

2024



2024 Solar Business & Solar Share Business Program Manual

Version 12012023

This Program Manual is intended to serve as a reference for Santee Cooper's non-residential Customers that are interested in learning more about or participating in the **Solar Business Program**.

For more information, please email Solar@santeecooper.com

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Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Program Overview

Santee Cooper is pleased to offer its 2024 Solar Business Program and Solar Share Business Program (“Solar Share Program”) (collectively referred to as the “Programs”). The Solar Business Program provides rebates to eligible non-residential Customers for the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for electric generation at their businesses. The Solar Share Program provides rebates to non-residential Customers who subscribe to the Santee Cooper sponsored community share solar farm located in Colleton, SC (“Solar Farm”). This manual outlines the details of both Programs.

1.2 Contact Information

Questions and additional information about the Programs can be directed to Santee Cooper via:

- Web: www.santeecoopersolar.com
- Telephone: (843) 347-3399
- Email: Solar@santeecooper.com

If you have questions about the viability of a solar electric system at your business, or about installation, please contact your Santee Cooper Solar Electric Trade Ally or NABCEP certified PV Installation Professional.

1.3 Submittals

Customers can send their applications and the required documentation to:

Santee Cooper Energy Support Services
305A Gardner Lacy Rd
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

Or by email to:

Solar@santeecooper.com

Or by fax to:
(843) 347-8781

Section 2: General Program Information

2.1 Program Timeline

These Programs are currently being offered for qualifying business solar PV installations and subscriptions to the Solar Farm, completed between December 1, 2023 and November 30, 2024 (“Program Period”). Santee Cooper may, at its discretion, extend either Program past November 30, 2024. For the Solar Business Program, all qualifying equipment must be purchased and installed in accordance with Program requirements as set out in this Manual and the application received by Santee Cooper during the Program Period to be eligible for the Program. Projects completed and submitted after the Program Period will be offered the option to be placed on a waiting list, in the order that the applications are received by Santee Cooper, for consideration in the subsequent Program period.

2.2 Program Rebate Information

Funding for the Programs is limited and applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis until all available rebate funding has been committed. Customers requesting rebates for either Program after all available funding for the Program Period is committed will be offered the option to be placed on a waiting list, in the order that the applications are received by Santee Cooper, for consideration in the subsequent Program period.

Additional information regarding the rebates and subscription benefits available in each of the Programs is provided in the sections below.

2.3 Santee Cooper Solar Electric (“SE”) Trade Ally Network

Customers may use an installer who is a member of Santee Cooper’s Solar Electric Trade Ally network (“SE Trade Ally”) for the purchase and installation of their solar PV systems to be eligible for rebates in the Solar Business Program. Customers may also use any NABCEP-certified PV installation professional. SE Trade Allies are independent contractors with respect to the Program, and are not authorized to make representations or incur obligations on behalf of Santee Cooper. Participation as a SE Trade Ally does not constitute an endorsement by Santee Cooper, nor does it certify or guarantee the quality of work performed. A listing of SE Trade Allies is available online at www.santeecoopersolar.com, email at solar@santeecooper.com, or call 843-347-3399.

2.4 Distributed Generation Rider

Customers who interconnect a Solar PV System to Santee Cooper’s Grid or subscribe to the Solar Share Program will be subject to the requirements, credits, and fees outlined in the most recent Distributed Generation Rider. The energy credits and fees outlined in the current Distributed Generation Rider (DG-17) are as follows:

Energy Credits	Monthly Fees
Summer (June-September): \$0.0416/kWh Non-Summer (October-May): \$0.0384/kWh	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Metering Charge: \$2.00 per month• Stand-by Charge: \$4.70/kW per month

Energy charges will be based on the customer’s usage and applicable rate schedule. Please note: Demand customers are not subject to the Stand-by Charge. Please confirm your billing schedule and what DG Rider you will be subject to with Santee Cooper.

To download a copy of the latest Distributed Generation Rider, please visit:
https://www.santeecooper.com/Policies-Reference-Materials/Generator-Interconnection-Standard/pdfs/SCPSA_Generator_Interconnection_Procedures_Final.pdf

2.5 Interconnection Request Application

All customers who install a Solar PV System must submit an Interconnection Request Application (IRA) for approval in order to be eligible for the Santee Cooper Rooftop Solar program. The IRA should be submitted and approved prior to Solar PV System Installation. In order for the IRA to be approved, the following supporting documentation and fee must be submitted:

1. Completed and signed IRA Application Fee. A non-refundable processing fee via personal checks, cashier's checks, or money orders if mailed, and cash in person if paid in a local retail office.
 - a. \$250 Non-Residential <100kW
2. Proof of business liability coverage meeting the minimum requirements
3. Electrical diagram
4. PV module specification data sheet
5. Inverter specification data sheet

Once the completed IRA package has been submitted, Santee Cooper will review and provide approval or denial within 20 business days. Approved IRAs will be sent to the customer or PV Installation Professional via email. Approved IRAs are typically required for building permits.

