

City of Chula Vista

This page outlines solar PV incentives, financing mechanisms, permitting process, and interconnection information for the City of Chula Vista and the utility that serves its territory, San Diego Gas and Electric.

To skip directly to each section please use these hyperlinks:

[Find an Installer](#) | [Financing](#) | [Incentives](#) | [Permitting](#) | [Interconnection](#)

Solar Contact Information

City of Chula Vista
276 Fourth Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Website:

www.chulavistaca.gov/clean/

Phone:

- *Conservation Section – Public Works*
Phone: (619) 409-3893, Fax: (619) 476-5310
- *Building Division – Development Services*
Phone: (619) 691-5272, Fax: (619) 409-5861

Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8:00AM - 5:00PM (General Business)*

OVERALL SOLAR PROCESS:



Find an Installer

- **Qualified contractors are your key to getting the most productive solar energy system for your home or business.**
 - Typically solar installers will:
 - Locate financing programs to fit your needs
 - Apply for rebates and incentives on your behalf
 - Apply for local permits
 - Install your PV system
 - Arrange for your PV system to be interconnected to your utility's power grid
- **California Solar Statistics provides a searchable/sortable list of Installers, Contractors, and Sellers by area who can help you in the process of going solar:**
 - <http://californiasolarstatistics.com/search/contractor/>
 - Important Notes:
 - Costs are measured on a per watt basis

- It is important to remember that cost is not the only factor involved in system installation.
- **It is highly recommended to contact *a minimum of three installers* to compare costs, system sizing, and services offered before signing a contract.**

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Financing Information

City staff members are available to assist Chula Vista residents and businesses in understanding and accessing financing to support solar photovoltaic installations.

Solar Contact Information

City of Chula Vista
Conservation Section – Public Works Department
276 Fourth Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910
Public Services Building 300

Solar Financing Website:

www.chulavistaca.gov/goto/solar

Phone:

- *Conservation Section - Public Works*
Phone: (619) 409-3893, Fax: (619) 476-5310

Hours:

Monday - Thursday 8:00AM - 5:00PM

• Federal Solar Incentives

- o Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit
 - A taxpayer may claim a credit of 30% of qualified expenditures for a solar system that serves a residence located in the United States that is owned and used as a residence by the taxpayer.
 - http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=U37F&re=1&ee=1

- Business Energy Investment Tax Credit (ITC)
 - This federal tax credit is equal to 30% of expenditures on a solar system, with no maximum credit.
 - http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=US02F&re=1&ee=1

- **Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Programs**
 - CaliforniaFIRST
 - The City of Chula Vista is a participant in the CaliforniaFIRST Program, a PACE program for non-residential properties. This program allows property owners to finance the installation of energy and water improvements on commercial, industrial or multi-family (over 5 units) buildings and pay the amount back as a line item on their property tax bill.
 - For more information: www.californiafirst.org

- **Secured Financing**
 - Home Upgrade, Carbon Downgrade (HUCD) Community Revolving Loan Fund
 - The goal of the HUCD Community Revolving Loan Fund is to provide low interest financing for property owners to implement energy efficiency retrofits and/or to install renewable energy systems at their homes or businesses in Chula Vista.
 - For more information: <http://www.chulavistaca.gov/clean/conservation/climate/HUCD.asp>

 - Home Equity Lines of Credit (HELOCs) and Home Equity Loans (HELs)
 - HELOCs are forms of revolving credit in which a home serves as collateral. A HEL is a loan that has a fixed rate and term and also uses a home as collateral. The major difference between these two types of financing mechanisms is that HELOCs are similar to a credit card – you can withdraw money as needed and pay back the debt indefinitely – whereas an HEL gives you a one-time lump sum of cash that is paid off over a fixed amount of time. These types of loans are typically available through banks.
 - Home Equity Lines of Credit: www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/equity/equity_english.htm
 - Home Equity Loans: <http://www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/bulletin/1998/199804lead.pdf>

