

Contract No:

This document was prepared in conjunction with work accomplished under Contract No. DE-AC09-08SR22470 with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM).

Disclaimer:

This work was prepared under an agreement with and funded by the U.S. Government. Neither the U. S. Government or its employees, nor any of its contractors, subcontractors or their employees, makes any express or implied:

- 1) warranty or assumes any legal liability for the accuracy, completeness, or for the use or results of such use of any information, product, or process disclosed; or
- 2) representation that such use or results of such use would not infringe privately owned rights; or
- 3) endorsement or recommendation of any specifically identified commercial product, process, or service.

Any views and opinions of authors expressed in this work do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government, or its contractors, or subcontractors.

A Step-by-Step Guide for South Carolina Residential Solar Customers

ACT 236, The Distributed Energy Resource Program Act, expanded solar options for residential users in South Carolina, making solar energy more affordable than ever before. Current costs and incentives are dependent on several factors unique to each resident: the suitability of your home, your current costs of electricity, your energy provider and whether or not you choose to buy or lease solar. This Step-by-Step Guide intends to clarify some of these costs and incentives as you consider solar energy for your home.

Step 1. Select Your Energy Provider

	SCE&G	Duke Energy	Santee Cooper
Net Metering Availability	1:1 through 2025	1:1 through 2025	1:1
Upfront Rebate Availability	None	\$1/W (dc) rebate	\$1.30/W (dc) rebate up to 4kW
Excess Energy Buy-back	1:1 (first come first serve basis)	1:1, accrued excess energy credits are zeroed & paid to customer at utility's avoided cost once yearly (~4-5 ¢ per kWh)	\$0.0388/kWh
Other Incentives	Annual payment at avoided cost during November billing cycle. All generation will receive an incentive according to a capacity based step down chart.	None	First 500 customers receive an additional \$0.04/kWh for three years
Community Solar	Yes	Yes, to be available in 2017	Yes
Interconnection Application Fee	\$100 residential \$250 non-residential	\$100 residential \$250 non-residential	\$100 residential and \$4.40/kW fixed monthly fee

Step 2. Consider Buying or Leasing

Buying?

- You pay for the entire solar system up front or finance through a loan.
- As the owner you assume responsibility for damages and maintenance costs.



Leasing?

- You rent a renewable energy system from a solar leasing company over a period of time. Normally done through monthly payments.
- Typically not responsible for upkeep costs.
- You are responsible for the lease if you move. You will either need to buy the lease out or transfer to the new homeowner.

Step 3. Factor in Tax Credits

Federal Tax: 30% of your system's total installed cost.



SC State Tax: Additional 25% of total cost of system. Maximum benefit is either \$3,500 or 50% of your tax liability for that year, which can be taken for 10 years.

Step 4. Learn More

www.solar.sc.gov
www.scolarcouncil.org
www.sceg.com/solar
www.duke-energy.com/south-carolina/renewable-energy/solar.asp
www.santeecooper.com/distributedgeneration