Section 3: Solar Business Rebate Program

The Solar Business Program provides rebates to eligible non-residential Customers for the installation of solar PV systems at their facilities. This section outlines the eligibility requirements, participation process, solar PV system information and rebate information for this Program.

3.1 Eligibility Requirements

3.1.1 Customer Eligibility Requirements

To participate in the Program, a Customer must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Customers applying for the Solar Business rebate must be the sole owner of the Business or be authorized by the owner(s) to make necessary modifications to the Business to install the proposed solar PV system.
2. Customers applying for the rebate must be the owner of the solar PV system or the owners' authorized representative. Third party leasing agreements will not qualify for rebates from Santee Cooper.
3. The facility must be separately metered and receive electrical service through one of Santee Cooper's non-residential rate schedules – GA, GB, GV, GT, GL, TP or TA, prior to interconnection.
4. Multifamily residential facilities applying to participate in the Solar Business Program will be eligible only if they are able to provide a Santee Cooper account number associated with the common areas and are receiving electrical service from Santee Cooper through a qualifying non-residential rate schedule as outlined above.
5. Customers applying for the additional rebate offered for non-profit commercial businesses shall sufficiently demonstrate their non-profit status under Section 501 of the United States Internal Revenue Code. An IRS determination letter showing the organization's tax-exempt status will be considered a valid document to verify the non-profit status.
6. Customers receiving rebates or applying for rebates for the installation of a rooftop solar PV system under the Solar Business Program are not eligible to receive rebates and bill credits through the Solar Share program.
7. A Customer must have applied to Interconnect and received an application approval notice, prior to being eligible to apply for the Solar Business Program. The Solar Business Program Rebate Application and required documentation must be submitted to Santee Cooper within 60 days of the installation of the solar PV system in order to be eligible to receive rebates.
8. The Customer must maintain liability insurance, as outlined in Santee Cooper's Interconnection Standard, for as long as the solar PV system is interconnected to Santee Cooper's system.

3.1.2 System Eligibility Requirements

1. To qualify for rebates, installations must be completed by a qualified Santee Cooper Solar Electric (SE) Trade Ally (SE Trade Ally) and a NABCEP certified PV Installation Professional. Please see www.santeecoopersolar.com for a list of qualified SE Trade Allies or www.nabcep.org.
 - o For a Rebate Application to meet the NABCEP requirement, the application must be accompanied by a letter signed by the NABCEP-certified Installation Professional. The letter must attest that the NABCEP-certified installation professional inspected the PV system installation and that NABCEP standards were met for the PV Installation. The letter must be signed by the NABCEP-certified professional and list the customer's name, address, and Santee Cooper electric account number.
2. The solar PV system rating must have a minimum rating of 1 kilowatt alternating current ("kW AC") and must not exceed the lesser of 100 kW or the Customer's annual peak electrical demand recorded over the past 12-month period from the date on which the Solar Business Application was signed.
3. All solar PV system equipment and material must have been purchased and installed on or after December 1, 2022.
4. The solar PV system must be installed and all required application and interconnection documents must be submitted to Santee Cooper by no later than 5pm EST on November 30, 2023.
5. Qualifying equipment and materials installed must be new.
6. All installations must use solar PV technology to generate electricity.

7. The installation of the solar PV system must be completed in a manner that meets or exceeds all applicable codes, standards and regulatory requirements.
8. To qualify for the Solar Business rebate, the installation of the solar PV system and all equipment in the system must comply with the latest published edition of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineer (IEEE) 929, IEEE 1547, IEEE 1547.1, and any additional standards as indicated in Santee Cooper's Interconnection Standard located at https://www.santeecooper.com/Policies-Reference-Materials/Generator-Interconnection-Standard/pdfs/SCPSA_Generator_Interconnection_Procedures_Final.pdf. The generation system must also pass the anti-islanding test in UL 1741.

3.2 Solar Business Participation Process

Customers interested in the Solar Business Program can participate in the Rebate Program by following these basic steps:

Step 1: Contact one or more Santee Cooper SE Trade Allies and a NABCEP certified PV Installation Professional to set up an on-site assessment for solar viability and choose one to work with.

Step 2: Complete and submit a Rebate Application to Santee Cooper. This will hold available funding for 90 days or the duration of the project, whichever comes first. Funding will be reserved on a first come, first served basis.

Step 3: Complete and submit an Interconnection Request Application to Santee Cooper. The Interconnection Request Application may be found at https://www.santeecooper.com/Assets/pdfs/Forms/SC0924i_Attachment-7.pdf. Santee Cooper will communicate via email the approval status upon reviewing the Interconnection Request Application.

