

FAQ—Oregon Solar Photovoltaic Pilot Program

1. What is the Oregon SPV Pilot Program?

The Oregon Legislature passed ORS 757.365 (2009) as amended by House Bill 3690 (2010) which mandates the development of pilot programs for each electric company in Oregon to demonstrate the use and effectiveness of volumetric incentive rates (VIRs) and payments for electricity delivered by solar photovoltaic energy (SPV) systems. Under the rules established by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon, Idaho Power has established a pilot program offering VIR rates for qualified SPV systems.

2. Who is eligible for the Oregon SPV Program?

Idaho Power customers with service in Oregon are eligible for this program. The applicant's name must appear on the account where the installation will be installed.

3. What if the account is under another family member or the landlord's name?

If the account is not under the applicant's name, there are two options.

- Call our customer service center at 1-800-488-6151 or 208-388-2323 to have the applicant name added to the account.
- Have the name that appears on the account apply for the program.

4. What are the basic system requirements?

Systems must have a nameplate capacity (DC) of less than or equal to 10 kilowatts (kW) and be sized not to exceed 90 percent of the three-year (or less) rolling average of the usage at the premise at which the system will be installed. Systems must be installed on the premise of an Idaho Power customer located in the state of Oregon and be physically interconnected to the customer's electrical system. Systems must be in compliance with the siting, design, interconnection, installation and electric output standards and codes required by the laws of Oregon. Systems must be constructed from new components (modules, inverter, batteries, mounting hardware, etc.). Systems must be compliant with Public Utility Commission of Oregon quality and reliability requirements for solar photovoltaic systems and system installation. Idaho Power recommends that these SPV systems be installed and interconnected by an experienced, licensed professional. Other [terms and conditions](#) apply.

5. How can I determine the average electrical use at the location I plan to install the SPV system?

Idaho Power's website has a tool called Account Manager that allows customers to access their usage data immediately. Go to www.idahopower.com to enroll. Should you have any questions about setting up or accessing the data in account manager, please call our customer service line at 1-800-488-6151 or 208-388-2323. Our customer service center can also pull this data for you, but there is a three-day turnaround time.

6. What if I have a new home or business? How can I estimate my use?

If you have been at the property for a year or more, use Account Manager to access your last 12 months of usage and use this number. If you have not been at the property for a year, call the Oregon Solar Pilot Program hotline at 208-388-5933 for assistance.

7. How much will I receive for the power I generate?

Starting July 1, 2010, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon has established the VIR rate for Idaho Power customers as 55¢ per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for eligible generation. Participants will enter into a contract with Idaho Power, and the term will remain for 15 years.

The VIR rate will be reviewed every six months and may be adjusted up or down depending on program participation levels. Consumers will receive the VIR rate in place at the time of the capacity reservation date.

8. What if I generate more power than I use?

Excess generation may be carried over month to month for up to one year. At the end of the year, excess generation will be donated to Project Share, Idaho Power's energy assistance program in Oregon.

9. Are there fees and costs associated with this project?

Participants will be responsible for the cost of the SPV system and additional program fees. Fees include a reservation capacity fee, interconnection costs, and a \$10/month meter fee. Projects must be financed without state incentives (specific expenditures under ORS 757.612 (3)(b)(B) or tax credits under ORS 469.160 or ORS 469.185 to 469.225). Other costs and fees may apply.

10. How can I participate?

The initial capacity reservation period for this program will begin July 1, 2010 and offer 200 kW of SPV capacity, with an additional capacity reservation period beginning April 1, 2011 for an additional 200 kW of SPV capacity.

Capacity reservation applications will be accepted only via the Web-based capacity reservation application process no earlier than the opening date of the capacity reservation periods (8 a.m. MDT on July 1, 2010 and April 1, 2011) until the offered SPV capacity has been fully subscribed. Customers will be accepted into this program on a first-come, first-served basis. Any unallocated SPV capacity shall be made available to customers until March 31, 2015.

If accepted into the program, customers have two months to file an interconnection application and 12 months to complete their project. Failure to meet these deadlines will result in termination of the capacity reservation.

11. May I submit the application by fax or mail?

Applications will be accepted only through the online process. This will allow Idaho Power to date- and time-stamp each application and ensure applications are reviewed under the first-come, first-served process as required by the rule.

12. What if I don't have all the required information at this time? Can I still submit a Capacity Reservation Application for a project?

The required fields for the Capacity Reservation Application are necessary to secure a capacity reservation. Much of the required information is mandated under the rules of the program set forth by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon or necessary to confirm that the customer and planned installation meet the eligibility requirements of the pilot program. Idaho Power cannot accept incomplete applications.

13. I am a contractor; can I fill out the application and other forms on behalf of my client?

The program rules require the applicant to be the Idaho Power customer where the SPV system will be installed. As the forms require applicant signatures, and include attestations and acknowledgments of the program rules, it is necessary for the applicant to fill out and submit the required forms.

14. Who owns the Renewable Energy Credits?

Renewable Energy Credits from these projects will be transferred to Idaho Power. Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), also known as "green tags," "green certificates," and "renewable energy credits," are tradable certificates that represent the generation of one megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity from an eligible source of renewable energy.

Each REC denotes the underlying generation energy source, location of the generation, and year of generation (a.k.a. "vintage"), environmental emissions, and other characteristics associated with the generator. RECs represent a claim to the environmental attributes associated with renewable energy generation.

Under the transfer, the customer loses the right to make claims to the renewable generation.

15. How is this pilot project being financed?

Effective July 1, 2010, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon approved a 1.5 percent charge applied to the base-rate bill components for Oregon customers to recover the costs of this program. The charge will appear as a separate line item on the customer bill.

16. Why are Idaho Power's rates and some program elements different from other Oregon utilities?

The rules for this program have been set forth by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon and differ slightly by utility. Differences include VIR rates, timeframes, system size and processes for securing a capacity reservation. Rates are based on system size and by geographic region of Oregon, as some parts of Oregon are sunnier than others.