# RenewableGenerations

Private Rooftop Solar Support is Alive and Well at NV Energy.

*Company On Track to Achieve Legislative Goal of Distributed Generation Opportunities for Customers.* 

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Through RenewableGenerations, NV Energy customers contributed approximately \$35 for each installed panel.

## **RenewableGenerations Exceeds Expectations**

NV Energy has been helping to fund a variety of renewable energy installations at customer locations for more than a decade. These opportunities have ranged from rooftop solar systems at customer homes or businesses, wind turbines at remote ranch operations, small hydro installations for agricultural applications, and even solar water heating opportunities.

Thanks to growing customer interest and numerous independent businesses involved in private rooftop solar installations at schools, small businesses, nonprofits, and residential homes, 2015 was a record year for RenewableGenerations.





During a single month in 2015, NV Energy supported more private rooftop solar installations than customers had requested in the first seven years of program operations.



# By the numbers

For the 12-month period ended December 31, 2015, NV Energy paid more than \$16 million in solar-installation incentives, which resulted in nearly 80 megawatts of private rooftop solar generation. [A megawatt of energy is enough energy to power approximately 600 typical Nevada homes.]

September 2015 was the most active month and a remarkable 2,108 private rooftop solar projects were supported throughout Nevada. Incentives paid for that month alone totaled nearly \$3 million.



# **History of RenewableGenerations**

The RenewableGenerations program was created by the Nevada Legislature in 2003. Through funding provided by NV Energy's customers, it was designed to spur the development of customer-based renewable energy in Nevada. When NV Energy launched the program, it became a national leader in providing financial support for customers adopting private rooftop solar energy and solar-heated water applications. That leadership has continued during the program's 12-year history, as other utilities and jurisdictions have sought to mimic the popular success of the program.

After four years as a solar-only program, the Nevada Legislature added wind and micro-hydro energy in 2007. NV Energy again assumed a leading role in strengthening the renewable industry in Nevada by attracting national attention to its development of wind and hydro technologies at customer homes, schools, nonprofits, and small businesses across the state.



Upon reaching the program's 10-year milestones and helping Nevada's renewable industry develop from marginal availability to a robust sector of more than a hundred renewable service companies, the Legislature mapped out the final design of the program in 2013 by setting an ambitious goal of 250 megawatts of customer-located solar capacity by the year 2021.

# 2021 Legislated Goal is On Target

With numerous companies operating in Nevada and utilizing NV Energy's RenewableGenerations incentives, the Nevada Legislature's 2021 goal of achieving 250 megawatts of solar capacity is now in sight and could be achieved sooner than expected. It also should be noted that the previous net metering cap was eliminated in 2015.

This 2003-2015 RenewableGenerations success reflects well on the Nevada Legislature, on the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, on NV Energy and on the willingness of Nevadans to embrace renewable energy.

RenewableGenerations is the renewable energy incentive program administered by NV Energy under the laws of the Nevada Legislature and regulated by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada.

For more information, visit: nvenergy.com/renewablegenerations



**Total Installed Distributed Generation Capacity by Year** 

\*Pipeline includes all projects who applied for systems on 12/31/15. \*\*The net metering cap was eliminated in 2015.



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# **Explanation of the Incentive Application Process**

At first blush, it seems quite simple and logical that an NV Energy customer could install a private renewable energy system, let the company know, and then expect an incentive payment a few days later. But customers and their selected solar companies are finding that it can take up to four months to complete a project. The numerous steps in this process include making sure that the solar installation will meet the legislated mandate, selecting a vendor to install the system, securing the necessary city or county building code inspections, submitting the necessary information to comply with all laws and regulations, assuring that the electrical connection to the grid is safe and follows established government standards, and receiving the incentive payment from NV Energy.



- 1 NV Energy customer submits an application to RenewableGenerations.
- 2 NV Energy reviews the application for accuracy and requests any necessary changes or clarifications.
- 3 NV Energy notifies the customer and selected installation company that the renewable energy project may be installed.
- 4 Customer's selected contractor installs system.
- **5** Customer or contractor obtain local jurisdiction inspection.
- 6 All required paperwork is submitted to NV Energy.
- 7 NV Energy RenewableGenerations team reviews the paperwork for accuracy, and any necessary corrections or clarifications are made by the customer or contractor.
- 8 NV Energy conducts electrical grid safety inspection according to established standards. If the system passes, the meter is installed. If the system does not pass, the customer and/or contractor is responsible for fixing.
- **9** Meter is installed, system is energized and customer is put on the net metering rate.
- **10** System energy production is verified and the incentive is paid to either the customer or if they choose their installer.



Private rooftop solar installations, coupled with major large-scale solar projects, ranks NV Energy 7th among energy companies.

## What Customers Are Saying

From what I experienced from your renewable generations dept., they are all well trained and motivated. What a pleasure it was to work with ALL of them. Your employees helped buffer some of the mistakes made by my contractor and installer and were extremely patient with them as well.

## Scott and Colette L.

My experience was great. My contractor communicated with me every step of the way – keeping me informed and up to date on our progress. As soon as NV Energy got involved, they also communicated with me [and kept] me informed about when I could expect. They were right on time. I have been very satisfied with the whole experience.

### Anonymous

Christie and the rest of your staff are some of the most helpful and well prepared representatives I have worked with in the 3 years I have been doing solar. They are knowledgeable, and encouraging on each phone call. Not to mention, I can always reach someone during working hours!

> Michael W. SOLAR INSTALLER

When NV Energy came out to do your inspection, (of my installed rooftop solar) she listened to all my issue's that I was having and told me that she would look into them and offered to help in any way should could. She not only provided follow up phone calls to tell me where we were at in the process, she also made sure that my final installation would be provided sooner rather than later.

### Doug S.

Thank you for your outstanding presentation made at the Neighborhood Leadership Forum. The attendees were enlightened by the crash course on solar for homeowners. The information presented gave a better understanding of the process for solar power and the many incentives and benefits of this renewable resource.

## Heather V.







## NV Energy's Customers are Served by One of the Most Diverse Renewable Energy Portfolios in the Nation

- NV Energy customers are currently being served by 20 geothermal energy resources, 12 utility-scale solar fields, a large windfarm and a dozen small hydro and biomass projects. And more are on the way.
- In 2015, NV Energy exceeded the required 20% Renewable Portfolio Standard with an RPS of 21.2% in southern Nevada and 31.3% in northern Nevada.
- The Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) has named NV Energy as the 7th top energy company in the nation for its solar energy installations in 2015.
- Ten years ago large-scale solar energy cost more than 15 cents a kilowatt-hour, but the newest community-sized solar projects can provide solar energy for under 5 cents a kilowatt-hour. Currently, NV Energy purchases the excess from private rooftop solar systems in southern Nevada for 9.2 cents a kilowatt-hour.
- Coal-fueled generation was once the dominant source for energy in southern Nevada, but now only represents about 10 percent of NV Energy's supply. By 2019, NV Energy will no longer own any coalfired generation to meet southern Nevada's energy needs.
  - Even with the reduction in coal-fueled generation and dramatic use of renewable energy, NV Energy's customers experienced the fourth rate decrease since July 1, 2015. Rates today are lower than they were five years ago.



### Installed Renewable Capacity by Year

\* Includes regulatory approved projects

