



Go Solar, California!

California Solar Initiative: Powering Your Building with Solar Energy

Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing (MASH) Program Fact Sheet

MULTIFAMILY AFFORDABLE SOLAR HOUSING

The MASH program provides rebates for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on multifamily affordable housing, and can offset up to 50 percent of the up front cost.

The MASH program is part of the California Public Utilities Commission's California Solar Initiative (CSI) and the *Go Solar California!* campaign. Incentives are administered by Program Administrators (PAs): Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), and the California Center for Sustainable Energy (CCSE) for San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) customers.

QUALIFICATIONS

There are three requirements for a building to qualify for a MASH program rebate. The building must:

1. Be within PG&E, SCE or SDG&E service territories;
2. Have an occupancy permit for at least two years prior to applying; and,
3. Meet the definition of low-income housing set forth in Pub. Util. Code § 2852, which means multifamily housing financed with low-income housing tax credits, tax-exempt mortgage revenue bonds, general obligation bonds, or local, state or federal loans or grants. In addition, the facility must also meet the definition of low-income households in Health and Safety Code § 50079.5.

GETTING STARTED

Going solar is a relatively easy process, and typically your solar contractor handles most of the work. The following basic steps will show you how to make the transition to solar.

Step 1: Complete a quick, free energy audit

An energy-efficient building maximizes the value of your solar installation – saving you even more money. Your PA offers a free energy efficiency audit to help you assess your current energy usage as well as to identify those areas in your building that could become more energy efficient. The energy efficiency audit is a requirement of the MASH Program. In addition, your building and/or its individual units may be eligible for free services through statewide Low Income Energy Efficiency (LIEE) programs.

Step 2: Contact and choose a solar contractor

Qualified solar contractors are your key to getting the most productive solar PV system for your building. Contact a solar contractor to determine the solar installation that best meets your energy needs and budget. You will be asked to provide data on the past 12 months of electricity usage for common area meters, so it is best to have this information available for your contractor.

Choose a reputable solar contractor by obtaining bids from at least three licensed contractors before making your selection. Contractors must have a valid A, B, C-10 or C-46 license; check the California Contractors State Licensing Board Web site to confirm the license status of each contractor.

Step 3: The solar contractor handles the applications

Your incentive is based on the expected performance of your solar installation. Documentation about your location, solar system positioning and equipment specification is required to determine the incentive amount for which your system qualifies. In most cases, your solar contractor will handle the paperwork by completing and submitting all the necessary forms to your PA and local agencies on your behalf.

Step 4: The solar contractor handles the building and utility provider inspections

Typically, your solar contractor will schedule an appointment with your local building permit agency to have a certified building inspector approve the solar installation.

In most cases your solar contractor will send the building inspector's final approval to your utility company. Following utility review and written approval, your new solar installation will be ready to connect to the electric grid. Once you begin operation, clean, renewable solar energy will power your facility.

Step 5: Claim your incentive

The MASH program, through your PA, pays the incentive in full to the designated party upon completion and successful interconnection of the solar installation project.

In addition, your project may qualify for a federal tax credit (see **RESOURCES** section). Consult the IRS or your tax consultant for details on available tax credits. The actual percentage of costs offset by combined MASH program incentives and tax credits will vary based on total project costs, incentive level and installation characteristics. Terms and conditions apply.



INCENTIVE TRACKS

The MASH program has two incentive tracks – Track 1 and Track 2:

Track 1 rebates are paid based on the following criteria:

1. The size of the system installed; and,
2. Whether the solar energy produced is offsetting common or tenant area load.

Track 1 involves a three-step application process, and each step requires a set of documents that can be found on each PA's Web site.

Step 1: Reservation Request – Reserve your rebate prior to installation

Step 2: Proof of Project Milestone – Confirm that the project is moving forward

Step 3: Incentive Claim – After your new solar system is interconnected, submit the final system specifications. Your PA will then inspect the system and disburse the incentive.

REBATE STRUCTURE

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| Track 1a: PV System Offsetting Common Load (hallway lighting, laundry rooms and other communal load) | Track 1b: PV System Offsetting Tenant Load (tenant units) |
| \$3.30/Watt | \$4.00/Watt |

Track 2 allows applicants to compete for grants that provide financial incentives higher than the Track 1 amounts. Track 2 applicants must demonstrate that a project will provide a significant direct tenant benefit. There are two Track 2 application cycles each year. Grant proposal applications must be submitted to your PA.

A grant proposal package must include:

1. Completed MASH Track 1 Reservation Request documents;
2. A grant proposal containing all of the information requested in each of the proposal sections; and,
3. A signed grant proposal form.

Track 2 grant proposal guidelines, scoring criteria, submission deadlines and all MASH forms are located on each PA's Web site.

VIRTUAL NET METERING

MASH-eligible properties are also eligible for Virtual Net Metering, which is a new tariff designed to reduce solar system costs on individually metered buildings by enabling energy credits from one PV system to be allocated to multiple metered electric service accounts in a MASH building. Visit your local utility's Web site for more information.

EDUCATION

All PAs offer free monthly educational opportunities on related CSI topics. Contact your local PA for times, dates and locations.

RESOURCES

- To view a copy of the California Solar Initiative Program Handbook, visit the Go Solar web site at www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov.
- To find out about available tax credits, visit Tax Incentives Assistance Project at www.energytaxincentives.org, and be sure to consult the IRS or your tax advisor for details about your particular situation.
- For solar industry information, visit Solar Energy Industries Association at www.calseia.org.
- To learn more about California Public Utilities Code § 2852, visit www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html and search for the appropriate code section.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

California Center for Sustainable Energy (for SDG&E customers)

Attn: MASH Program Administrator

8690 Balboa Avenue, Ste. 100

San Diego, CA 92123

Email: mash@energycenter.org

Phone: 858-244-1177 or 866-SDENERGY

Fax: 858-244-1178

Web site: www.energycenter.org/mash



Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Attn: MASH Program Administrator

P.O. Box 7433

San Francisco, CA 94120-7433

Email: solar@pge.com

Phone: 877-743-4112

Web site: www.pge.com/lowincomesolar

LIEE: www.pge.com/energypartners



Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Southern California Edison

Attn: MASH Program Administrator

6042A North Irwindale Ave.

Irwindale, CA 91702

Email: CSIGroup@sce.com

Phone: 800-799-4177 (General Questions) or

866-584-7436 (Program Administration)

Web site: www.sce.com/gosolar

LIEE: www.sce.com/residential/income-qualified



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This fact sheet is intended to be an overview and introduction to the MASH Program. It is not intended to replace the California Solar Initiative Program Handbook. If there are differences between the Handbook and this fact sheet, the Handbook shall prevail. Please see the most recent version of the Handbook for the most up-to-date information at www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov/documents. The MASH Program is funded by California investor-owned utility customers and is administered by regional Program Administrators under the auspices of the CPUC. The MASH Program is subject to change without notice by the CPUC.