

PGE Smart Battery Pilot: Residential Rebates and Bill Rewards

Program details for Energy Trust of Oregon solar trade allies

Making batteries more affordable for Oregonians

Batteries play an important role in Oregon's clean energy future, but the cost can be a barrier for some households. We want more of our customers to install home battery storage systems and connect them to our grid. This helps us make better use of renewable energy sources and makes our customers more resilient in the event of an unexpected power interruption. As an Energy Trust of Oregon solar trade ally, you're key to making that happen.

For a limited time, PGE is offering monthly bill credits and instant rebates for qualifying battery systems.

Dispatching batteries

During this pilot, PGE will leverage battery systems installed at customer homes, behind the meter, as a dispatchable resource providing grid services. PGE will schedule the battery to discharge according to the needs of the grid and to meet research objectives. We will very carefully balance customer needs with our usage of the battery and take every effort to ensure that customers have ample capacity in the event of a power outage. At this time, customers are still able to perform daily load shifting for their own bill management purposes, though we may override a customer's commands to place a battery in standby mode prior to dispatching for grid services.

Eligibility

Any residential PGE customer not participating in our Solar Payment Option (or "feed in tariff") may participate in this pilot and receive monthly bill credits if they install a qualifying battery storage system. Customers must work with an Energy Trust solar trade ally contractor, and the installation must be approved through the net metering process before being accepted into the pilot.

Monthly bill credits

- \$20 a month if the battery can charge from solar panels only
- \$40 a month if the battery can charge from the PGE grid (regardless of whether or not it's connected to solar panels)

The monthly bill credits will never expire or be removed from customer accounts and may be applied to non-energy taxes and fees. Customers can opt out of the program at any time.

Instant Rebates

All instant rebates are first come, first served. We'll hold a 9-month "reservation" starting when the net metering application is received to allow time for the project to be completed. Customers must receive the benefit of the rebate off the installation purchase price. Only Energy Trust solar trade allies may offer these rebates to customers. Customers are eligible to receive both the rebate and monthly bill credits, but no customer may receive more than one rebate. Check the **rebate dashboard** to verify the current rebate amount and space remaining in the pilot.

1. Customers can qualify for an instant rebate by living in the **PGE Smart Grid Test Bed**. These are neighborhoods in Hillsboro, Milwaukie and North Portland where we test new programs and products.

We have a total of 200 rebates available for customers living in the Smart Grid Test Bed. The earliest participants will receive a higher rebate amount.

- Participants in our first group receive a \$3,000 rebate.
- Participants in our second group receive a \$2,000 rebate.
- Participants in our third and final group receive a \$1,000 rebate.

2. Customers can qualify for an instant rebate if they are eligible to receive a **Solar Within Reach** incentive from Energy Trust of Oregon. This program offers higher incentive amounts for income-qualified customers installing solar.

There are 25 rebates available for income-qualified customers who are eligible for a Solar Within Reach incentive. These rebates are \$5,000 each.



Enrolling in the pilot

1. Make sure the customer and battery storage system are eligible for the pilot and any rebates (see “Eligibility” and “Rebates” above). Check the **rebate dashboard** to see the current rebate amount and space remaining in the pilot.
2. Review the terms and conditions of the **PGE Smart Battery Pilot** and make sure the customer understands how they are agreeing to participate.
3. Submit an application to Energy Trust for either a new solar plus storage installation, new storage added to existing solar or a standalone storage project. This allows Energy Trust to verify the installation meets code requirements through the existing program process and issue instant rebate payments on PGE’s behalf directly to the trade ally contractor.
4. Submit your net metering interconnection application to PGE and check the boxes showing the customer would like to participate in the pilot and whether they will be eligible for additional rebates. This process allows PGE to ensure that the section of the grid where the customer is located can support the solar and battery storage system. Be sure to check the **net metering map** as well.
5. Complete the installation of a qualifying battery system. Check our **website** for a list of qualifying products. Customers can pair the battery storage with solar if they’d like, but it’s not required for this pilot.
6. After passing local jurisdictional inspection, notify Energy Trust that the site is ready for installation verification and either a remote or onsite verification will be completed. Energy Trust will notify PGE that the site has passed verification.
7. For projects that qualify for an instant rebate, the value of the rebate should be reflected as a decrease in the customer’s total cost and the cost breakdown should be shown in the installation agreement and/or invoice. Energy Trust will issue instant rebate payments on PGE’s behalf directly to the trade ally contractor through the typical incentive payment pathway.
8. The customer will receive an automated link with instructions to sign up for the pilot once the system has been verified and receives permission to operate from PGE. Monthly bill credits will begin when the customer enrolls their battery.

How do batteries support renewable energy?

By adding their batteries to our grid, customers are helping us create a “virtual power plant” that lets us store and draw energy as needed. That’s important as we add more renewables like wind and solar. If our solar panels or wind turbines are generating more than usual, we can store this clean energy in batteries and use it later as needed. When power is at peak demand, PGE can dispatch batteries to reduce the amount of strain on the grid and fossil fuel “peaker” generation needed to serve customers. As a result, we’re better equipped to incorporate more low-cost, renewable energy sources into our grid.

Questions?

See our **FAQs** or email smartbattery@portlandgeneral.com.

Thanks for working with us and being part of an Oregon kind of energy.