

City of San Marcos Distributed Generation Rebate Program



The City of San Marcos Distributed Generation (DG) Rebate Program encourages installation of grid-tied renewable energy systems such as solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind systems.



Eligibility

Pre-approval is required in order to qualify for this rebate! The DG Rebate Program is

open to existing San Marcos Electric Utility (SMEU) customers with an account in good standing. The rebate applicant must be both the property owner and the electric utility customer. Customer must have at least twelve months of electric usage history at the current address. Single-family homes must meet minimum energy efficiency criteria in order to qualify. Rebate is not applicable to systems less than 1 kW, or systems sized to produce more than 100% of the annual energy consumption.

Rebate Amounts

\$1.00 per watt up to \$2,500 for single-family residential customers. \$1.00 per watt up to \$5,000 for commercial customers. Rebate may not exceed 50% of installed cost.

System Requirements

- Solar PV systems must be professionally designed and installed by a [NABCEP certified installer](#). Solar panels and inverters must be listed by the California Solar Initiative (www.gosolarcalifornia.org). Panels must have a minimum 20 year warranty, and inverters at least a 5 year warranty. Solar arrays should be located on the most southern facing side of the structure; those facing in a northern direction will not qualify for a rebate. SMEU may deny rebates based on excessive shading or poor orientation of the solar array. The installation location must have and maintain a sufficient amount of unobstructed space to achieve the design output as estimated by the PV Watts Calculator (<http://pvwatts.nrel.gov>). SMEU may require a documented shade analysis and/or measures to address obstructions prior to approval of a rebate.
- Wind generation systems must be professionally designed and installed, and equipment must have UL certificate of compliance (UL 6140; UL 1741). Wind systems must be warranted as follows: minimum 5 years for generator and 5 years for installation.

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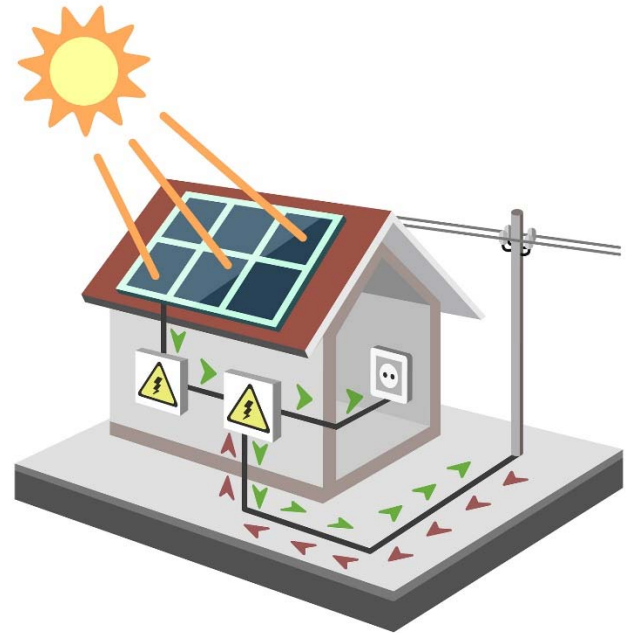
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- To qualify for the rebate, systems must be interconnected to the SMEU distribution system so that any excess power production is returned to the grid. DG rebate participants are not eligible for smart meter opt-out.

Installer Requirements

Solar installers must be NABCEP certified, and must be listed on the NABCEP certification list together with the organization name. The NABCEP certified installer must review the system layout and design prior to submittal, and include their NABCEP certification number and signature on each document. Installer must provide a written warranty of at least 5 years for installation.



