



California Solar Initiative

Powering Your Building with Solar Energy

Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing Program Fact Sheet

Powering your building with clean, renewable energy has never been easier. Using solar energy to power your multifamily affordable housing building can lower your energy costs over time and generates electricity free of harmful CO₂ emissions and other greenhouse gases. Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing (MASH) Program incentives, which may reduce your overall project costs, are available through your Program Administrator (see box on the other side). In addition, you may be eligible for a federal tax credit (see Resources section).

MULTIFAMILY AFFORDABLE SOLAR HOUSING

The MASH Program aims to facilitate the adoption of solar technology in the multifamily affordable housing sector. The MASH Program provides an up-front incentive to multifamily affordable housing facilities based on their solar photovoltaic (PV) systems' expected performance.

Incentives are administered by local Program Administrators: 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. An incentive from the MASH program may reduce the cost of installing solar panels for those customers who own or operate multifamily affordable housing facilities and who want to generate their own solar energy for common areas and for tenants.

The MASH Program is part of the California Public Utilities Commission's California Solar Initiative (CSI) and the Go Solar California campaign.

QUALIFICATION

Eligible electric customers of PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E may receive an incentive through the MASH Program. The MASH Program is targeted at existing multifamily affordable housing facilities that meet the definition of low-income residential housing set forth in Pub. Util. Code § 2852.

Specifically, this 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. The facility must also meet the definition of low-income households in Health and Safety Code § 50079.5.

ENERGY-EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

All MASH Program participants are required to have an energy efficiency audit conducted on their building. Check with your local Program Administrator for further details on how to complete the energy efficiency audit. In addition, your building and/or its individual units may be eligible for free services through statewide Low Income Energy Efficiency (LIEE) programs.

COST CONSIDERATIONS

A variety of factors can influence the cost of a solar PV system, including, but not limited to, system size, labor costs and system configuration. Most solar contractors can provide a no-obligation quote.

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

The first step is to complete a basic energy efficiency audit. An energy-efficient building maximizes the value of your solar installation – saving you even more money. Your Program Administrator offers a free energy efficiency audit to help you assess your current energy usage as well as identify those areas in your building that could become more energy efficient. The energy efficiency audit is a requirement of the MASH Program.

Step 2: Contact and choose a contractor

Qualified contractors are your key to getting the most productive solar PV system for your building. Contact an independent system expert to determine the solar installation that best meets your energy needs and budget.

Choose a reputable solar contractor by interviewing and obtaining bids from at least three independent contractors before making your selection. You should also check the California Contractors State Licensing Board to determine the license status of each contractor.

TABLE 1 – INCENTIVE STRUCTURE

The MASH program pays three levels of Expected Performance Based Buydown (EPBB) incentives:

Track 1a: PV System Offsetting Common Load (hallway lighting, laundry rooms, and other communal load)	Track 1b: PV System Offsetting Tenant Load (individual tenant dwelling units)	Track 2: Grant-style incentives offered through a competitive bidding process
\$3.30/Watt	\$4.00/Watt	\$/Watt will vary



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. In most cases, your solar contractor will handle the paperwork by completing and submitting all relevant forms to your Program Administrator and local city agencies on your behalf.

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

Normally, 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 Program Administrator. Following an on-site inspection and meter installation, your new solar installation will be ready to connect to the electric grid. Once you begin operation, clean, renewable solar energy will now be powering your facility.

Step 5: Claim the incentive

The MASH Program, through your Program Administrator, pays the incentive upon completion of the solar installation project. The final incentive will be disbursed to the designated party.

In addition, your project may also be eligible 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 CSI MASH Program incentives and tax credits will vary based on total project costs, incentive level and installation characteristics. Terms and conditions apply.

COMING SOON

A second incentive level called Track 2 will allow applicants to receive higher, grant-style incentives through a competitive bidding process if they can demonstrate that a project will provide a significant benefit to tenants.

In addition, a new electric tariff called Virtual Net Energy Metering will allow MASH Program participants to apply the

credits from a single solar system to multiple accounts at an eligible low income building.

EDUCATION

All Program Administrators offer free monthly educational opportunities on related CSI topics. Contact your local Program Administrator 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
- For solar industry information, visit Solar Energy Industries Association at www.calseia.org

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

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/csi
LIEE:
www.pge.com/energypartners

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



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.