

ENERGY WISE

for your Home



Solar energy is becoming increasingly popular. To assist members in recovering the costs associated with installing a solar system, Dakota Electric created a performance-based solar rebate program.

SOLAR INSTALLATION REBATE

A performance-based solar rebate program

Dakota Electric Association's solar performance program offers a rebate of \$0.50 per watt for installed capacity, not to exceed \$4,000. Payment of the rebate is based on the kilowatt-hour (kWh) production from your photovoltaic (PV) system, as recorded by Dakota Electric's production meter. The rebate is credited on your bill monthly at \$0.08 per kWh produced up to the rebate amount or 10 years, whichever occurs first.

When you install solar panels through our solar production program, you can:

- Meet some or all of your energy needs with your own renewable energy system.
- Receive a monthly production-based rebate.

Excess generation bill credit

When your system produces more energy than your house needs, you will earn a credit on your bill. Under net metering, you receive the current month's retail rate for all excess energy delivered into the grid.

Qualifications

To qualify for this rebate program, you must:

- Be a Dakota Electric Association member.
- Get preapproval from Dakota Electric on your PV project prior to purchase and installation.
- Install PV solar panels that produce electricity at a Dakota Electric account/premise. Solar water heating systems do not qualify.
- Own the PV system and the property or building on which the system will be installed.
- Agree to connect your PV system to our electrical grid in accordance with Dakota Electric's distributed generation interconnection requirements. See requirements at www.dakotaelectric.com. Click on Electric Service Handbook under Resources.
- Install a production meter socket for the incentive payout.



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Now there is an incentive to join the ranks of homeowners who install a solar system.

Qualifications (cont.)

- Provide a copy of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) PV Watt Calculator available at <http://pwwatts.nrel.gov/> showing system location and kW size.
- Install a properly sized PV system that produces less than 120 percent of your annual energy use, based on the past 12 months of energy use. Use NREL PV Watt Calculator kWh per year output data as sizing factor. Systems installed with a nameplate rating greater than 8.01 kW do not receive additional performance incentives.
- Have PV panels and inverters listed on the California Energy Commissions (CEC) list at http://www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov/equipment/pv_modules.php
- Inverters and micro-inverters must be tested to comply with UL1741 standard.
- Installations must be completed within 365 days of interconnection agreement submission.



Funding approval

1. Verify that your planned system meets all eligibility requirements (see Qualifications section).
2. Choose an installer, based on multiple estimates. You can use the installer of your choice or install the PV system yourself. Your installer can complete the application for you or you can fill it out. Confirm that you and/or your installer understand and agree to our installation requirements.
3. Download and complete the interconnection form from www.dakotaelectric.com. Click on Electric Service Handbook under Quick Links. Include the engineering fee of \$100 (check only) and mail to:

Generation Interconnection Coordinator
Dakota Electric Association
4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024-9583

Resources to find installers

- Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association (MnSEIA)
- Minnesota Department of Commerce: <http://www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/home.do?agency=Energy>
- Solar Minnesota: www.solarminnesota.org
- The Solar Energy Industries Association: www.seia.org
- The American Solar Energy Society: www.ases.org
- North America Board of Certified Energy Practitioners

Programs are subject to terms, conditions and change without notice.

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

CONTACT THE ENERGY EXPERTS®

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