 - FHA 203(k) Rehabilitation Loans

- The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) administers various single family mortgage insurance programs. These programs operate through FHA-approved lending institutions which submit applications to have the property appraised and have the buyer's credit approved. These lenders fund the mortgage loans giving a line of credit to the property owner to make property upgrades, such as solar PV installations.
 - For more information:
http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing/sfh/ing/sfh/203k/203kabou
- HUD Title 1 PowerSaver Loans (Secured or Unsecured)
 - The PowerSaver program insures loans to finance small or moderate improvements to a home, such as a solar energy upgrade. Loans up to \$25,000 will be given to single family homeowners specifically targeting residential energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements.
 - For more information:
www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/solutioncenter/financialproducts/PowerSaver.html
- **Unsecured Financing**
 - Fannie Mae Energy Loan
 - Fannie Mae offers a direct, non-recourse consumer loan program that will finance up to \$20,000 in energy improvements without putting a lien on your home. Energy Loan is a simple interest, fixed rate loan with longer terms available than typical bank financing.
 - For more information: www.energyloan.net/index.php
 - Clean Energy Upgrade Financing Program - ABX1 14
 - ABX1 14 authorizes the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (CAEATFA) to administer a Clean Energy Upgrade Financing Program using up to \$25 million to finance the installation of distributed generation renewable energy sources, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, or energy or water efficiency improvements on homes or small commercial properties.
 - http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/caeatfa/abx1_14/index.asp
- **Third Party Ownership**
 - Solar Power Purchase Agreements

- A Solar Power Purchase Agreement is a financial arrangement in which a third-party developer owns, operates, and maintains the photovoltaic system, and a customer agrees to site the system on its property and purchase the system’s electricity. This financial arrangement allows the customer to avoid upfront installation costs and usually have lower electricity costs.
- Solar Leases
 - Solar Leases are similar to Power Purchase Agreements in that a third party pays for and owns the system, but with this financing mechanism a customer pays a fixed monthly fee that is not tied to actual energy use and is responsible for system performance, operations and maintenance.
 - For more information: www.energycenter.org/index.php/incentive-programs/california-solar-initiative/csi-latest-news/2167-why-pay-to-install-solar
- **Other Financing Mechanisms**
 - Feed-in Tariff (FIT)
 - Under a feed-in tariff, eligible renewable electricity generators are paid for the generating renewable electricity and feeding it into the utility grid.
 - For more information: [SDGE FIT Program](#)
 - Virtual Net Metering
 - VNEM is similar to ordinary Net Energy Metering (NEM) but is for multi-metered properties. VNEM is an agreement under which a share of production credits from a single solar system can be distributed to individual ratepayers in a multi-tenant property.
 - For more information:
 - Please call (858) 636-5585 or e-mail Netmetering@semprautilities.com

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Incentive Information

Federal Solar Incentives

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- A taxpayer may claim a credit of 30% of qualified expenditures for a solar system that serves a residence located in the United States that is owned and used as a residence by the taxpayer.
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California Solar Initiative (CSI)

- www.gosolarcalifornia.com/csi

Program Administrator

- California Center for Sustainable Energy (CCSE)
- Phone: 858-244-1177
- Email: csi@energycenter.org
- Website: www.energycenter.org/csi

Step by Step Process of getting a CSI solar rebate

- [Step 1: Energy Efficiency Audit](#)
Complete an energy efficiency audit and make sure to take advantage of all the cost-effective ways to save energy and money in your home or business.
- [Step 2: Find a Solar Installer](#)
Qualified contractors are your key to getting the most productive solar energy system for your home or business.
- [Step 3: Apply for Rebates](#)
Qualified contractors will handle the CSI application process for your rebates in two or three steps.
- [Step 4: Install Your System](#)
If you have received your reservation confirmation letter, you're ready to install your system and interconnect to the utility's power grid.
- [Step 5: Claim Your Incentive](#)
When your project is installed and operational you may submit the Incentive Claim Form.

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Permitting Process Information

Solar Contact Information

City of Chula Vista
Department of Development Services
276 Fourth Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910
Public Services Building 200

Solar Permitting Website:

http://www.chulavistaca.gov/City_Services/Development_Services/Planning_Building/Development_Services_Center/Process_Guides/Solar_Photo_System.asp

Phone:

