

Business Energy Rebates – Commercial Solar PV Rebate Guide

1. Eligible Applicants

- The participating business must have a business utility account and the utility must allow net metering.
- The participating business must be installing a grid-tie OR a grid-tie plus batteries system.
Off-grid systems are not eligible.
- The participating business must own the equipment (financed and lease-to-own systems are eligible).
- “Top up” solar projects are eligible if the total system (existing + new) does not exceed 100kW AC total inverter capacity. Participating businesses are only eligible for rebates up to a maximum of 100kW installed AC per civic address per lifetime.
- The participating business agrees to share system performance data with Efficiency Nova Scotia and/or third-party representatives.

2. Rebate Details

- Eligible projects must be installed after May 15, 2024.
- Rebate is limited to projects up to and including 100kW installed AC, total inverter capacity (as indicated on nameplates of inverter(s)).
- As of May 15, 2024, the rebate is calculated at \$0.25/kWh of annual energy production. The rebate is capped at a maximum of \$30,000 per project (or up to 50% of the material costs, whichever is less)
- Eligible costs include all material costs (excluding HST) related to system equipment including but not limited to panels, racking, inverter, batteries, and electrical service upgrades.

3. Equipment Requirements

- Systems must be designed and installed by an Efficiency Nova Scotia Registered Solar Installer. Participants are not permitted to install systems themselves.
- Solar panels and inverters must be new and include a permanently affixed nameplate that states the manufacturer and model number.
- The solar installation should be either a new system or increase the capacity of, but not replace, currently operational solar equipment.
- The minimum system size needed to qualify for a rebate is 1 kW. Solar PV systems can be net-metered (connected to the grid), or they can be grid-tied with batteries (the rebates are exclusively for the panels at the present time). **Off-grid systems are not eligible.**
- The utility must allow net metering and there must be compliance with net metering procedures.
- All equipment and design specifications must adhere to applicable provincial, federal, and municipal licenses, permits and approvals.
- All solar PV equipment, including array and ancillary equipment, and all installation work must comply with the Canadian Electrical Code (CEC) and have a CSA or other internationally recognized standards agency symbol. This includes compliance with CEC CSA 22.2 No. 107.1 and be inspected prior to being energized.

- Ancillary equipment for a solar PV system includes the following: AC and DC cabling, combiner boxes, switches, meters, panels, and transformers required to allow the array to feed AC power to the customer's building or to the grid. Installations must follow CSA SPE-900-13 Solar PV rooftop installation best practices guideline (2013). Grid-connected installations must comply with CEC section 64 as well as Nova Scotia Power (NSP) interconnection guide, corresponding with section 84 of CEC.
- Modules must carry a minimum warranty of 20-year power performance and 10-year manufacturing.
- Grid-connected inverter(s) and/or micro-inverter(s) must carry a minimum 10-year manufacturing warranty.
- Equipment must be installed on a rooftop or ground mounted. Systems installed on portable or temporary structures are not eligible. This would include, for example, recreational vehicles and trailers.

4. How to Apply

Preapproval from Efficiency Nova Scotia is required prior to commencing work.

Step 1: Submit all Preapproval Documents to Efficiency Nova Scotia

- Completed [Business Energy Rebates - Commercial Solar PV Before You Buy Application](#)
- Quote/Solar Proposal that includes:
 - ☐ Make, model, and number of modules, module capacity (W), system capacity (kW)
 - ☐ Make, model, and number of inverters, inverter capacity.
 - ☐ Azimuth, slope, and shading factor for all subarrays
 - ☐ Modeled annual electricity production (kWh), first year energy savings (\$)
 - ☐ Total materials-only and total installed cost (\$)
- A copy of a recent power bill
- Photos of the proposed system location, and unobstructed south-facing view of the surroundings (to assess shading).
- Site plan - Provide a copy of the site plan showing the physical arrangement of the major equipment, including generating equipment, transformers, switches, control panels, the customer's existing metered service and the interconnection with utility distribution system. Include the civic address, references, etc. Provide Property Identification Number (PID).
- Electrical single line drawing - A single-line diagram showing the electrical relationship and descriptions of the significant electrical components such as the generator, inverters, cables and wiring, switches, meters, transformers, circuit breakers, with operation voltages and ratings.
- Manufacturers specification sheets - Provide manufacturer information sheets and certification compliance reports for any previously unapproved equipment such as, inverters, generators, solar modules, rapid shutdown devices, combiner boxes, DC disconnect switches, and DC optimizers.

Step 2: Begin project once you receive preapproval

Step 3: Submit Final Documentation After Passing the NSP Final Inspection

To finalize and receive the rebate, the following documents must be submitted to Efficiency Nova Scotia within 12 months of the approval date:

- Project Completion Form
- Copies of final invoice(s) which must include:
 - ☐ Installer name, business address and HST number
 - ☐ Business name and address where installation occurred.
 - ☐ Invoice number and date.
 - ☐ Manufacturers make(s) and model number(s) & quantities.
 - ☐ Total materials-only and total installed cost (\$)
- Photos of the installed system (mounted system showing all panels, inverter(s), nameplates for panels and inverter(s).
- Final electrical inspection report
- Final building inspection report (where applicable)

NOTE: A site visit may be required prior to rebates being issued.

Send all required documents to:

| Email: | Fax: | Mail: |
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| rebates@efficiencyns.ca (Please note that we cannot accept high-risk attachments such as ZIP, EXE or files that exceed 10MB.) | (902) 470 3599 Attention: Rebates | Efficiency Nova Scotia 230 Brownlow Avenue Suite 300 Dartmouth, NS B3B 0G5 Attention: Rebates |