



California Solar Initiative

Powering Your Home with Solar Energy

Residential Customer Fact Sheet

The sun is waiting to turn your roof into its own miniature electrical power plant. Using solar energy to power your home not only lowers your energy costs over time, but also generates electricity free of harmful CO₂ emissions and other greenhouse gases. Powering your home with clean, renewable energy has never been easier. Going solar also makes smart financial sense as California Solar Initiative incentives are available through your Program Administrator (see box on the other side for more information). In addition to an incentive from the California Solar Initiative, you may be eligible for a federal tax credit (see Resources section).

CALIFORNIA SOLAR INITIATIVE

California has set a goal to create 3,000 megawatts of new, solar-produced electricity by 2017. This will help move the state toward a cleaner energy future and help to lower the cost of solar installations for our customers.

The California Public Utilities Commission created the California Solar Initiative to provide an incentive to homeowners, businesses and non-profit agencies based upon their solar systems' actual or expected performance. Incentives are administered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison, and California Center for Sustainable Energy.

An incentive from the California Solar Initiative can reduce the cost of installing solar panels for those customers who want to generate their own solar energy.

QUALIFICATION

Electric customers of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), or San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) are eligible to receive an incentive from the California Solar Initiative.

ENERGY-EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

All existing residential customers are required to have an energy-efficiency audit conducted on their homes. Check with your local Program Administrator for further details on how to complete the energy-efficiency audit.

COST CONSIDERATIONS

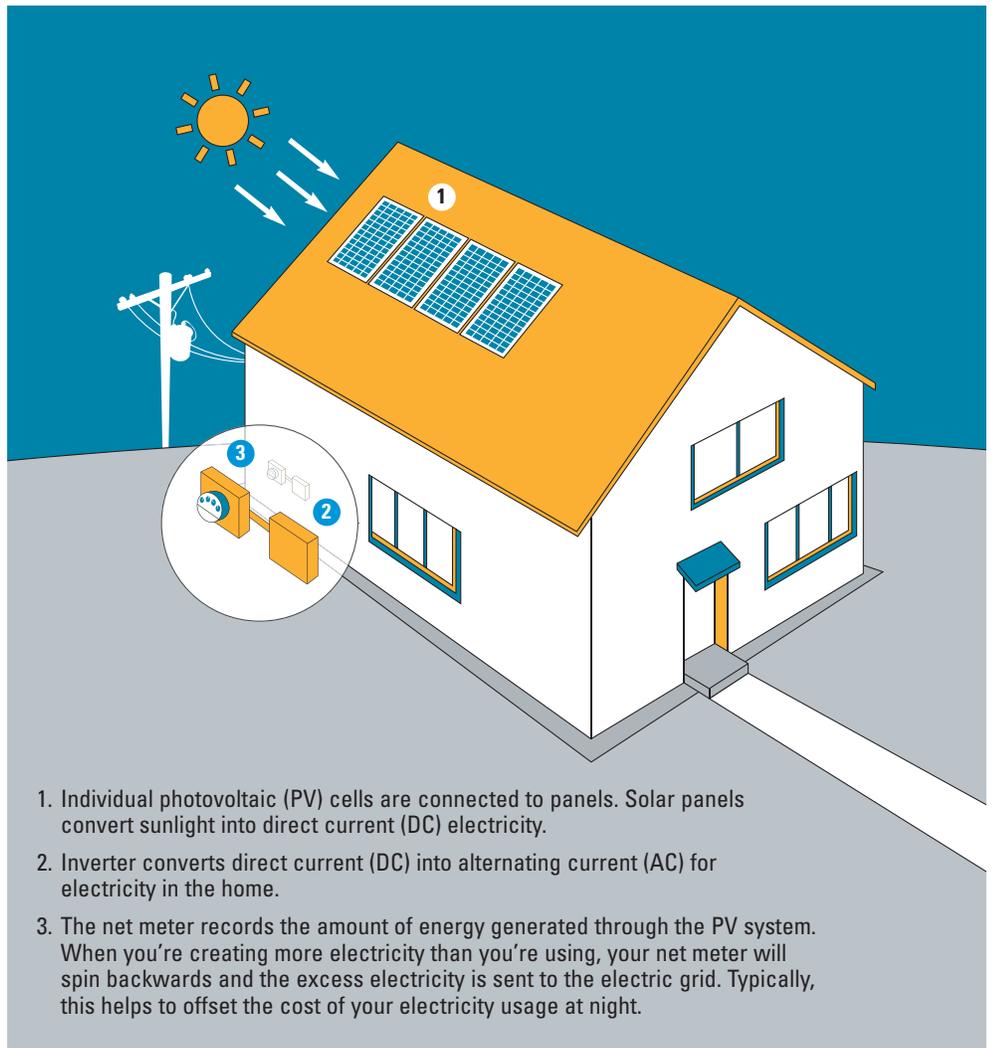
There are a variety of factors that influence the cost of a photovoltaic (PV) system including the system's size, labor costs, system configuration, etc. Most solar installers can provide a no-obligation quote based on your home.