Rebate Process

- Step 1: Pre-approval is required in order to qualify for the rebate!** Customer must contact the SMEU Conservation Department to schedule a free energy audit to determine rebate eligibility.
- Step 2:** Customer chooses a qualifying renewable energy contractor. All contractors must be registered with the [City of San Marcos Permit Center](#).
- Step 3:** Customer submits completed rebate application to the SMEU Conservation Department, along with a site layout/diagram showing the proposed installation, proposed equipment specification sheets, and PV Watts report showing estimated kWh production.
- Step 4:** SMEU Conservation staff will review the application packet and funds availability, and issue a Letter of Approval to proceed with purchase and installation of the renewable energy system.
- Step 5:** Contractor submits permit application to the City of San Marcos Permit Center. Permit application must include a one-line electrical diagram, a completed Distributed Generation Interconnection and Meter Application, and a signed Distributed Generation Interconnection Agreement.
- Step 6:** Contractor may proceed with installation after approval and issuance of the permit.
- Step 7:** Contractor contacts the Permit Center to schedule a final inspection.
- Step 8:** Customer submits final itemized invoices and warranty information to SMEU Conservation staff. All documentation must be received within 30 days after the final inspection, and no more than 90 days after the date of the Letter of Approval.
- Step 9:** City staff will process rebate as either a credit on the utility bill or as a check mailed to the customer.

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Additional Terms

- Rebates are offered on a first come/first serve basis and are subject to availability of funds.
- SMEU may alter program requirements at any time without prior notice.
- SMEU reserves the right to deny any application or refuse incentive payment for systems that do not meet all program requirements.
- Rebated products must be installed within the SMEU service area, and must remain in use at the specified address for the lifetime of the product. If the system is removed, the customer will be billed a pro-rated amount of the original rebate as follows: 80% after 1 year, 60% after 2 years, 40% after 3 years, and 20% after 4 years.
- Rebates of \$600 or more will be reported to the IRS. Applicant must submit a completed W-9 Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification form.
- Rebate amount is pre-tax and is for purchase of new equipment and installation only. Rebate is not applicable to leases, used equipment, maintenance agreements, warranties, re-roofing/structural work, batteries or any other items.
- Applicant must comply with applicable local, state and federal regulations, and must obtain all required permits and inspections.
- The City of San Marcos does not endorse specific brands, products, contractors or dealers; nor does it guarantee materials, workmanship, performance or durability of rebated products.

Important Information and Disclosures

- Customer is responsible for ensuring that property deed restrictions do not prohibit or limit installation of solar PV or wind generation on the property.
- Customer should obtain three written estimates or quotes before choosing a renewable energy contractor, and should carefully read all contracts and other documents associated with their purchase.
- Texas law allows customers who make a "[home solicitation transaction](#)" 72 hours to cancel the purchase.
- Texas law through the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations requires that all electrical contractors provide in print their Texas Electrical Contractor License Number on all written sales and solicitation documents.

For more information call 512-393-8310 or email jklein@sanmarcostx.gov

Send completed application packet to:
City of San Marcos Public Services - Conservation Dept.
630 East Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

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PRE-APPROVAL IS REQUIRED - submit completed application packet before purchase and installation of renewable energy system. Incomplete applications will be returned.

Customer Information

Electric utility customer (or business) name: _____
San Marcos electric utility account number: _____
Installation address: _____
Contact person name: _____
Mailing address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone number: _____ Email: _____
Date of COSM renewable energy inspection: _____ (required for single-family residential)

Contractor Information

Business/organization name: _____
NABCEP certified installer: _____ NABCEP #: _____
Contact person name: _____
Mailing address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone number: _____ Email: _____

System Information

Attach site layout/diagram, equipment spec sheets and PV Watts report

Brand/model of PV modules (or wind generator): _____
Number of modules: _____ System rated capacity (Watts, DC): _____
Project cost (\$): _____ (include equipment, commission, tax, finance, installation costs)
Cost per watt (\$): _____ (project cost / system rated capacity)

***I have read, understand, and agree to the City of San Marcos Distributed
Generation Rebate Program requirements, terms and disclosures.***

Electric utility customer name (printed): _____
Signature: _____ **Date:** _____