

Residential and Commercial Solar Program | Program Changes

November 6, 2018

Program changes effective November 7, 2018

- Incentives for residential solar systems will now be **\$0.90 per watt**, increased from \$0.75.
- Businesses will continue to receive \$0.75 per watt; however, the maximum **payable incentive amount has increased to \$1 million**, up from \$500,000 (to a maximum of 35% of project costs, increased from 25%).
- Non-profit and charitable organizations will receive an increased incentive of **\$1.00 per watt**, up from \$0.75; to a maximum of 35% of total project cost or \$1 million.
- All applications currently submitted to the program (submitted Part 1) will receive the new, higher incentives.
- To recognize their important “early adopter” role, all **residential** participants enrolled since the start of the program (April 2017) will receive a **\$400 bonus** rebate towards any eligible energy-efficiency upgrade in the recently launched Home Energy Plan program. [Home Energy Plan program](#). A detailed email outlining how to take advantage of this offer will be sent to all past residential solar participants. *(see Appendix A for the email sent to residential participants – November 7, 2018)*

Key messages

- We’ve been closely monitoring market response since the program launched in April 2017 and it’s clear Albertans are eager to build big and install large solar systems, which is great news for advancing solar energy in the province.
- Based on this data and stakeholder feedback, we are making program changes to boost participation and help ensure solar incentives are funded at intended levels for the size of projects in the Alberta market.
- When solar is installed in a community, it’s a very visible demonstration of how easy solar energy is to install and maintain, leading to even more solar installations.

FAQs

1. Why are you making changes to the solar program?

We’ve been closely monitoring response since the program launched in April 2017 and it’s clear Albertans are eager to build big and install large solar systems, which is great news for advancing solar energy in the province. Based on this data and stakeholder feedback, we are making these program changes to boost participation and help ensure solar incentives are funded at intended levels for the size of projects in the Alberta market.

2. What are the incentive changes effective November 7, 2018?

- Residential:
 - Increase: from \$0.75/Watt to \$0.90/Watt
 - Increase: from a maximum of 30% to a maximum of 35% of total eligible system costs
 - No change: per project maximum payable of \$10,000
- Commercial and Institutional:
 - No change: \$0.75/Watt
 - Increase: from a maximum of 25% to a maximum of 35% of total eligible system costs
 - Increase: from a per project maximum payable of \$500,000 to \$1 million
- Non-Profit:
 - Increase: from \$0.75/Watt to \$1.00/Watt
 - Increase: from a maximum of 25% to a maximum of 35% of total eligible system costs
 - Increase: from a per project maximum payable of \$500,000 to \$1 million

3. Where can I find details on the solar program and these changes?

You can find details on the solar program on our website at <https://www.energycanada.ca/solar>

4. I've already participated in the program at the lower incentive level. Will I get a retroactive rebate for the higher incentive?

Homeowners, businesses and non-profit organizations that have already installed a solar photovoltaic (PV) system are **not** eligible to receive Energy Efficiency Alberta's new incentives retroactively, as is the practice whenever we make a program change. Energy Efficiency Alberta is constantly measuring and evaluating our programs and we make changes on a regular basis to enhance our program offerings, respond to market feedback or manage budget considerations.

5. But shouldn't I be recognized, not penalized, for participating in the solar program early?

We believe "early adopters" like you should be recognized for the important leadership role you play in encouraging others in your community to consider solar energy. That's why we are offering a special \$400 bonus in our new Home Energy Plan program for homeowners who participated in the program at the lower incentive levels.



Energy Efficiency Alberta introduced Home Energy Plan on October 16, 2018. This new program begins with an EnerGuide home evaluation and is designed to provide homeowners a home energy plan unique to their home with rebates that will provide them with higher and more wide-ranging than our current Home Improvement Rebate Program. For more information visit <https://www.energycanada.ca/homeenergyplan/>

6. Does the additional Home Energy Plan \$400 bonus incentive apply to previously completed home improvement projects?

The added incentive is available for new projects (and projects currently in the application process) where construction has not yet started. Previously completed projects do not qualify for additional incentives.

7. What happens to the environmental attributes generated from the energy efficiency upgrades that have received incentive funding?

All environmental attributes arising from energy efficiency upgrades that have received incentive funding from Energy Efficiency Alberta are kept by Energy Efficiency Alberta. This is one of the terms of participating in the RCSP and the Home Energy Plan Program.

Additional Questions?

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