

# Go Solar California!

California Solar Initiative, the Golden State's Million Solar Roofs Program

## Update on the CPUC California Solar Initiative Program Administration September 12, 2007

*Please note these recent and potential changes to the administration of the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) solar rebate programs.* The CPUC staff expects to release a revised CSI Program Handbook with the changes in September on [www.GoSolarCalifornia.ca.gov](http://www.GoSolarCalifornia.ca.gov) and via the CPUC CSI Proceeding Service list. Otherwise, watch the GoSolarCalifornia website for any changes to the California Energy Commission's New Solar Homes Program.

On January 1, 2007, the state began an entirely new incentive program to drive the installation of 3,000 MW of *high-quality, high-performing solar installations* over the next 10 years. This program asks ratepayers to make a significant investment in solar: over \$3 billion statewide. The performance-based program has resulted in additional steps before an installer or system owner can receive their rebate check. The CPUC is closely monitoring the rollout of the CPUC portion of the CSI program to balance our performance requirements against paperwork costs to system owners and installers. Listed below are some areas where the new CPUC CSI program is already evolving based on our initial experience with the new program requirements.

### *CPUC CSI Program Handbook Changes*

The CPUC has recently made decisions on a number of key areas that will affect the operation of the CSI Program. They change the current Program Handbook in the following ways:

- Temporarily remove the requirement for Time of Use (TOU) rates until new TOU rates are developed by the investor-owned utilities. (Sec. 2.8)
- BIPV products are now eligible for the EPBB incentive if on the CEC eligibility list. (Sec. 3.3)
- All EPBB incentive meters and inverter-integrated meters must be +/- 5% accurate. (Sec. 11)
- The CSI Program Handbook incorrectly describes the Performance Monitoring and Reporting Services (PMRS) requirements for EPBB incentives. *Any* EPBB incentive recipient (up to 100 kW) that can demonstrate PMRS estimates above the prescribed cost cap is exempted. All CSI Program participants must now submit a copy of either an executed PMRS Contract or proof that the customer cannot meet the cost cap included with the Incentive Claim Form package. (Sec. 4.7.3)
- Allow self-installation of solar energy systems. (section 2.1.4)
- Remove *all* insurance requirements. The proposal does not change insurance requirements for the interconnection process, just the CSI rebate application process. (Sec. 2.6)
- Remove the requirement to have an incentive reservation approved by the CSI Program Administrator prior to obtaining the interconnection agreement. (Sec. 2.1.1)
- Remove the required solar system description worksheet for residential and non-residential systems under 10 kW. (Sec. 4.7.1.3)



California Energy Commission  
New Solar Homes Partnership  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-45  
Sacramento, CA 95814

[www.GoSolarCalifornia.ca.gov](http://www.GoSolarCalifornia.ca.gov)

California Public Utilities Commission  
California Solar Initiative Program  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102



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- Remove required electrical system sizing paperwork for systems under 5 kW. (Sec. 4.7.1.4)
- Remove the requirement for all residential, as well as non-residential systems under 10 kW, to submit the application for interconnection to the grid with the initial request for systems. (Sec. 4.7.1.8.)

## *New California Solar Initiative Resources*

- Program Administrators launched a web-based application tool on August 6 to speed requests for the incentives and present program data. The tool will soon offer program database reports and statistics on [www.GoSolarCalifornia.ca.gov](http://www.GoSolarCalifornia.ca.gov).
- CSI Program Administrators hold monthly training opportunities to clarify the administrative processes, shading methodology, the online application database, and other program information. See each Program Administrator's website to find the next training opportunity.

## *Further Possible CSI Program Changes Beyond September*

- CSI Program Administrators are investigating ways to reduce the CSI residential program contract to a smaller number of pages and finding other means to reduce paperwork.
- The CPUC is deliberating a Petition to Modify the decision to require Performance Monitoring and Reporting Services (PMRS) services. The CSI metering committee is discussing minimum required services, data transfer protocols, and independence requirements. (Sec. 11)
- As directed by a December 2006 CPUC decision, the administrators will also propose eligible technologies and requirements for non-PV incentives.
- The Energy Commission is developing guidelines for receiving future CSI incentives, including energy efficiency requirements. See <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sb1/meetings/index.html> for details.

## *How Are CPUC CSI Program Administrative Changes Made?*

Since January 2007, the CPUC staff and its program administrators have been working closely with industry to identify ways to streamline and simplify the new process. The CPUC established quarterly CSI program forums to raise ongoing implementation issues. When there is industry consensus on the issues and solutions, the administrators propose changes to the CPUC in an Advice Letter, as they did in July 2007. *The administrators always welcome solution-oriented proposals.*

For more details on the program and updates, visit [www.GoSolarCalifornia.ca.gov](http://www.GoSolarCalifornia.ca.gov) and Go Solar!



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