

A new solar option for builders and developers is coming soon. Start the conversation today.

SMUD's new Neighborhood SolarShares program allows builders to secure utility-scale solar from SMUD to meet the solar mandate in the 2019 California Building Standards Code (effective January 1st, 2020) for all new low rise residential buildings. This innovative program offers the benefits of utility-scale, SMUD-operated solar PV to developers and end customers, including:

Guaranteed money savings for home builders and buyers

- Home builders can meet the solar mandate at no cost, or can choose to provide enhanced financial benefits to home buyers through additional buy-down options
- Home buyers will save a guaranteed minimum of \$10/kW of required solar capacity per year for the 20-year term of the agreement

Guaranteed solar power delivered annually

- No solar output degradation over the contract term



Simplicity and flexibility:

- Fewer roof penetrations and potential defects
- Simplified contractor and trade coordination
- Flexible roof lines and home orientations
- Freedom to increase or maintain tree canopy and shade tree placements
- Ability to offer roof top solar as an option if desired

How does it work?

Homes are enrolled in Neighborhood SolarShares for twenty years. During that time, the homeowner or occupant will receive a slightly modified SMUD bill. The bill will include:

- A flat monthly charge to participate in SolarShares
- A dynamic monthly credit, or refund, for the amount of solar power generated by the SolarShares installation in a given month
- A subtotal of the monthly charge minus credit

In the sunny summer months when solar production is high, the monthly credit will be more than the monthly program charge, meaning that the customer will save money. These savings will outweigh the charges in winter months when solar power generation is low. Overall, the program is guaranteed to result in a savings of \$10/kilowatt or \$10-40 total per home annually depending on the amount of SolarShares capacity required by California Building Standards Code.

When can I register a home for the program?

Builders apply for Neighborhood SolarShares concurrently with a building permit. The California Energy Commission (CEC) is in the process of updating the CBECC code compliance software to include the option of Neighborhood SolarShares in addition to rooftop solar. The next CBECC software update is scheduled to be released in late summer 2020, the details of which are to be announced.

If a builder or developer wishes to demonstrate commitment to the program prior to the building permit stage, such as for the entitlements process for a new subdivision, contact SMUD.

How do I register a home for the program?

Builders will use the CBECC code compliance software, once updated, to determine the kW of Neighborhood SolarShares required by code for the home. The builder will then complete a Neighborhood SolarShares application with SMUD. The application will ask for copies of building permit forms and a signed agreement committing the home to 20 years of participation. The application will also ask for proof that Neighborhood SolarShares has been added to the deed or Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs) for the property. SMUD will respond to complete applications with evidence of the home's registration, which can be used by building officials to verify compliance with the solar mandate.

What is a buy-down?

By default, Neighborhood SolarShares customers save \$10 per kW of Neighborhood SolarShares per year, or approximately \$10 to \$40 annually. Builders have the option of paying a one-time fee to increase the customer's utility bill savings.

Who can I contact for more information?

Contact SolarShares@smud.org for information about the Neighborhood SolarShares program and to begin the application process.

Contact development@smud.org for questions about developing projects within the SMUD service territory.