

Solar in South Carolina: Which Option is Right for You?

To offset your energy use, residents in SCE&G’s service territory who are interested in solar energy can purchase and install a rooftop system or, if you have a large yard, a ground-mounted system. If you are interested in solar power, but don’t want to spend the money right now to purchase solar for your home, you can lease a system which will be owned by a leasing company. In South Carolina, only those companies approved to operate by the SC Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) may lease solar systems. Finally, if you have too much shade, don’t want to make a long-term commitment, don’t own your residence, or simply don’t want the hassle, you will be able to purchase a share in a community solar project, often called a “solar garden,” installed and managed by SCE&G. The community solar program, scheduled to be launched in the spring of 2016, will allow residential customers to purchase panels and receive a bill credit (expected to be \$0.10/per kWh) for the power generated by those panels. This bill credit will be fixed for an extended term, which is yet to be determined. For more information, visit www.energy.sc.gov

	Own your system	Lease a system	Community Solar
Best if	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have the tax liability to take advantage of tax credits Your roof is in good shape or ready to be redone in the near future You have a south-facing roof surface and lots of sun shining on the roof or ground mount location You plan to be in your home long enough to repay the investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax incentives are less important You have a south-facing roof surface and lots of sun shining on the roof or ground mount location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You rent your home You have too much shade or an unsuitable roof You want the advantages of controlling energy costs without the bother of installing and maintaining a system
What to do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review <i>A Consumer Guide for Solar for the South Carolina Homeowner</i> for tips on choosing a system for your home and finding a qualified installer http://energy.sc.gov/files/SolarGuideHomeowners.pdf Contact several installers for bids And/or contact SolarizeSC.org, which can assist with evaluation and financing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the list of approved solar leasing companies on the ORS website http://www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov/electric/Pages/LeasingInformation.aspx Request bids from several lessors Read the fine print to determine your responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wait for SCE&G to roll out their program, probably in late spring 2016
Financial Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25% SC tax credit; 30% federal tax credit until December 2016 SCE&G net metering may credit you for power returned to the grid at the same rate they charge you, plus a payment of up to \$0.04/kwh generated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax credits do not apply to the resident SCE&G net metering may credit you for power returned to the grid at the same rate they charge you, plus a payment of up to \$0.04/kwh generated The leasing company may choose to incorporate the tax incentive they receive by reducing the monthly lease payment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal tax credits may apply to purchase of panel in community solar “garden” Customer receives a bill credit for share of power generated