- *Planning Division*
Phone: (619) 691-5101, Fax: (619) 409-5861

- *Building Division*
Phone: (619) 691-5272, Fax: (619) 409-5861

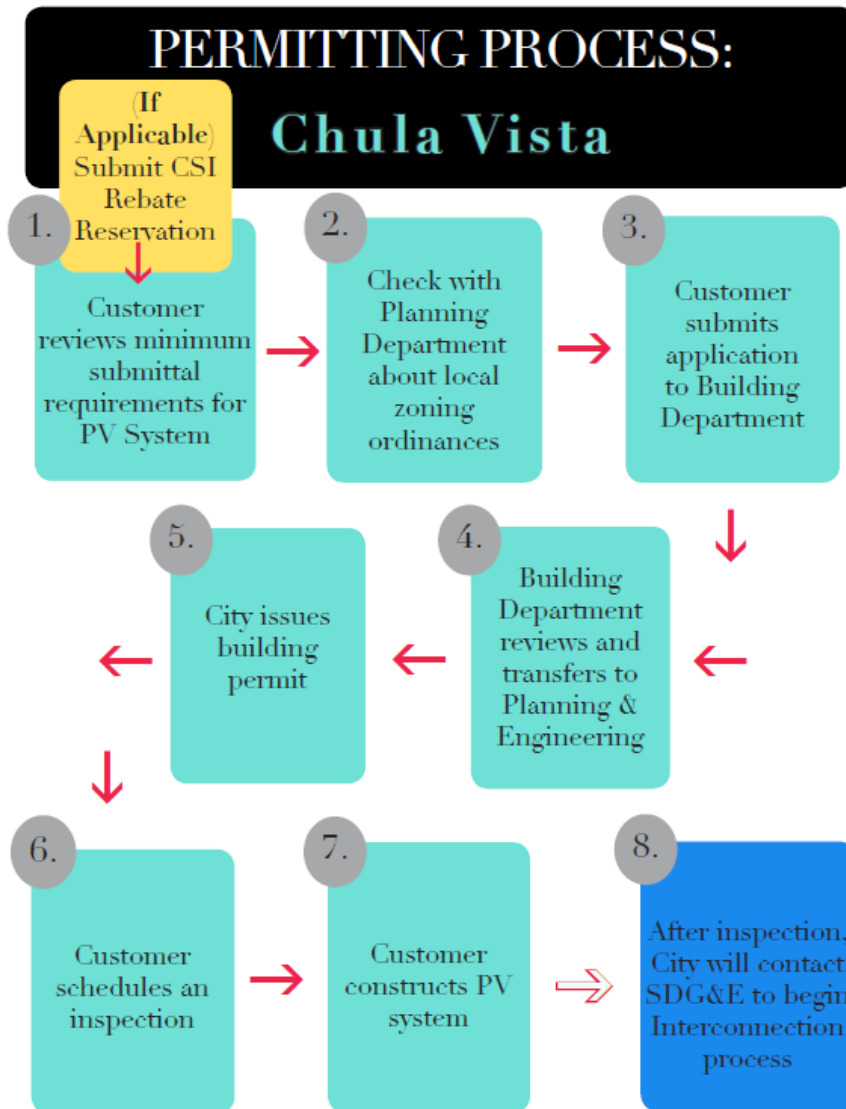
- *Inspection Section*
Phone: (619) 409-5868, Fax: (619) 585-5639

- *Building Inspection*
Phone: (619) 409-5434
 - o Schedule Inspection: Option 1
 - o Inspection Results: Option 3
 - o Plan Review Status: Option 4

Hours:

Monday - Thursday 10:00AM - 4:00PM*

*New Building Permit Submittals accepted until 3:00 pm



Step-by-Step Permitting Process:

1. Review minimum submittal requirements : [Solar PV Systems: Minimum Submittal Requirements](#) (Form 4613)
2. Check with the Planning Division (619-691-5101) to see if there are any specific zoning issues you should be concerned about.
3. Submit Application to Building Department: To apply for a solar photovoltaic system permit, you need to stop at our Building Counter at 276 Fourth Avenue across the street from the library (north-west corner of 4th and F, downtown Chula Vista). For us to accept your permit application, you must provide us with a complete submittal package. A complete submittal package consists of the following:

