



# SolarGenerations Incentive Program Policies & Procedures

## SUMMARY

The SolarGenerations Program offers one-time cash incentives for photovoltaic solar systems installed by NV Energy customers in Nevada. Qualified customers are eligible to receive the incentive upon completion of the project in compliance with utility standards and program requirements. The program is subject to change. Please consult the program website, [nvenergy.com/renewablegenerations](http://nvenergy.com/renewablegenerations) for up-to-date information on program status.

The Nevada Legislature sets capacity levels for each program year and NV Energy will accept applications during a program year until these capacity levels are reached.

Projects are not guaranteed an incentive prior to approval by NV Energy. When approved, NV Energy will send the applicant an Approval Letter designating the kilowatt reservation.

An incentive can only be paid for a system constructed after application to the program. A customer may elect to complete their project after applying but prior to approval, however there is no guarantee that an application will be approved. It is strongly suggested that customers not purchase equipment or sign a binding contractor or consultant agreement until receipt of the Approval Letter.

Participants in the program must participate in NV Energy's Net Metering program. Net Metering allows a participant to offset the purchase of electricity with on-site generated electricity, essentially making the utility revenue meter run backwards. NV Energy will then only bill the customer the monthly customer charge and the net amount of electricity used from the utility grid. Net metering rules do not allow NV Energy to pay customers for electricity produced beyond what the customer consumes, so proper sizing of the system is critical. Any excess electricity remains as a kilowatt hour credit indefinitely on the account. Pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes, all portfolio energy credits issued for a renewable energy system installed in the RenewableGenerations program must be assigned to and become the property of NV Energy.

NV Energy makes no guarantees or warranties, whether expressed or implied, for either contractors' performance or expertise in designing and installing solar generating systems. NV Energy is not associated with and does not have a business interest in any contractor as pertains to this program. NV Energy does not attest to their authority, competency, or integrity. NV Energy requires participants to work with Nevada state licensed contractors and within the terms of a contract.

School, public building, and small business projects have special requirements on paper work submittal.

**All program documents and correspondence should be transmitted through one of the following:**

Email: [renewablegenerations@nvenergy.com](mailto:renewablegenerations@nvenergy.com)

Fax: (775) 852-1405

Mail to:

NV Energy  
RenewableGenerations  
6100 Neil Road S2A35  
Reno, NV 89511

**Program documents and additional information are available at [nvenergy.com/renewablegenerations](http://nvenergy.com/renewablegenerations).**

**RenewableGenerations telephone: 866-786-3823**

## PROCEDURES

### PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

SolarGenerations Incentive Program Policies & Procedures



1. Implement conservation in your home or building. Reducing your energy consumption will reduce the size of the solar system you need.
2. Research solar energy through the internet, the RenewableGenerations website links, friends, contractors, and consultants.
3. Talk to several contractors to determine what solar system is appropriate for your property. Get written quotes to determine costs.
4. Talk to a tax advisor about available federal tax credits.
5. Read and understand the program policies and procedures.

## **SUBMIT APPLICATION**

6. Submit a complete application to NV Energy online, by fax, email, or delivery.
7. You will receive either an Approval Letter explaining your incentive reservation, or a letter stating that your application was not approved, or a letter stating that you have been placed on the waiting list.
8. For Residential applicants, if you receive an Approval Letter, you should begin working with your contractor to install your system. Applicants in the small Business, schools, and public buildings category must submit a one line drawing to NV Energy for approval before beginning construction.

## **SUBMIT PAPER WORK**

9. As soon as your project is complete, you must notify RenewableGenerations and submit the following documents:
  - Application Change Form (for any changes to original application)
  - Satisfied building permit by appropriate municipal authority
  - Voltage Verification Form
  - Copy of itemized invoices showing materials, equipment, and C-2 licensed electrical contractor's labor. System costs include: cost of labor, permits, sales tax, generating equipment, inverters, any performance meter, meter socket, disconnect box, interconnection equipment, and other expenses associated with the project.
  - (For schools and public buildings applicants) – Public Display Statement
10. NV Energy will provide a Net Metering Agreement specific to your system and complete a safety and meter socket verification. Upon signing of the Net Metering Agreement and satisfactory passing of the safety and meter socket verification, NV Energy will install a bi-directional (revenue) meter and generation meter. Once the new meters are set, you may energize your system.
11. Upon successful final verification of your project and receipt of the signed Net Metering Agreement, NV Energy will mail your incentive check within 60 days. Systems that exceed the project cap will only receive the maximum incentive noted on the Approval Letter. Acceptance of the incentive assigns all portfolio energy credits (PEC) derived from operation of the renewable system to NV Energy.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

