

Even though California is facing an energy crisis, LADWP has ample power supplies to meet all our customer's demands. In fact, we've even provided surplus energy to other parts of the State. But we should **all** do our part to use energy as efficiently as possible, and support clean, renewable, reliable energy sources like solar.

***Our Solar Incentive Program has put solar within your reach!***

After reviewing the information on this brochure, your first and most important step is to consult with a solar manufacturer/installer who can evaluate your property and recommend an appropriate system. You'll find a list of such companies on our website: [www.GreenLA.com](http://www.GreenLA.com).

**What is the Incentive?**

The incentive is a payment that lowers the purchase price of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for all LADWP customers, residential & commercial. In this program, a specific dollar amount is awarded for each installed solar system watt. Solar systems manufactured inside the City of Los Angeles also receive a bonus Incentive payment of \$1,000,000 over five years of the Incentive program, while the maximum for a residential site is a total of \$50,000.

**How to Reserve & Receive a Solar Incentive Payment**

1. First hire a contractor to evaluate your property and design and install a PV system.
2. You can reserve an Incentive payment for up to 12 months by submitting a Reservation Form; your solar contractor must also sign this form. Reservation Forms and designs must be submitted for all systems that are 10 kW or larger.

If your PV system is not installed within the 12 months, you must reapply for the Incentive.

3. Incentives are reserved in the order requests are received, with no guarantee funds will be available.
4. It is not *necessary* to *reserve* an Incentive payment; you can simply submit an Incentive Claim Form after the PV system is installed and operational.
5. After installation, the Building and Safety Department of the City of Los Angeles will inspect the solar system to insure compliance with local codes.
6. After receiving the Incentive Claim Form, LADWP inspects the system to verify that approved solar equipment was used. If the system is a different size than was described in the Form, the Incentive payment will be recalculated. Upon approval, LADWP issues the Incentive payment check, usually to the solar contractor or manufacturer. Payment can be issued to the property owner, who will receive a 1099 statement from LADWP for the amount of the Incentive payment.
7. All Incentive program forms may be obtained from your contractor, by calling (800) Green LA (473-3652), or forms may also be downloaded from the LADWP website at [www.GreenLA.com](http://www.GreenLA.com)

Incentive Payment/Watt:

Years 1-5

effective 8/7/01

Program Year	1	2	3	4	5
	8/7/01- 12/31/01	1/1/02- 12/31/02	1/1/03- 12/31/03	1/1/04- 12/31/04	1/1/05- 12/31/05
*Base Incentive/Watt+	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$3.50	\$3.00	\$2.50
**Incentive for PV systems manufactured inside City of LA: LAMC (LA Manufacturing Credit)	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.00	\$1.00
Base Incentive + LAMC	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.50

\*The Base Incentive payment will be issued upon installation and approval of the solar power system

\*\*The LAMC payment will be issued if a solar company has begun manufacturing inside the City of Los Angeles, within eighteen months from the date it first supplied equipment under the new (above) Incentive program

+LADWP uses the PTC (**PV USA Testing Conditions**) rating for solar modules. The PTC rating of a 75 Watt module, for example, is 67.5 Watts. The Incentive payment is calculated by multiplying the number of modules x the PTC rating for each to determine the total Watt output, then multiplying the total output by the appropriate Incentive. Ex: Twenty 75 Watt modules would be calculated as:  $20 \times 67.5 = 1,395$  Watts.  $1,395 \text{ Watts} \times \$4.50/\text{Watt Base Incentive} = \$6,115.50$ . The LAMC portion of the Incentive is calculated at  $1,395 \text{ Watts} \times \$1.50/\text{Watt} = \$2,092.50$ . The LAMC portion is held in escrow; see details.

### Solar System Equipment & Installation

- City of Los Angeles building permits are required for installation of solar systems.
- The California State Licensing Board has approved three categories of licensed contractors to install solar systems: electrical (C10 classification); engineering (A); and solar specialty (C46).