- Submittal application Requirements:
 - ["Residential Addition-Remodel-Patio-Wall/Fence-Pool Worksheet", Form 4562.](#)
 - Three copies of a Plot/Site Plan showing the general layout of the existing building site, location of the solar photovoltaic system, and address. Please review our handout, "How to Prepare a Residential Plot Plan", Form 4595, or call (619) 691-5272. Also see the document "Who May Prepare Plans & Incomplete Plans" for more information on residential plot plans.
 - [How to Prepare a Residential Plot Plan](#) (Form 4595)
 - [Who May Prepare Plans & Incomplete Plans](#) (Form 4610)
 - Two copies of construction plans and details including but not limited to: location of existing electrical service(s) and panels, location of all solar equipment including number of modules in series, number of panels (groups or modules) in parallel, roof pitch, spacing and size of roof members, type of roof covering, details for the assembly of the modules and for the connection of the modules to roof members and weather sealing of roof penetrations.
 - Pay permit fee is \$45.00 which you must pay at time of permit issuance.
- 4. Plan Check Process
 - a) After our Development Services Technicians (DST's) verify that the application package is complete, they will forward a set of plans/documents to each of the three departments/divisions; Building, Planning, and Engineering. Approval from all three departments/divisions is required prior to permit issuance. To contact any of the departments/divisions, please see the contact list shown at the end of this document.
 - b) The plan check process is then tracked in our Automated Tracking System and the project is assigned a standard turn-around-time. The standard turn-around-time for an initial review is 7 calendar days. The standard turn-around-time for follow-up reviews (rechecks) is 7 calendar days.
- 5. Building Permit Issued: After you obtain all the required approvals and pay the Permit Fee, a DST will issue you a building permit. Now you can start construction.
- 6. Construct PV System
- 7. Inspection: One inspection is required for a typical solar photovoltaic system:
 - Inspecting the bolting of the panels to the roof structure and inspecting all aspects of the electrical system including grounding, sub-panels and inverter.
 - To schedule an inspection: 619-409-5434
- 8. Contact SDG&E: After completing your inspection, the City of Chula Vista will automatically contact San Diego Gas and Electric utility initiate your interconnection process.

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San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E)

Interconnection Process

San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) is the local utility for the City of Chula Vista. Upon installation of your solar system and completion of your building permit inspection from the City of Chula Vista, SDG&E will complete your interconnection agreement and connect your system to the electric grid so you can start generating electricity for your home or business.

Contact Information

San Diego Gas & Electric
8316 Century Park Court, CP52F
San Diego, CA 92123

Phone:

(858) 636-5585

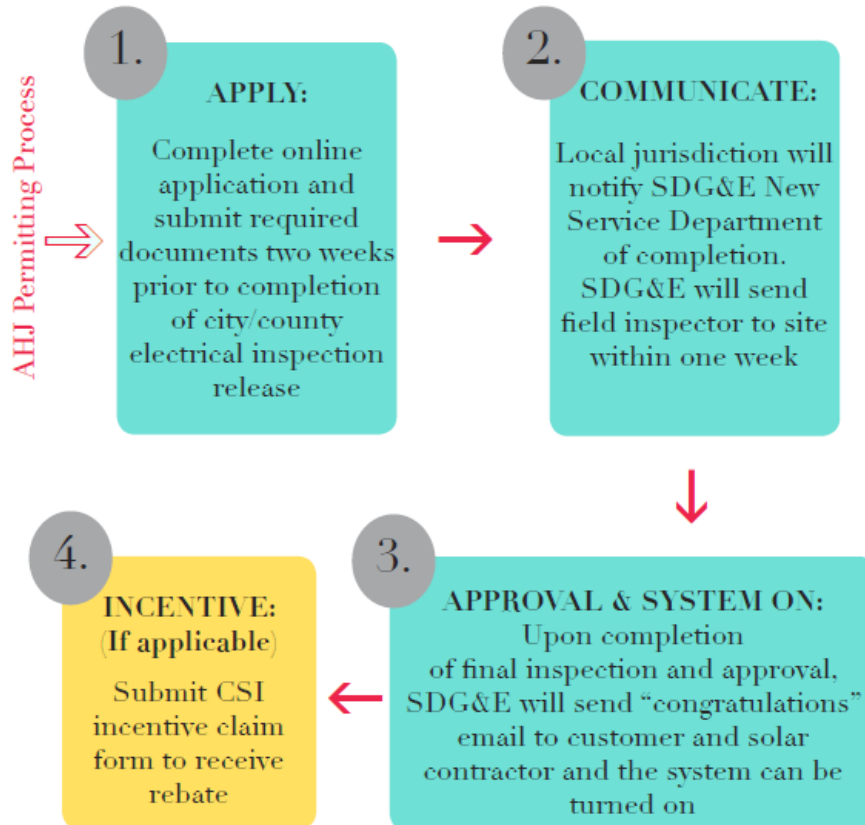
Email:

