



RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) REBATE

Why Participate In The Program?

Austin Energy's Solar Rebate Program is designed to help you implement photovoltaic (PV) technology in your home by offering financial incentives that can offset your initial investment. By using Austin Energy (AE) as your energy management partner, we can offer unbiased expertise to help you decide how to make the most effective use of your energy dollars. By implementing PV technology, you will be helping the City of Austin reduce the need to generate additional power, lower our long-term investment costs for new electric facilities and also enhance our City's environment.

QUALIFICATIONS/GUIDELINES

Installation and Warranties

- All work must be performed in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local, manufacturer's codes and standards and AE Interconnection Guidelines.
- Rebate applicants must use an AE registered installer. A list of registered installers is found on AE's website. Installers must be certified by NABCEP (North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners). For details on how to become NABCEP certified, please visit their website at: <http://www.nabcep.org> .
- Only eligible PV modules and inverters qualify for rebates under the AE program. As a list of eligible PV modules and inverters, AE adopts by reference those listed by the California Energy Commission (CEC) on its website: <http://www.gosolarcalifornia.org> .
NOTE: AE is not a manufacturer, supplier or guarantor of the PV system or installers, and AE, whether by making available a list of registered installers and equipment sources or otherwise, has not made and makes no representations or warranties of any nature, directly or indirectly, express or implied, as to performance of the installer or reliability, performance, durability, condition or quality of the PV system selected and purchased.
- All PV systems installed must carry a 5-year warranty from the installer in addition to a minimum 10-year manufacturer warranty on inverters in residential applications without battery back-up and a minimum 20 year manufacturer warranty on solar panels.
- Licensed electrical contractors must obtain appropriate permits and perform all electrical interconnections.
- All inverters and solar modules must be new.
- PV system installations on flat roof structures or mounted in a manner that is not in alignment with the contour of the roof must also obtain appropriate City of Austin (COA) building permits.
- All PV systems must be interconnected to AE's electrical grid, at customer's expense. The PV system will comply with current COA guidelines governing interconnection with COA's electric system, and any subsequent revisions to these guidelines.
- All roof penetrations must be flashed.
- Contractor must include any required service upgrade price in the original bid.
- If re-roofing is required, PV system removal and reinstallation is at customer expense.
- Batteries are not covered under the rebate.

Rebate Funding

- Austin Energy makes no financial commitment to rebate applicants until a signed Letter of Intent is issued.
- Rebate funding is offered on a first-come, first-served basis and is subject to program budget constraints.
- Any application for which funding is not available will be returned to the applicant.
- Residential solar rebate applicants are required to demonstrate compliance with the energy efficiency standards for their residence listed on page #3 of this document prior to being issued a Letter of Intent.
- AE will perform a pre-inspection of the site; results of the pre-inspection will determine rebate eligibility. An AE approved shade identifying instrument must demonstrate minimal shading by trees, buildings and other structures. AE retains the right to deny rebates based on excessive shading and or poor orientation of the solar array. Refer to the AE Solar Access Guidelines. It is incumbent upon the contractor to assure that the solar access requirements are met at the time of the final inspection.
- Participation in the Solar Rebate Program does not affect customer participation in other AE conservation programs.
- The requested rebate amount will be calculated as:
[Number of PV Modules] x [STC Rating per Module (Watts)] x [CEC rated Inverter Efficiency] x [Rebate Level].
- The standard rebate level for qualifying equipment is \$2.50 per Watt. In an effort to promote solar technologies and economic growth, qualifying equipment at least sixty percent manufactured or assembled in AE's electric service area may qualify for rebates at a level not to exceed \$3.125 per watt. "Manufactured or Assembled" does not include installation of the system.
- The final rebate amount will be determined following verification of the installed system by AE solar field inspector.
- The total rebate allowed for each individual project is limited to \$15,000 per fiscal year.
- The maximum rebate per residential customer is capped at 80% of invoice cost.
- The total lifetime maximum solar rebate that any single site may receive is limited to \$50,000.
- Customer will be provided a Letter of Intent (LOI) after rebate application is received and approved (valid for 120 days), assuming the PV system meets program guidelines, energy efficiency requirements have been met and the Solar Rebate Program budget allows.
- New construction LOIs are valid for 180 days.
- Requests for LOI extensions must be submitted in writing prior to LOI expiration and approved by the Program Manager.
- Customers have the option to assign the rebate directly to the PV system installer/supplier or other third party.
- In custom homes, the rebate check goes to the builder, unless the customer can prove that he or she specified the equipment, in which case the check would go to the customer.
- New construction rebate checks can be issued before the Certificate of Occupancy is released.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS:

- Homes Less than 10 years old are exempt from Energy Efficiency requirements.
- Homes 10 years old or older must meet or have met one of the following within the past 10 years. (If verified no additional energy improvements are needed)
 - Have completed the following recommended measures through the Austin Energy Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program.
 - Solar Screens or window treatments are required for all sun facing windows and glass doors receiving at least one hour of direct sunlight in the summer and on 40% or more of the glass area.
 - Attic insulation shall be no less than a rated value of R-22.
 - Home comprehensive air seal testing is required.
 - Ideally, the house should be between 0.35 and 0.45 Air Changes/Hour(ACHn)
 - Mechanical air ventilation is recommended for houses that are tighter than 0.35 ACHn. The homeowner should be advised when this condition exists.
(NOTE: blower door test must be performed in addition to ECAD audit)
 - Air Duct System performance testing must prove that there is less than 10% leakage.
 - Received energy-efficiency improvements through the Austin Energy Free Home Improvements program; or
 - (Austin Energy offers free home-energy improvements only to customers with low-to-moderate incomes.)
 - Received an Austin Energy Green Building 5-Star rating.
NOTE: All dates related to participation in an Austin Energy Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program or Free Home Improvements program will be the calendar year of participation.

HOME WATER HEATING SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

- Homes with three or more bedrooms that use an electric water heater are required to install a rebated solar hot water system in accordance with the Solar Hot Water Rebate Program Guidelines or an ENERGY STAR® “qualified” water heater listed at <http://www.energystar.gov>
- Homes utilizing heat pump water heaters or currently using heat recovery water heaters with electric water heaters will also be acceptable technologies.
- Homes that utilize an electric water heater are required to have an Austin Energy approved water heater timer installed.

Additional Requirements

- Property deed restrictions must not prohibit the installation of solar photovoltaics on property.

- The customer must transfer to AE, all renewable energy credits (RECs) and other environmental attributes from power generated by PV systems receiving rebates from AE. RECs may be retained if the proper documents are submitted proving that the RECs are required to achieve LEED certification. (See AE Renewable Energy Credit Agreement).
- Customer must have an AE residential electric account number.
- Customers currently participating in the self-read meter program must provide AE access to the new solar and revenue meters.
- PV system cannot be removed from AE service territory.
- Customer must sign the rebate refund agreement on the Solar Rebate Application form.
- AE guidelines and rebate levels are subject to change without notice, and AE reserves the right to refuse any application/request for incentive payment that does not meet AE's requirements.
- Customer must sign the Renewable Energy Credit Microgenerator Listing Form.

Refund Agreement

- A refund shall become due and payable to AE if the customer fails to ensure AE that the rebated equipment is properly maintained and operated at an AE metered address.
- The refund will be calculated by reducing the rebate paid by 20% per year for each of the five years following final inspection and approval (first 20% reduction to occur on the anniversary date of rebate payment).

The Austin Energy guidelines and rebate levels are subject to change at any time, without notice.

Austin Energy – Power Saver™ Program – Commercial Rebate

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