1. The installation must be on the premise of a Nevada NV Energy grid connected customer. In the case of new construction, the system must become grid connected prior to receiving an incentive.
2. Applicants must satisfy the definition for the category to which they are applying pursuant to NRS 701B.



3. The solar panels and inverters in the project must be listed on the California Energy Commission (CEC) list of eligible solar equipment.
4. For residential and small business applicants, the solar system must be on property owned by the participant.
5. The solar system must have never been installed at another location.
6. The solar system must have the following warranties:
  - Solar panels – 20 years
  - Inverters – 7 years
  - Labor (Labor and Workmanship as defined by the Nevada State Contractors Board) – 2 years
7. All equipment used in the installation must be new as evident on submitted invoices.
8. This program applies to generating system installations made operational during the term of this program. NV Energy reserves the right to modify or withdraw this program and its incentives at any time.

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. The grid connection MUST be made by an active C-2 licensed Nevada electrical contractor.
2. NV Energy reserves the right to inspect an installation for compliance with 24 hour emergency access, utility standards, and program requirements.
3. NV Energy reserves the right at all times to evaluate the installed generating system for reasons not limited to verification of kW output and verification that the installation remains in compliance with utility standards.
5. NV Energy has the right of access to a customer's premises for any purpose normally connected with the furnishing of electric energy and the exercise of the rights secured to it by law and program rules.
6. To ensure public safety and the distribution system's reliability, NV Energy may have to disconnect the customer-owned generation from the distribution system in order to work on NV Energy owned equipment at any time and without notice. Therefore, NV Energy will **require unimpeded and unescorted 24 hour access** to the disconnect switch as a matter of public safety.
7. Meter readers may have to connect an optical probe to the revenue meter every month and will therefore **require unimpeded, unescorted access** to the revenue meter and the generation meter during regular hours of operation, which are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.
8. For program participants, NV Energy is required to install a generation meter in an approved meter socket. The meter will be furnished and installed by NV Energy after project completion, execution of the Net Metering Agreement, and a satisfactory verification by NV Energy. The customer and/or his contractor is responsible for installing a meter socket in compliance with NV Energy standards as follows:
  - 240 Volt single phase non-bimodal invertors
    - ANSI Standard 4 Jaw socket
    - 120/240 Volts
    - 100 amps or 200 amps depending on system size
    - Single phase three wire
    - UL Listed, NEMA 3R
    - Ring type
    - No by-pass mechanism
    - AC disconnect and generation meter socket must be located with 10 feet of the revenue meter
  - Three phase non-bimodal invertors
    - ANSI Standard 7 jaw safety socket with test bypass facilities.
    - UL listed with separable neutral ground connection.
    - 100 amps or 200 amps depending on system size
    - UL Listed, NEMA 3R
    - Ring type
    - AC disconnect and generation meter socket must be located with 10 feet of the revenue meter



9. Before a customer may receive an incentive, NV Energy will conduct a final safety verification to ensure that:

- AC disconnect and generation meter socket are located within 10 feet of the revenue meter
- AC disconnect is accessible, lockable, visible-blade type, and is manually operated from outside the enclosure
- AC disconnect operates properly
- Generation meter and AC disconnect are wired correctly to meet NV Energy standards
- Generation meter tag is installed (by NV Energy)
- AC disconnect tag is installed properly (by NV Energy)
- Revenue meter tag is installed (by NV Energy)
- Transformer tag is installed properly, if applicable (by NV Energy)
- System meets all applicable NV Energy standards, (such as meter height between 48" and 75") See Utility Standards for " Net Metering Systems"

10. Systems may not go online until NV Energy sets the revenue (bi-directional) meter. However, a system test may be conducted using a UL listed jumper or customer provided UL rated meter. The applicant will not receive kWh credit for energy put back into the grid until the NV Energy revenue meter is set.