netmetering@semprautilities.com

Website:

www.sdge.com/nem

INTERCONNECTION PROCESS: San Diego Gas & Electric



- **Interconnection for PV Systems under 30kW**

- **Application Webpage**

- <http://www.sdge.com/clean-energy/apply-nem/apply-nem>

- **Interconnection Requirements**

- <http://www.sdge.com/clean-energy/apply-nem/apply-nem-requirements>

- **Interconnection Application Process for PV systems under 30kW:**

- http://www.sdge.com/sites/default/files/NEM_app_proc_less30kw.pdf?nid=483

- The interconnection application is submitted online:

- <https://nemapplication.sempa.com/>

1. The following documents are needed to complete this form:

1. [Electrical One-Line Diagram Drawing](#)
2. [Electrical One-Line Diagram Drawing](#) (if CSI/PBI meter is present)

– ***Please submit your application two weeks prior to City of Chula Vista inspection being released. Submitting your application within this time-frame will minimize or avoid unexpected delays in the application approval process.***

○ **Inspection**

- Upon completion of your final building permit inspection, the City of Chula Vista will give their electrical inspection release to SDG&E's New Service Department
- SDG&E's NEM Team sends email to Contractor/Customer that the release has been received.
- SDG&E's Inspector will inspect the project within one week.
 1. For detailed information on the interconnection inspection:
 - http://www.sdge.com/sites/default/files/NEM_app_proc_less30kw.pdf?nid=483
- This completes the Field Inspection process and 'initiates' the full completion and approval of the solar project.
- Your solar installation has not been authorized until you receive a "Congratulations" email from SDG&E. At that time, your solar installation has received SDG&E's approval, and you may turn the solar system on.

● **Interconnection for PV systems over 30kW:**

○ **Application Webpage**

- <http://www.sdge.com/clean-energy/apply-nem/apply-nem-business>

○ **Interconnection Requirements**

- <http://www.sdge.com/clean-energy/apply-nem/apply-nem-requirements>

○ **Interconnection Application Process for PV systems over 30kW:**

http://www.sdge.com/sites/default/files/documents/NEM_app_proc_greater30kw.pdf

- If you have an interconnection greater than 30kW, your application will have

to be completed and returned by mail or in person to Building 6 Security Desk. Please submit your application two weeks prior to the City of Chula Vista inspection being released. Submitting your application within this time-frame will minimize or avoid unexpected delays in the application approval process.

- Please complete and return the following documents:
 1. [Interconnection Application](#)
 - 3 copies
 2. [Interconnection Agreement](#)
 - 2 signed and dated copies (wet signature only)
 3. [NEM Inspection Report](#)
 4. [Electrical One-Line Diagram Drawing](#)
 5. [Electrical One-Line Diagram Drawing](#) (if CSI/PBI meter is present)
 - 3 copies of one-line diagram
 6. [Sample Bill of Materials for Greater Than 30kW](#)
 - 3 copies of the Bill of Materials

o **Inspection**

- Upon completion of your final city electrical permit inspection release, the City of Chula Vista will give their electrical inspection release to SDG&E's New Service Department
- SDG&E's NEM Team sends email to Contractor/Customer that the release has been received.
- SDG&E's Inspector will inspect the project within one week.
 1. For detailed information on the interconnection inspection:
 - o http://www.sdge.com/sites/default/files/NEM_app_proc_less30kw.pdf?nid=483
- This completes the Field Inspection process and 'initiates' the full completion and approval of the solar project.
- Your solar installation has not been authorized until you receive a "Congratulations" email from SDG&E. At that time, your solar installation has received SDG&E's approval, and you may turn the solar system on.

Additional Interconnection Information

The parallel operation of a PV system requires interconnection with SDG&E's electrical grid. Electric Rule 21 is a tariff that describes the interconnection, operating and metering requirements for generation facilities to be connected to a utility's distribution system, over which the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has jurisdiction. Note that the posted Rule 21 may not reflect updates to the tariff that may be pending before the CPUC:

- [SDG&E Rule 21](#)

For comprehensive information on interconnecting to SDG&E's please see the following links:

- [General Net Energy Metering Information](#)
- [Net Energy Metering Rates](#)
- [Net Energy Metering Cap](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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