



Solar for Consumers

Frequently Asked Questions

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regulates privately-owned utilities like Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison Company (SCE), and San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) and provides information to ensure you know your rights and have enough information to make a decision on whether and how to go solar. Below are frequently asked questions from consumers about rooftop solar and storage.

Information about Going Solar in California



Where can I find more information about going solar?

Start with the CPUC's California Solar Consumer Protection Guide at cpuc.ca.gov/solarguide.

Consumers with more technical questions can learn more about California solar tariffs here: www.cpuc.ca.gov/customergeneration.

Government Incentives for Solar & Storage



Are there free solar programs in California?

Solar energy is rarely free. For most customers, there is no such thing as free solar from the government in California. An honest company will be upfront about all the costs you will pay over time.

There is one exception: the Disadvantaged Communities – Single-family Solar Homes (DAC-SASH) program provides no-cost rooftop solar installations to income-qualified homeowners in disadvantaged communities. Consumers can learn more about the DAC-SASH program at gridalternatives.org/what-we-do/program-administration/dac-sash.



What government incentives, rebates or credits are available for solar in California?

California does not currently offer rebates or incentives for solar.

In 2022, Governor Newsom approved Assembly Bill (AB) 209, which added \$630 million to the Self-Generation Incentive Program for the installation of solar and storage systems in low-income households. As of March 2025, \$280 million has been approved. Details about how and when those funds will be available are still being determined by the CPUC. Follow the details of SGIP at www.selfgenca.com/home/about.

The federal government offers some incentives, including federal tax credits, for consumers seeking to install solar and/or storage. Find more information about these incentives at energy.gov/eere/solar/solar-energy-resources-consumers.

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Issues with Solar Contractors



How do I choose a solar installer?

Start with the “Find an Installer” tool on the California Distributed Generation Statistics website: californiadgstats.ca.gov/find_installer. This tool will show you solar installers operating in your area.

Next, the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) offers multiple tools to assist customers in selecting the right solar provider cslb.ca.gov/OnlineServices. Solar installers should have a valid CSLB license number.



I'm having trouble with my solar salesperson, installer, or contractor – what can I do?

The Contractors State License Board (CSLB), not the CPUC, licenses and regulates solar contractors in California. If you believe your solar contractor has engaged in poor workmanship, deception, or fraud, please submit a solar complaint to the CSLB at cslb.ca.gov/Resources/FormsAndApplications/SolarComplaintForm.pdf.



I'm having trouble with my solar financier – what can I do?

The Department of Financial Protection & Innovation (DFPI), not the CPUC, regulates many financiers in the rooftop solar industry. If you believe your lender has engaged in deception or fraud, please submit a complaint to the DFPI at dfpi.ca.gov/file-a-complaint.

Consumers can learn more about customer-sited generation and storage by visiting www.cpuc.ca.gov/customergeneration and www.cpuc.ca.gov/solarguide.

