



Program Guide for Solar Electric Allies

Developed by Energy Trust of Oregon

Part 3: Solar Installation Incentive Offerings and Requirements

3.1 *Standard Solar Electric Installation Incentives*

Solar electric installation incentives are intended to make solar more affordable for customers and are paid in a lump sum to lower the initial cost of systems. For simplicity, the Program offers standard incentive rates based on rated DC power capacity of the qualifying photovoltaic array. The rates are set in consideration of many factors, such as system costs, project type, available tax credits, market demand and available budget. They are also based on an expectation that each solar electric system will remain operational for at least 20 years.

The funds Energy Trust receives from PGE and Pacific Power ratepayers are managed separately. As a result, solar electric incentive rates and maximum incentive amounts may be different for PGE and Pacific Power customers. Energy Trust strives to set incentive levels to manage consumer demand such that the Program can continue to accept new project applications throughout the year; however, incentive funding is always subject to availability and the incentive budget for one utility may be exhausted before the incentive budget for the other utility.

To manage its limited incentive funding, the Program may change incentive rates using a “step” system. The Program allocates funds for a given incentive offer and announces what the next step down (incentive reduction) will be once those funds are exhausted. Timing for incentive changes depend on the level of demand for the current allocation. If demand for an incentive rate is low or on target, the Program may choose to extend the current rate by adding funds to an allocation. Allies can track status of the current incentive offerings and funding allocations using the weekly incentive status report on the Energy Trust Insider website.

Incentive offerings are subject to funding availability and applications are processed on a first-come, first served basis. An application is not considered for funding until a complete, signed application package with all required materials is submitted to Energy Trust.

3.2 *Solar Development Assistance*

In April 2019, Energy Trust introduced its Solar Development Assistance (SDA) offering. A Solar Development Assistance incentive application (Form 230D) is now accessible via PowerClerk®.

The SDA incentive was created to support non-residential customers through the early stages of developing a solar system. This offering is intended for complex projects with long construction timelines that would benefit from receiving a financial incentive prior to construction. The incentive is intended to offset the cost of developing a Solar Feasibility Report. This site-specific report will include a solar site evaluation, preliminary system design(s), initial engineering, and enough utility interconnection due diligence to ensure a solar electric system is technically and financially feasible. The qualifying customer and trade ally can also submit an application for solar installation incentives in addition to the SDA incentive.

To qualify for this new offering, applicants must meet Energy Trust's Solar Electric Installation Requirements and additional requirements outlined in **Section 5** of this program guide. The project owner must fall into one of the following categories to qualify for an SDA incentive; Non-profit/Governmental Project, New Building Project, Utility Grant Applicant, or Solar Plus Storage Applicant.

3.3 Solar Within Reach

In November 2019, Energy Trust introduced its Solar Within Reach (SWR) offering. SWR incentives are now accessible via PowerClerk®.

The SWR incentive offering was created as part of an effort to expand opportunities in renewables for moderate-income households, and as part of Energy Trust's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) goals. The intent is to provide supplemental incentives beyond the standard amount to income-qualified customers pursuing rooftop solar. Only approved solar trade allies are eligible to offer Solar Within Reach incentives to qualifying customers. Participating trade allies and customers must meet all requirements set forth in **Section 6** of this program guide.

3.4 Solar Ready

Energy Trust's Solar Ready programs are intended to support designers and builders in implementing solar ready features in new construction. Energy Trusts offers technical assistance and incentives to reduce the cost of constructing new homes and buildings with solar ready features. These programs are available for both residential and commercial projects, managed by the Energy Trust New Homes and the Energy Trust New Buildings programs. For commercial projects, there are two available incentives; Early Design Meeting Solar Add-On, and the Solar Ready Construction Incentive. These programs are discussed in more detail in **Section 7** of this program guide.