## CATEGORIES, INCENTIVES, AND CAPS

Applicants may apply in the following categories:

- residential/small Business
- schools
- public buildings

The incentive payment is the **incentive rate** multiplied by **AC wattage (WAC)** of the installation.

**WAC** = California Energy Commission (CEC PTC) rating of the panel multiplied by number of modules multiplied by CEC efficiency rating of the inverter

The CEC list for eligible panels and inverters can be found at [www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov/equipment/index.html](http://www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov/equipment/index.html)

The **incentive rate** for the residential/small Business category is \$2.10 per watt of installed capacity.

The **incentive rate** for the schools and public buildings categories is \$4.60 per watt of installed capacity.

The **maximum incentive** for residential projects is 5 kW.

The **maximum incentive** for small business projects is 30 kW.

The **maximum incentive** for public buildings is 30 kW.

The **maximum incentive** for schools is 50 kW\*.

Applicants may install a larger system than the maximum incentive, but the incentive paid will be the maximum incentive for that category or the Approval Letter reservation, whichever is less. There is no minimum size of installation. The maximum size of a system for Net Metering is 1,000 kW.

\* Nevada Revised Statutes allows the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) to make exceptions to the maximum incentive of 50 kilowatts for schools projects if it deems a larger project is more "practical" for a school property. Exceptions must be addressed directly to the PUCN.

## SITING REQUIREMENTS

Solar panels must not face more than 90 degrees from true South.

Array must not have more than 25 percent shading.



## DISCREPANCIES

If there are differences between the completed project and an on-site analysis, the participant will receive a letter detailing these findings. This letter provides an opportunity for the applicant (or assigned contractor) to dispute the verification results. If after a period of 10 days the customer does not dispute the findings, the revised incentive levels will be confirmed.

## SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 701B, participants in the schools and public buildings categories must provide for the public display of their renewable energy project that includes a hands-on experience for the public. Schools and public building applicants are required to submit a Public Display Statement as part of the final paperwork providing details of the public display.

## CHANGES TO APPLICATION

Any changes to an approved application must be submitted to NV Energy on an Application Change Form. The Form must be signed by the applicant and the contractor. Regardless of changes to equipment, the incentive will be paid based on the original kilowatt reservation authorized in the Approval Letter.

The following items may be submitted for change:

- Contractor
- Equipment
- Incentive assignment
- Location of equipment
- Location of disconnect or generation meter (Must be approved prior to system installation)

## VARIANCES TO NV ENERGY STANDARDS

Applicants who request an exception to NV Energy standards in order to participate in the program must follow the procedures below or risk being withdrawn from the program and forfeiting the incentive.

A request for a variance must be submitted prior to system installation by an electrical contractor or professional engineer with company name, address, phone, email and license number. All attached drawings must reference the contractor or engineer.

In addition to the Application Change Form, the submittal must include a written description of the request, the reason for requesting the exception, the applicable NV Energy standard, and an estimated cost of not complying with the standard. In addition, the request should include a site drawing clearly indicating the generating equipment, disconnect and generation meter with dimensions. When possible, the customer should submit digital photos of the existing condition that warrants consideration.

NV Energy prefers all drawings to be submitted electronically. Once submitted, they become the property NV Energy. A written response, including approval of the variance (if granted) will be emailed or mailed to the customer.

## VERIFICATIONS

NV Energy may conduct pre- and post-installation verifications to determine compliance with program requirements. Additionally, a safety verification will be conducted at each site prior to final approval, replacing and/or setting of the new meters and operation of the system. All verifications must pass for final approval of the project.

The pre-installation verifications are for compliance with the program rules. The pre-installation verification is not an inspection for compliance with building codes or NV Energy standards. The pre-installation verification may include observation and photo documentation of the following:

- The anticipated equipment location and surrounding area
- Project street location and address



- Proposed inverter location
- Available space at the existing meter for placement of the required generation meter socket and AC disconnect
- Other items as necessary to confirm project adheres to program rules

Any deviation(s) from program requirements discovered at the pre-installation verification will be accompanied by a list of recommendations for correcting noted deficiencies. Re-verification may be required prior to issuing an Approval letter from NV Energy.

