Duke Energy’s solar rebate program in North Carolina makes installing solar panels for your home, business, or nonprofit a better investment than ever before.

What is the NC Solar Rebate?
Currently, there is a one time solar rebate available to homes, businesses, and nonprofits serviced by Duke Energy in North Carolina. The Duke Energy solar rebate began in 2017 and will continue through 2022.

How did the rebate get started?
The Duke Energy Rebate is a result of House Bill 589 which was a bill developed collaboratively by clean energy advocates, Duke Energy, and the legislature to continue North Carolina’s strong track record of promoting clean energy. This incentive helps expand North Carolina's growing solar movement, keeping in tradition with our status as the #2 solar producing state in the nation.
Why is this rebate so awesome?

**Sustainable Savings**
This rebate significantly reduces the net cost of a solar installation allowing more homes, businesses, and nonprofits to tap into solar savings and lock in their energy rate for 25+ years.

**A Brighter Future**
With this incentive, clean energy is more affordable than ever for North Carolinians. By harnessing the power of the sun, you are able to lead the change to create a more sustainable future for generations to come.

**Energy Independence**
Generating your own solar energy means buying less from the utility, which means more money in your pocket and more money that can be invested within your local community. It’s a win-win-win situation!

Who is eligible?
Homeowners, businesses, and non-profits in North Carolina who are Duke Energy customers that install solar electric (PV) systems are eligible for a rebate from Duke Energy.

What if you’re not a Duke Energy customer?
Not a Duke Energy Customer? No problem. We know it’s disappointing that the rebate program is not available to you, but with solar prices at an all-time low and powerful federal tax incentives for solar, we’re confident we can design a solar solution that leaves you radiating with happiness.

If you are served by a municipal utility that doesn’t offer solar incentives, reach out to your local city government and tell them that solar is an important part of our energy future. If you are served by an electric membership cooperative, then you are technically an owner of your utility—reach out to your Board of Directors and tell them you are ready for them to join the 21st century. Finally, get involved with and support the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association, which is the main renewable energy advocacy group in our state.
How much is the rebate worth?

Based on the installed system size, homeowners can save up to $6,000, businesses can save up to $50,000, and nonprofits can save up to $75,000. There is an annual cap for the rebate portion of 20MW which is divided between homes, businesses, and nonprofits in Duke Energy Progress and Duke Energy territory.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Solar Rebate Program</th>
<th>Business Solar Rebate Program</th>
<th>Non-Profit Solar Rebate Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebate Amount</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60¢ per watt</td>
<td>50¢ per watt</td>
<td>75¢ per watt</td>
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<tr>
<td>$3,000 to $5,000 for a typical home solar panel system</td>
<td>$50,000 for a 100 kilowatt solar system</td>
<td>$37,500 for a 50 kilowatt solar system</td>
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| Maximum Rebate           |                               |                                |
|--------------------------|                               |                                |
| $6,000                   | $50,000                       | $75,000                       |
| 10,000 watts x $0.60     | 100,000 watts x $0.50         | 100,000 watts x $0.75         |

How is the rebate value calculated?

The Duke Energy rebate is calculated based on the size of the solar system that is being installed and varies depending on whether it is a home, business, or nonprofit claiming the incentive.

Residential

Homeowners in Duke Energy territory can claim $0.60/watt on new solar installations for up to a 10kW sized system. Although the residential cap is at 10kW per system, you will still be able to install a larger size system if needed.

Example of a residential system

7.6kW size system = 7,600 watts
7,600 watts x $0.60 rebate = $4,560 projected total rebate
Commercial

Businesses that install solar in Duke Energy territory are eligible for a $0.50/watt rebate on up to a 100kW sized system. Businesses that install more than 100kW of solar will only be able to apply for the max business rebate value of $50,000.

Example of a commercial system
100kW size system = 100,000 watts
100,000 watts x $0.50 rebate = $50,000 projected total rebate

Nonprofit

Nonprofit customers of Duke Energy can receive the $0.75/watt rebate for up to 100kW of newly installed solar. Similar to homes and businesses, if nonprofits exceed the 100kW max they will only be able to apply for the cap nonprofit rebate value of $75,000.

Example of a nonprofit system
50kW size system = 50,000 watts
50,000 watts x $0.75 rebate = $37,500 projected total rebate
How do current solar incentives stack up?

When you combine the Duke Energy Rebate with the other incentives available for solar, the savings really start to stack up. Don’t forget, the 26% Federal Tax Credit for Solar will step down to 22% in 2021 toward a complete sunset in 2022. Now is the time to take advantage of these incentives before they disappear!

**Residential**

For an average size 7.6 kW residential solar system, your net cost will drop from approximately $24K to $14k when you combine the Duke Energy Rebate and the Federal Tax Credit for solar. That’s a savings of more than 40% on the cost of your system.