GETTING STARTED

Going solar is a relatively easy process and typically your solar installer handles most of the work. Following these basic steps will show you how to make the transition to solar.

Step 1: Complete a quick, free energy audit

The first step is to complete a basic, energy-efficiency audit. An energy-efficient home maximizes the value of your solar installation – saving you even more money. Your Program Administrator offers a free energy-efficiency audit to help you assess your current home energy usage as well as





identify those areas in your home that could become more energy efficient. The energy-efficiency audit is a requirement of the California Solar Initiative.

Step 2: Contact and choose an installer

Qualified contractors are your key to getting the most productive PV system for your home. Contact an independent system expert to determine the solar installation that best meets your energy needs and budget (see Resources section). Choose a reputable solar installer by interviewing at least three potential solar experts and obtain their bids before making your selection.

Step 3: The solar installer handles the applications

Your incentive is based on the expected performance of your solar installation, so documentation about your location, solar system positioning and equipment specification is required. In most cases, your solar installer will handle all of the paperwork by completing and submitting all the relevant forms to your Program Administrator and local city agencies on your behalf.

Step 4: The solar installer handles the building and utility provider inspections

Your solar installer will schedule an appointment with your local building permit agency to have a certified building inspector approve the solar installation. Your solar installer will send the building inspector's final approval to your Program Administrator. Following an on-site inspection and meter installation by your utility provider's engineers, your new solar installation will be connected to the electric grid and clean, renewable solar energy will now be powering your home.

Step 5: Claim the incentive and tax credit

Your Program Administrator and the California Solar Initiative rewards the completion of the solar installation project. An incentive from the completed application will be disbursed to the designated party. Your project may also be eligible for a federal tax credit (see Resources section).

EDUCATION

All Program Administrators offer free monthly educational opportunities on related California Solar Initiative topics. Contact your local Program Administrator for times, dates and locations.

RESOURCES

- To view a copy of the California Solar Initiative Program Handbook, visit the California Public Utility Commission at www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov
- To find reviews of licensed solar installers as well as those who are certified by the California Energy Commission, visit www.findsolar.com
- To find out about available tax credits, visit Tax Incentives Assistance Project at www.energytaxincentives.org/consumers/solar.php
- For solar industry information, visit Solar Energy Industries Association at www.calseia.org
- For information on new solar home construction, visit at www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov/nshp/

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

California Center for Sustainable Energy

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Southern California Edison

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Web site: www.sce.com/CSI



This fact sheet is intended to be an overview and introduction to the California Solar Initiative. It is not intended to replace the California Solar Initiative Program Handbook. If there are differences between the Handbook and this fact sheet, the Handbook shall prevail. Please see the most recent version of the Handbook for the most up-to-date information at www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov/documents.

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SOFS0108