

**Contract No:**

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# 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

	<b>SCE&amp;G</b>	<b>Duke Energy</b>	<b>Santee Cooper</b>
<b>Net Metering Availability</b>	1:1 through 2025	1:1 through 2025	1:1
<b>Upfront Rebate Availability</b>	None	\$1/W (dc) rebate	\$1.30/W (dc) rebate up to 4kW
<b>Excess Energy Buy-back</b>	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
<b>Other Incentives</b>	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
<b>Community Solar</b>	Yes	Yes, to be available in 2017	Yes
<b>Interconnection Application Fee</b>	\$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](http://www.solar.sc.gov)  
[www.scsolarcouncil.org](http://www.scsolarcouncil.org)  
[www.sceg.com/solar](http://www.sceg.com/solar)  
[www.duke-energy.com/south-carolina/renewable-energy/solar.asp](http://www.duke-energy.com/south-carolina/renewable-energy/solar.asp)  
[www.santeecooper.com/distributedgeneration](http://www.santeecooper.com/distributedgeneration)