program Guidelines above 2) participated in the Austin Energy Solar Education course and received a confirmation number upon completion, and 3) selected the Participating Contractor indicated below to submit and process your rebate program application.

Note: Payee MUST be either the listed property owner, or an authorized Austin Energy account user.

Participating Contractor:	Representative:
Sub-contractor (if applicable):	Total Cost (before incentives):
Proposed kW (DC):	Estimated System Production (kWh/yr):
Austin Energy Account Number:	Annual Energy Consumption (kWh/yr):
Applicant (homeowner):	Email Address:
Installation Address:	
Mailing Address (if different than installation address):	
Rebate Amount:	SolarEd Confirmation#:
Applicant Signature:	Date:

VI. Oversizing Waiver

Optional – Systems in which the Estimated System Production is >110% X Annual Energy Consumption may produce more than the customers can use. Any excess credits earned cannot be paid out as cash or re-allocated to other utilities. Please list the reason for oversizing below (i.e. EV purchase, installing a pool, etc.)

Reason for Oversizing: _____

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VII. Renewable Energy Credit Assignment Agreement

The City of Austin, d/b/a Austin Energy (“Austin Energy”), committed by City Council to support renewable energy, is a voluntary participant in the State’s goal to have a total, cumulative installed generating capacity in Texas from renewable energy resources of 5,880 megawatts by 2015.

Under the State’s renewable energy goals program, a Renewable Energy Credit (REC) represents the environmental attributes of one thousand kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity produced by a renewable resource (such as solar or wind). A REC is a commodity awarded to the generator of each one thousand kWh of renewable energy produced in the State. RECs are used by electric providers in Texas to account for their participation in the State’s renewable energy goals program.

RECs will be generated by your photovoltaic system. For example, a three (3) kW AC residential solar system generally produces about 4,500 kWh of renewable energy annually, creating approximately 4.5 RECs. RECs have a monetary value on the open market, which fluctuates with the market. RECs can be sold on the open market and transferred. You are being asked to assign the RECs—and any other environmental attributes associated with or derived from your photovoltaic system to Austin Energy in order to receive the solar rebate incentive. The RECs will be aggregated with those of other participants in the City’s solar rebate and solar performance-based incentive programs, and will be used for solar energy programs, to promote the use of solar energy, and to promote Austin Energy’s renewable energy goals.

By signing the REC Assignment Agreement, you are agreeing to assign the RECs and any other environmental attributes generated by your solar photovoltaic system to Austin Energy in consideration for receipt of a rebate at:

_____ (service address).

In addition, you are agreeing to disclose this agreement and assignment to a subsequent purchaser of your property upon purchase of the property and photovoltaic system from you.

I _____ (please print) acknowledge that I have read the above explanation and understand by signing this agreement that I agree to assign the RECs and any other environmental attributes generated by my photovoltaic system at a meter within Austin Energy’s certificated area to Austin Energy in consideration for any solar rebate incentive provided to me.

Customer Signature

Company Name (if applicable)

Installation Service Address

Date

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