



SOLAR REBATES AND INCENTIVES

Washington State has some of the highest incentives for solar in the country, making solar not only a smart energy choice for the environment, but also a great financial investment. These incentives reward you for having a sunny sight and help your solar pay for itself quickly — *often in less than 10 years.*

[Click here a detailed description of every solar incentive in Washington State.](#)

Below is a summary of financial incentives that are available to residents of Washington State.

FEDERAL INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT

The federal [Investment Tax Credit \(ITC\)](#) covers 30 percent of your solar system's full installation cost (materials and labor), as well as any necessary site preparation, such as replacing electrical panels, rebuilding electrical service, or reinforcing roofs. There is no maximum or cap on the expense amount.

- The solar system must be installed on the taxpayer's primary or secondary residence, and the system must be installed by December 31st of the same tax year in which the homeowner plans to use the credit.
- The tax credit can be taken even by people who pay the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). If the federal credit exceeds the customer's tax liability, the excess amount can be carried forward to succeeding years until 2022.
- It is unclear whether any unused tax credit can be carried forward beyond 2022.

For residential systems, this credit will decrease incrementally to 26% in 2020, and 22% in 2021. The credit expires on Dec. 31, 2021. [So if you're considering solar, sooner is better!](#)

NET METERING

With [net metering](#), your electric utility becomes your energy bank. A bidirectional meter replaces your typical electrical meter to track the production and use of your home's energy. When your solar energy system produces more power than you're using, the excess electricity spins this meter backward, giving you a dollar-for-dollar utility credit for all the excess energy. At night when the sun isn't shining, you make withdrawals from the grid and use the credits you stored earlier in the day. In the summer when days are long and sunny, most customers produce more energy than they need, building up

Contact Us For FREE Solar Consultation today!

(206) 557-4215 | info@artisanelectricinc.com



credits with their utility that are used to offset their usage in the wintertime, when days are short and cloudy.

- In Washington, the net-metering cycle runs annually from May 1st to April 30th of the following year. Credits roll over each month, but *do not transfer* from one fiscal year to the next, so it's "use it or lose it" after April 30th of each year.
- Because net metering is essentially a "kilowatt exchange" program, the value of the solar you produce becomes more valuable with rate increases.
- As retail rates for electricity rise, your credits for excess unused power will increase accordingly. Net metering thus helps protect you from increasing utility rates. For example, if your utility's rate increases from 10 to 15 cents per kWh, your net metering credit will do so as well.

There is no expiration date for net metering, but it is offered on a first-come, first-serve basis until the cumulative generating capacity of solar PV systems equals .5 percent of the utility's peak demand. After a utility hits this quota, the utility can choose to continue offering net metering, or it can create a new arrangement for future customers. This is another good reason to get your system installed sooner rather than later!

WASHINGTON STATE PRODUCTION INCENTIVE

To help further defer the cost of solar, Washington State's generous production-based incentive pays you to produce solar power, regardless of whether you use that power. To track your energy production for the incentive, a second meter is installed in the system between the solar inverter(s) and electrical panel. The production meter measures how much power the system generates.

NOTE: A new solar incentive program was passed July 1, 2017. [*Senate Bill 5939*](#) fixed some problems with the existing production incentive program for current solar system owners, AND created a new program for future customers. This makes Washington's incentives even stronger — securing incentive payments for new solar systems for years to come, while grandfathering and protecting benefits for existing solar customers.

If you purchased solar before July 1, 2017, (or if you purchased between July 1 and September 30, 2017 but we advised you to choose the legacy program), you're covered under the previous incentive package. That program was improved by the new law, so [click here](#) to learn the latest about how your incentive package works.

Contact Us For FREE Solar Consultation today!

(206) 557-4215 | info@artisanelectricinc.com



For solar PV systems certified after October 1, 2017. The production incentive rate you receive under this program depends on the year your system is installed and certified, as well as the type of solar equipment you're using (see table below). To help encourage growth of the solar manufacturing industry in Washington State, Made-In-Washington solar modules receive the highest production rate. An Artisan proposal will always show the production incentive for each proposed system based on the modules used for that system.

