



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

PURA Establishes New Residential Renewable Energy Program

(Docket No. 20-07-01)

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **How much renewable energy will be deployed through the new program?**

A: PURA purposefully designed the program, based on stakeholder input, to ensure deployment of around 50 to 60 Megawatts per year, in line with current deployment trends and with the projected amount needed to achieve a 100% zero carbon grid by 2040. The new program will be offered for six years, from 2022 to 2027; so, an additional 300 to 360 MW of distributed renewable energy resources will be deployed over that period, at a minimum.

- **What happens to residential rooftop solar installations that are currently net metered or enter the queue before January 1, 2022?**

A: All rooftop solar installations that are currently operational and net metered or any rooftop solar installations that apply for interconnection with their electric distribution company (Eversource or UI) before January 1, 2022 will be grandfathered under the current net metering program.

- **I've heard a lot about "tariffs", what does that mean? What tariffs did PURA adopt for the program approved today?**

A: In this context, a tariff is simply a mechanism to define how a renewable energy system will be compensated for its production under the new program; a tariff will also include all of the terms and conditions of service.

The statute that guided PURA's decision today authorized two types of tariffs: one tariff that provides a fixed rate for all renewable energy production, also referred to as a "buy-all" tariff; and one tariff that is similar to the current net metering model, which "nets" renewable energy production with your consumption from the electric grid, also referred to as a netting tariff.

One of the terms included in both the "buy-all" and netting tariffs is that the tariff length for each individual renewable energy project is 20 years.

- **How much will I be paid for my renewable energy production under this new program?**

A: In today's decision, PURA tasked stakeholders with developing a specific model for calculating rates under this program based on the guidance and objectives outlined in the decision. Both the model and the rates are subject to PURA's approval later this year, with the final rates applicable for 2022 scheduled for approval in November 2021.

While the final rates under this program are not yet available, today's decision provides ample information to understand the likely range of final rates. For example, the decision notes that the "buy-all" tariff rate will likely be set around \$0.29/kWh for 2022. Similarly, the decision notes that the netting tariff will likely be in the range of financial equivalency to current net metering.

- **Will the tariff rates approved in November 2021 be offered for the entire six-year program?**

A: No. PURA established an annual review process to evaluate whether the program is achieving its objectives (e.g., deploying 50 to 60 MW per year), which may result in adjustments to the rate for the following year. However, all renewable energy systems approved under the program will receive the tariff rate in effect at the time their application was received. For example, if the “buy-all” tariff rate is set at \$0.29/kWh for 2022 but subsequently reduced to \$0.28/kWh for 2023, then any applications for the “buy-all” tariff received by the electric utilities before January 1, 2023 will be eligible for the \$0.29/kWh rate.

- **What does this decision do to enhance customer protections?**

A: Customer protections are inherent throughout due to the simplified program and tariff designs. Through this decision, the electric utilities are also ordered to develop user-friendly online disclosure forms as well as customer education and information resources.

Moreover, the program has been designed with accessibility in mind, with deliberate design elements to encourage increased inclusivity overall and specifically with respect to program participation by low-to-moderate income customers and customers in environmental justice communities.

- **When and where will I find out more about the program?**

A: Final program details are being developed by PURA, the electric utilities, and interested stakeholders throughout the 2021 calendar year. Once all of the program details have been developed and approved by PURA, all program details will be available through the electric utilities’ websites. If you are an interested in potentially signing up for this program, check back on your utility’s website in December 2021.

- **How will the Connecticut Green Bank's role change now that the electric utilities will administer the residential renewable energy program?**

A: The Green Bank will be a key partner, along with the electric utilities, in developing the final program details over the course of 2021. Beyond 2021, PURA plans to leverage the Green Bank's extensive expertise as a consultant and strategic advisor.

- **I've heard that increased electric load, such as purchasing an electric vehicle, may impact the design of a renewable energy system for my house. What if I want to buy an electric vehicle but don't know when I'm going to get one?**

A: Under the new program, the tariffs will allow customers to build renewable energy systems large enough to accommodate up to two electric vehicle chargers and, for non-electric heating customers, a reasonable approximation of the new electric load associated with switching from fossil fuel heating to a heat pump.