The program post-installation verification may include the following:

- Observation and verification of project installation
- Compliance with application, site drawing and one-line electrical drawing (if applicable)
- Photographs of completed installation, specifically the generation meter socket, AC disconnect, and revenue meter

Any deviation from program requirements or approved design discovered at the post-installation verification will be accompanied by a list of recommendations for correcting noted deficiencies. Re-verification may be required prior to performing the final verification and setting of the meter(s).

## DISPUTE RESOLUTION

NV Energy will make all efforts to ensure a high level of satisfaction with all aspects of the program. However, if any problems or concerns should arise, we encourage you to contact NV Energy immediately.

If the dispute cannot be resolved, contact John Hargrove, Program Manager for NV Energy at (775) 834-5580.

## TAX FILING AND REPORTING

Incentives paid by NV Energy may have tax implications. All applicants are encouraged to consult a tax professional. Applicants will be responsible for any tax liability imposed as a result of incentive payments.

## DEFINITIONS

**Alternating Current (AC):** the current received by NV Energy and the output from the inverter.

**Applicant:** The individual(s) applying to participate in the SolarGenerations program.

**Direct Current (DC):** The electrical current produced by the generating system and the input to the inverter.

**Disconnects (AC or DC):** A breaker in a distribution panel or a fusible switch. Both may be required and NV Energy personnel must have access to this box.

**Generation Meter:** The meter indicating total system production of kWh over time. This meter is provided by NV Energy.

**Grid:** the distribution network of NV Energy.

**Inverter:** A device that converts DC power from a generating system into AC power for use at the property where the system is located. Only grid-interactive inverters are eligible for participation in the SolarGenerations program. This type of inverter operates in parallel with the grid only when the NV Energy grid is available. In event of a power outage, the system is designed to disconnect from the grid until NV Energy has restored power. This function is to provide protection for field personnel.

**Net Metering:** The measuring of the difference between the electricity a customer buys from NV Energy and the electricity produced by the customer's generating equipment. The revenue meter keeps track of this "net" difference between the electricity generated on site and the electricity taken from the electric grid. A net metering system may not have a capacity of more than 1 megawatt.

**Owned, leased or occupied:** Any real property, building or facilities which are owned, leased or occupied under a deed, lease, contract, license, permit, grant, patent or any other type of legal authorization.



**Participant:** A person who has been selected to participate in the SolarGenerations program.

**Portfolio Energy Credit (PEC):** A process of awarding, trading, tracking, and submitting credits as a means of meeting the Renewable Portfolio Standard for renewable energy. A PEC relative to this program represents one kilowatt hour (kWh) of renewable energy that is physically metered and verified. Per Nevada law, NV Energy must produce a certain amount of renewable energy per year. The solar systems installed under this program will qualify for PEC for NV Energy. Formerly called Renewable Energy Credit (REC).

**Program year:** The period of July 1 to June 30 of the following year.

**Public Property:** Any real property, building or facilities owned, leased or occupied by:

1. A department, agency or instrumentality of the State or any of its political subdivisions which is used for the transaction of public or quasi-public business; or

2. A nonprofit organization that is recognized as exempt from taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), as amended, or a corporation for public benefit as defined in NRS 82.021.

**Incentive:** The amount to be paid to the customer, contractor, or supplier for approved participation in the RenewableGenerations program.

**Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS):** A regulatory policy that requires the increased production of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and hydro energies. It places an obligation on NV Energy to produce a specified fraction of its electricity from renewable energy sources.

**Revenue Meter:** A meter installed by NV Energy that measures the electricity used by the customer from the grid and the amount of electricity that the customer's renewable energy system sends back to the grid.

**School Property:** Any real property, building or facilities owned, leased or occupied by:

1. A public school as defined in NRS 385.007;

2. A private school as defined in NRS 394.103; or

3. An institution of higher education.

**Small Business:** A business conducted for profit which employs 500 or fewer full-time or part-time employees.

**Utility:** NV Energy

**Utility Interconnection:** The physical connection between the NV Energy grid and the customer generation. An Interconnection Agreement (or a Net Metering Agreement) is needed for a customer to have on-site electric generation connected to the NV Energy grid.