Customer Caps. Beginning October 1, 2017, a customer's production incentive will continue for eight years from the date of certification OR until your incentive payouts have covered 50 percent of your initial cost (including sales tax), whichever comes first. In other words, your production incentive payments will end before the eight-year mark if you reach 50 percent of the cost of your system. The federal tax credit and net metering incentives will recover the other 50 percent of the installation cost. After that, your solar system will continue to produce clean, free energy at no cost to you for years to come.

Here is a list of the main features of the current production incentives program:

- Rates are locked in for eight years, but step down annually for new installations.
- The incentive is now available for renters/leasers of homes and buildings.
- Incentive caps for commercial and utility-scale systems are now business-friendly.
- The definition of "Community Solar" has expanded so that systems installed by nonprofits and HUD housing authorities can now take advantage of the incentives.
- The premium Made-In-Washington incentive rate now applies only to solar panels. This allows customers more choices when selecting inverters.
- Residential, commercial, community and utility-scale solar categories each have their own designated funds. This makes each less likely to reach funding limits, because they are not directly competing against each other.

Contact Us For FREE Solar Consultation today!

(206) 557-4215 | info@artisanelectricinc.com



Here are the Washington Solar Incentive rates beginning October 1, 2017:

Fiscal Year	≤12kW <i>per kW hour</i>	>12kW <i>per kW hour</i>	Community Solar <i>per kW hour</i>	Utility Solar <i>per kW hour</i>	Made In WA Bonus Adder <i>per kW hour</i>
2018	\$0.16	\$0.06	\$0.16	\$0.06	\$0.05
2019	\$0.14	\$0.04	\$0.14	\$0.04	\$0.04
2020	\$0.12	\$0.02	\$0.12	\$0.02	\$0.03
2021	\$0.10	\$0.02	\$0.10	\$0.02	\$0.02
\$/max	\$5K/yr	\$25K/yr	\$5K/yr	\$35K/yr	

Program Caps. Currently, the production incentive program restricts utility incentive payouts to 1.5 percent of its taxable income, or \$250,000, whichever is greater. The program will end when the total program payout by all utilities in Washington State reaches \$110 million collectively. This is to guarantee future incentive payments can be made to existing solar customers. In other words, you'll lock in better incentives the sooner you go solar. [GO SOLAR NOW.](#)

ACCELERATED DEPRECIATION FOR BUSINESS

If you're a business looking to go solar, the federal government offers an accelerated depreciation program as an additional incentive to make solar more affordable. The [Modified Accelerated Cost-Recovery System \(MACRS\)](#) allows a commercial owner of solar to depreciate 85 percent of the total system cost over five years.

ARTISAN'S IBEW SOLAR REBATE

Artisan Electric is committed to the highest quality solar installations, so we use only qualified union electricians for all electrical aspects of the installation. The IBEW Local 46 offers a generous \$500 rebate for customers installing any system larger than 5 kW as a thank-you to our customers for hiring a company that pays their workers living wages. Plus your system is guaranteed by IBEW for five years.

Contact Us For FREE Solar Consultation today!
 (206) 557-4215 | info@artisanelectricinc.com



GRANTS

Tacoma Power Utilities Evergreen Options Program. TPU will award grant funds up to \$50,000 each to local nonprofits, schools, and government agencies toward the purchase and installation of on-site local renewable energy projects. One award will be awarded in 2017; and one to two grants will be awarded per year thereafter.

SnoPUD Planet Power. This grant is for schools, libraries, city halls and other community sites that are Snohomish County PUD customers and otherwise could not afford solar. The program uses utility dollars to put solar in highly visible places “where customers can learn about solar and see the technology in use.”

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). This grant is administered by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) and provides rural farmers and small businesses with grants paying up to 25 percent of solar project and energy efficiency upgrade costs.

Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF). This organization funds and advises on small-scale renewable energy projects. BEF partners with businesses and utilities to cost-effectively launch and manage solar installations.

FREE SOLAR SITE SURVEY

So now that you know how easy it is to go solar, let us perform a quick, free solar site survey at your home or business. Now is truly the best time to take advantage of all available solar incentives before they decrease or end in the future.

By combining all of the above, the initial cost of installing a solar PV system on your home or business can be entirely offset. In fact, **most solar systems repay their initial investment in less than 10 years—with almost half of the cost recouped in the first year!** And thanks to local [residential solar financing](#), no initial out-of-pocket cash is required!