Residential Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Rebate Program

Guidelines and Customer Agreement Form

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

I. Eligibility and Funding

A. Residential rebate applicants must have an Austin Energy residential electric utility account or own the property that has an Austin Energy residential electric utility account at the service address where the PV system is to be installed, and the PV system must be interconnected behind a residential net meter.

B. Homes with existing solar PV systems are not eligible to participate in this program.

C. The PV system must be contracted, permitted, and installed by a participating contractor, listed on Austin Energy's residential solar rebate program website.

D. Customer must complete the solar education module and pass the test prior to applying for a rebate.

E. The minimum PV system size eligible for a rebate is 3 kW-ac (3.6 kW dc).

F. The rebate payment will be issued by the City of Austin and mailed to the customer only after the system has been interconnected and inspected to verify that it meets all program requirements.

G. The applicable rebate is the rebate level in place at the time the customer applies, and will be stated in a Letter of Intent from Austin Energy that is emailed to customer and contractor once the application is accepted.

H. Request for electrical inspection for completed project must occur within 120 days of Letter of Intent receipt. If project is not completed before the Letter of Intent expires customer may reapply at the applicable rebate level at that time.

I. 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).

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 will include any production impacts due to losses, array azimuth, tilt and shading specific to the project proposed.

C. The contractor or builder must submit to Austin Energy, upon request, an onsite report 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. All points of the array are required to have a minimum of 75% total solar resource fraction (TSRF). Contractors found to be installing systems where any point on the array has less than 75% TSRF are subject to disciplinary action according to the Solar Contractors' Handbook.

D. Equipment must be listed by the California Energy Commission on its website, www.gosolarcalifornia.org, to be eligible.

E. 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 Austin Energy website.

F. 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.

G. 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.

H. Clamping attachments (such as S-5 Clamps) must be rated by the manufacturer to be compatible with the roofing system.

I. ***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***.

III. 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. All PV system components eligible for a rebate must be new and have a minimum 10-year warranty to protect against defects and undue degradation of electrical generation output.

C. The participating contractor must warrant that the workmanship be free from defects for a minimum of 10 years.

D. 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 Letter of Intent for their project.

E. NABCEP certified installer must review the layout and system design prior to submittal, and include NABCEP certification number and signature on each.

F. Customers who participate in the Solar Photovoltaic Rebate Program are not eligible for smart meter opt-out.

G. Customer must sign the Customer Agreement Form and Renewable Energy Credit (REC) Assignment Agreement at time of application, and REC Microgenerator Listing Form when requesting final inspection.

H. 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.

I. All residential solar customers will be billed according to Austin Energy's Value of Solar tariff.

IV. Customer Agreement

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

Participating Contractor: _____ Representative: _____

Sub-contractor (for electric permit, if applicable): _____

Proposed kW-dc: _____ Estimated kWh / year: _____ Total Cost (before incentives): _____

AE Account Number: _____ Installation Address: _____

Applicant (homeowner): _____ Email address: _____

Mailing Address (if not Installation Address): _____

Customer/Applicant Signature: _____ Signature Date: _____

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

V. 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

Austin Energy – Solar Program – Residential Rebate
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