

## Rhode Island State Solar Policies Primer

Rhode Island is one of the top states in the country to install solar. This is greatly due to their policies and incentives that make it easy and profitable to install solar systems in the state. \*



**Net Metering-** Rhode Island has one of the better net metering policies. As explained in the Solar 101 Primer, net metering allows you to drastically lower your electric bills. Firstly, you use all energy you generate for free. Then, any extra energy you generate will be sent back to your utility company, and you will get a credit for it. That credit can then be used towards the cost of any energy you pull from the grid, negating that cost. Any excess energy in your account at the end of the month is called Net Excess Generation (NEG). In Rhode Island, these credits can either be used by the customer or bought by the utility company at wholesale rates. Systems can be sized to your average yearly load, up to 10 MW.

**Renewable Energy Growth Program-** This is Rhode Island's performance-based payment program, which you can choose over net metering. It offers both a 15 and 20-year tariff deal, where you sell all of the energy you generate, and get paid on a per kWh basis. (You can think of yourself as a mini power plant!) This process is based upon a bidding system. The state chooses a certain amount of energy set aside that they will fund with the program. You will then bid how much you're willing to receive for your electricity, anywhere under their set ceiling price. (Don't worry, we'll help!) The projects are approved starting with those taking the least money per kWh, up until the cap is reached.

**Small Scale Solar Grants-** This incentive is meant for small residential systems. It offers a set per watt grant for solar systems installed, up to \$8,000!

**Commercial Scale Renewable Energy Grants-** This incentive is the commercial counterpart to the grant program above. Similarly, it offers a per watt rate for both customer and 3<sup>rd</sup> party owned systems, that decrease slightly at 50 kilowatt intervals, up to \$80,000!

**Tax Exemptions-** Rhode Island also offers tax exemptions on solar, including both sales and property taxes. Your property tax will not raise when you install your solar system, even though your property value will! Also, all solar installations are sales tax exempt, so you immediately save 7%.

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

\*All incentives as of 6/7/18. All are subject to change by policymakers or utilities at any time.