

California State Solar Policies Primer

Solar is a good option for a large part of California. The state offers multiple strong incentives for solar, to support its requirements for utilities to generate clean energy. (They want to generate 50% of their energy from renewable sources by 2030!) This is one of the more complicated states in terms of policy, because all of the utility companies have different policies. If you need help deciphering how your utility incentivizes solar, we are here to help!



Net Metering- California offers net metering policy for all utility customers. However, it is much more complicated than normal in California, as different utilities offer different policies. The most common, adopted by most large utilities, is referred to as Net Metering 2.0, which functions differently than normal net metering (as described in Solar 101 Primer). It is very complicated, offering different credit rates at different times, small transportation fees for energy you send back, and more. It isn't as amazing as some states' policies, but it still works out in your favor! Customers of the LADWP will have a different, more traditional net metering policy, and other utilities vary too. However, you still get to use all the energy you generate for free, and get credited for all of your extra energy. This leads to a huge amount of saving, especially when you have high electricity bills.

Solar Rebates- Many utilities in California offer rebates for solar. This is generally on a per kW system, so the larger the system you install, the more money they'll give you as a rebate. Check with your utility company to see if they offer any rebates!

Feed-in Tariffs-This incentive is not offered by all utilities, but some offer this program. It functions as a way for you to generate power in a stand-alone system, not connected to a retail meter, and send away and sell all of the energy to the grid at set rates. It allows you to own a mini power plant!

Tax Exemptions- California also offers property tax exemptions. This means that even though your property value will go up with solar, your property tax payment will not rise!

In addition to these incentives, you will be able to receive the federal incentives as well!

*All incentives as of 6/11/18. All are subject to change by policymakers or utilities at any time.