It is very important to check contractor qualifications. Contact the League of California Homeowners (see Resources & Contacts) and CA License Board to verify that licenses and insurance are current, and to learn of any prior complaints

- Qualified do-it-your-selves may install home solar systems
- Solar equipment must be certified and UL-approved (See Resources & Contacts for equipment listings)

### System Size, Cost, Financing

- The *minimum* size solar system eligible for the Incentive program is 300 Watts; the *maximum* is one that will supply 100% of a building's power
- Designs for solar systems over 10 kW must be approved by LADWP; designs should be submitted with the Incentive Reservation Form
- LADWP customers can begin with a small solar system and increase the size gradually. Until 8/31/05, each time a LADWP customer installs eligible solar equipment, the customer may apply for an Incentive payment – as long as that customer has not exceeded the *maximum* Incentive payment that is allowed

- A 2,000 Watt system (2 kW) can supply the average home (1,500-2,000 sq. ft.) with 20-80% of its power
- A 2 kW system will cost approximately \$20,000-\$22,000; a 1 kW system will cost about \$10,000. The inverter which, converts the DC solar panel current into AC current is the most expensive element (\$3-\$4,000)
- Solar PV systems are eligible for financing as home improvements

### **Connection to the Power Grid**

- All Incentive participants remain connected to the LADWP power system (grid)
- The LADWP bill will decrease because less power will be purchased from the department after the system is installed

### **City Solar Systems**

- If all Incentive funds are not reserved or used in a given year, LADWP reserves the right to use these funds to install solar PV systems on City of Los Angeles-owned buildings

### **The Incentive Program Does NOT:**

- Inspect homes or buildings to determine if they're suitable for solar systems
- Evaluate solar plans/designs
- Design, manufacture, sell, install, modify, repair or remove solar systems for any customer
- Issue an Incentive payment for solar systems that were purchased or installed before Sept. 1, 2000
- Recommend solar retailers or contractors/installers or equipment
- Provide Incentive payments for solar thermal systems used for swimming pools and water heaters
- Issue Incentive payments for solar equipment that stores power (batteries) or for systems that are not grid-connected (connected to the LADWP power system)
- The Solar Hosting program has been discontinued

### **Resources & Contacts**

#### **LADWP:**

(800) GreenLA – [www.GreenLA.com](http://www.GreenLA.com) (solar section)

#### **Solar Equipment:**

The California Energy Commission has approved the following solar equipment. Call (800) 555-7794 for free copies or download the information:

#### **Approved solar modules (panels):**

[www.energy.ca.gov/greengrid/certified\\_pv\\_modules.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/greengrid/certified_pv_modules.html)

#### **Approved solar inverters:**

[www.energy.ca.gov/greengrid/certified\\_inverters.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/greengrid/certified_inverters.html)

### **Solar Equipment Retailers**

**Notice:** The California Energy Commission provides this list of retailers and vendors of solar photovoltaic, small wind, and fuel cell systems for information purposes only and does not necessarily endorse any of the listed retailers. This list represents retailers and vendors that have participated in the Energy Commission's Emerging Renewables Buydown Account or requested to be included on the list. This initial listing should not be viewed as comprehensive – it will be updated and revised periodically.

[www.energy.ca.gov/greengrid/companyslist.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/greengrid/companyslist.html)

If you are a retailer of eligible systems and would like to be included on this list (or deleted from list), please contact Sanford Miller at:

[Smiller@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:Smiller@energy.state.ca.us) or (916) 653-2834

### **General Information:**

Guide to Buying a PV system:

[www.energy.ca.gov/reports/500-99-008.PDF](http://www.energy.ca.gov/reports/500-99-008.PDF)

### **Solar Equipment Financing Sources:**

[www.energy.ca.gov/greengird/solar\\_financing.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/greengird/solar_financing.html)

EfficiencyWise consumer financing:

Call toll-free (877) 99-LADWP, (877) 995-2397

### **Contractors and Installers** (free information)

League of California Homeowners

(800) 692-HOME – [www.homeowners.org](http://www.homeowners.org) (see “approved contractors”)

California State Licensing Board

(800) 321-CSLB – [www.cslb.ca.gov/](http://www.cslb.ca.gov/)

Also see “solar” in your phone directory and our website

### **Need more information?**

Please visit our website at [www.GreenLA.com](http://www.GreenLA.com)

And see the “solar” section for additional information.

**For complete information about the Solar Incentive Program, call toll-free 1 (800) GreenLA (1-800-473-3652) or email your request to [solar@greenla.com](mailto:solar@greenla.com)**