**Commercial**

In addition to the Duke Energy Rebate, there are two primary incentives for commercial solar in North Carolina — The Federal Tax Credit for Solar and 100% First Year Bonus Depreciation. When you combine these incentives with the Duke Energy Rebate, the cost of a 100kW commercial solar installation drops from around $200-$210K down to approximately $86K, which is nearly a 60% discount on the cost of your system.

**Nonprofit**

Because nonprofits aren’t eligible for the Federal Tax Credit for solar (since they don’t pay taxes), the Duke Energy Solar Rebate represents a unique opportunity for a nonprofit organizations interested in solar. With the rebate, savings on the cost of a 50kW solar system are close to $40K, or 30% of the cost of the system!
COMMON QUESTIONS

Does battery storage qualify for the rebate?
This rebate is intended for solar systems and is based off the solar system’s size. The addition of battery storage does not change the size of the solar system. So with or without a battery, your rebate eligibility won’t change. However, the cost of battery storage installed with solar does qualify for the 26% Federal Investment Tax Credit!

Can you apply the rebate to an existing solar system or to a solar system expansion?
The Duke Energy solar rebate cannot be applied retroactively to existing systems. However, if you are expanding your system and install a new inverter with the new panels, the expansion will be eligible for the rebate. Any new solar equipment, inverter or not, can also receive the 26% Federal Investment Tax Credit.

IMPORTANT INFO

Is the rebate guaranteed?
The rebate is not guaranteed and is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis starting when the online rebate application goes live. The 2018 rebate allotment filled up in about 10 days, the 2019 Rebate reached capacity within hours, and the 2020 rebate filled in just minutes. We expect the 2021 rebate to be even more competitive. That being said, we had a 96% success rate for our clients who applied in 2019 and are looking at a similar success rate for the 2020 rebate.

We strive hard to educate our customers on everything they need to know about the rebate and provide all the information they need so that they are best positioned to receive the rebate come application day.
When do you apply for the rebate?

As anticipated, the Duke Solar Rebate has been wildly popular! We’re excited to see so many homes and businesses going solar in North Carolina, but unfortunately the rebate program has an annual cap. The 2020 rebate opened on January 2nd and filled in just minutes with hundreds of homeowners waitlisted.

The next rebate application will open again in **January 2021**. We’ll update this guide with the specific date and time after it has been announced by Duke Energy.

Who applies for the rebate?

Homeowners must apply for the rebate online as soon as the application opens in **January 2021**. Once the application is completed, it will be timestamped with the time of submission. This will determine the first-come, first-served order as the rebate allocation fills.

Some installers are opting to apply on behalf of their customers. In this scenario, Duke Energy will send a confirmation email to the homeowner to confirm their installer within 1 day of the installer’s application submission. The timestamp for the completed application will be when Duke Energy receives the confirmation from the homeowner, **not when the installer applies**. Since the rebate reached capacity within minutes this year, taking this approach would not be strategic in gaining you access to the rebate. That’s why we are instructing our customers to apply on their own for the best chance to get in line for the rebate before it reaches capacity.

When should you get started?

Now! Even though the 2020 rebate has reached capacity, it is still the perfect time to get started on your solar journey to take advantage of other powerful solar incentives. Lock in guaranteed savings from the 26% Federal Solar Tax Credit before it steps down to 22% next year. If you are still interested in the Duke Energy Solar Rebate, our solar designers can outline how your savings will stack up with or without the rebate.

We are happy to help answer any questions and get you in line for sunny savings!
1. Who can qualify for the Duke Energy Rebate?
   a. Anyone with a permanent address in North Carolina
   b. Homes, businesses, & nonprofits who are Duke Energy customers
   c. Any alumni of Duke University

2. What is the max rebate amount homes / businesses / nonprofits can claim?
   a. $2,500 / $35,000 / $50,000
   b. $6,000 / $50,000 / $75,000
   c. $10,000 / $50,000 / $75,000

3. What is the max size system a home / business / nonprofit can apply for?
   a. 10kW / 100kW / 100kW
   b. 10W / 100W / 100W
   c. 10W / 20W / 20W

4. How is the Duke Energy solar rebate awarded?
   a. All Duke Energy customers who install solar in 2020 are automatically awarded
   b. The rebate is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis starting when the online rebate application goes live
   c. The rebate is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis depending on your solar installation date in 2020

5. Duke Energy solar rebate applications are timestamped based on:
   a. Time the application is submitted if completed by the homeowner
   b. Time the homeowner verifies their installer if the application is submitted by the installer
   c. All of the above

Answers: b, b, a, b, c
Southern Energy Management, headquartered in Raleigh, NC, is a team of building scientists, solar designers and installers, and entrepreneurs dedicated to leading the change. Founded in 2001, we’ve worked for more than a decade to improve the way homeowners, businesses, builders, and developers create, consume, and conserve energy.

We’re firm believers that businesses have the power to change the world for the better, and we’re committed to working toward that goal each and every day. We believe what you do is important, and we also believe how you do it matters just as much. Because of that, we’re proud to be a B Corporation in NC.

Questions?
Our solar educators are happy to help. Give them a call today!

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