



RESIDENTIAL PHOTOVOLTAIC REBATE PROGRAM:

Frequently Asked Questions:

If your question isn't answered here, please call our solar program administrator at 951-826-5475 or [e-mail us](mailto:jbuydos@riversideca.gov) at jbuydos@riversideca.gov

What is a solar electric, or photovoltaic, system?

Solar electric or photovoltaic (PV) systems use sun's energy to make electricity.

Do I have a good site for a PV system?

Your site must have clear, unobstructed access to the sun. Buildings, trees or other vegetation should not shade your site. South-facing roof exposure is best, but roofs facing east and west may be okay. If a rooftop is not available, your PV system can also be mounted on the ground.

What is Net Energy Metering?

At times, your PV system may generate more energy than you need. During these periods, the extra electricity is sent through your utility meter and onto the electric grid for others to use. At the end of the associated billing period, you pay only for your household's net electricity use. This is called net energy metering (NEM), and it's another benefit of becoming a solar energy generator. Please keep in mind that you will still be responsible for paying your customer charge, reliability charge, public benefits charge and all associated taxes.

In order to benefit from net energy metering, RPU will issue a [Net Energy Metering Interconnection Agreement](#) for your PV system, which must be completed, signed and submitted to RPU.

How much does a PV system cost?

An average PV system can cost between \$6 to \$10 per watt, installed, for a 4 kW system before rebates or tax credits. This program is available to RPU residential electric customers. If applicant is a tenant or renter, the property owner must sign the application. The application must be submitted within 90 days of the purchase date.

Are financing programs available?

The best way to finance a PV system for your home is through a mortgage loan that includes a primary mortgage, secondary mortgage or home equity loan, or property tax secured by your property. If mortgage financing is not available, consider other sources such as conventional bank loans.

[Lean more about home energy efficiency loans.](#)

How can I find a PV vendor?

You can also search the California Energy Commission's website at www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov or www.findsolar.com.