Step 4: The Customer may purchase and install the approved solar PV system within 90 days following the date on which Santee Cooper communicated the approval to interconnect. To qualify for a rebate, the installation must be completed within 90 days of the approval of the Interconnection Request Application, or by November 30, 2024, whichever comes first. Customers are responsible for acquiring the required local permits and submitting the final passed inspection report and NABCEP Installer Letter to Santee Cooper. They must then contact Santee Cooper for final acceptance testing and meter change out.

Santee Cooper reserves the right to perform an on-site inspection prior to approving the Application. The application and interconnection documents must be submitted to Santee Cooper no later than 5pm EST on November 30, 2024.

3.3 Site Inspections

Santee Cooper or its designee, at its sole discretion, may inspect the associated facility prior to or up to two years after approving the Rebate Application. The inspection may include a telephone survey and/or site visit. Such visits may also include the installation of temporary monitoring equipment. Discrepancies from information listed on the Customer's application or incorrect installation of systems identified during an inspection may delay or void rebate payment. Customers will be notified upon completion of the inspection if any discrepancies were identified and if specific action items will be required in order to complete the rebate fulfillment process.

3.4 Solar PV System Details

3.4.1 Solar PV System

A solar PV system is a power system designed to supply usable solar power generated using photovoltaics. It consists of an arrangement of several components including any number of solar photovoltaic modules connected together, and connected to an inverter, which provide electrical energy to a building or to the electric grid. PV systems convert light directly into electricity versus other solar technologies, such as concentrated solar power or solar thermal, used for heating and cooling.

3.4.2 Isolation Device

An isolation device is a manual load-break disconnect switch or safety switch that connects the Customer's solar PV system to Santee Cooper's grid.

3.4.3 PV Module Specification

A PV module or panel is a collection of photovoltaic cells designed to absorb the sun's rays and convert them into electrical current. PV modules are rated by direct current (DC) output. Depending on the power needed, several modules can be installed on a building or at ground level in a rack to form a PV array.

3.4.4 Inverters

An inverter is a device that converts direct current (DC) electricity from a solar PV module or array into alternating current (AC) for use directly to operate appliances or to supply power to the electric grid. The efficiency of the inverter is specified as a percentage with your system specifications and will affect the final rebate amount.

The inverter or interconnection protection system must be tested and listed for compliance with the latest published edition of Underwriters Laboratories, Inc (UL) 1741. The inverter must also be new and unused and must have been manufactured after November 7, 2000. Please see Santee Cooper's Interconnection Standard (https://www.santeecooper.com/Policies-Reference-Materials/Generator-Interconnection-Standard/_pdfs/SCPSA_Generator_Interconnection_Procedures_Final.pdf) for more details.

3.5 5 Solar Business Rebate Information

Rebates for the installation of solar PV systems are set as a one-time payment of \$0.95/watt paid based on the system's power output (watt AC), and the current tier at the time of submittal. Solar Business Rebates are capped at 6 kW AC per meter base. Non-profit Customers are eligible for an additional rebate of \$0.25/watt (AC), capped at a maximum of \$1,500. The system's power output (watt AC) used to calculate the rebate is the rated power output of the system (watts DC) multiplied by the inverter efficiency, as defined by the following formula:

$$\text{Number of PV Modules} \times \text{Rated Watts (DC) per PV Module} \times \text{Weighted Inverter Efficiency (\%)} = \text{Watt (AC)}$$

In addition to the rebate, Solar Business Customers will receive energy credits as outlined in Santee Cooper's most recent Distributed Generation Rider. Solar Business participants will be issued the rebate upon verified completion of all of the solar PV system requirements. Additional information on the rebate is available at www.santeecoopersolar.com.

Section 4: Solar Share Program Information

The Solar Share Program provides rebates and bill credits to eligible non-residential Customers for subscribing to Santee Cooper sponsored community Solar Farm. This section outlines the eligibility requirements, participation process and rebate information for this Program.

4.1 Eligibility Requirements

To participate in the Program, a Customer must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Customer facility must be separately metered and receive electrical service through one of Santee Cooper's non-residential rate schedules – GA, GB, GV, GT, GL, TP or TA.
2. Customers receiving rebates or applying for rebates for the installation of a rooftop solar PV system under the Solar Business Program are not eligible to receive rebates and bill credits through the Solar Share program.
3. Customers applying for Solar Share subscription are not required to submit an Interconnection Request Application.

4.2 Solar Share Participation Process

Through the Solar Share Program, Customers can participate by subscribing to blocks of rated generation capacity. Each block is equivalent to a rated generating capacity of 1 kW of electricity ("Block"). For each qualifying service address, the total Blocks subscribed to must not exceed the lesser of 100 kW or the Customer's annual peak electrical demand recorded over the past 12-month period from the date on which the Solar Share Subscription Application was signed. The maximum number of Blocks eligible for subscription through the Solar Share Program will be determined by Santee Cooper, at its discretion, and may be less than number of Blocks for which the Customer applied.

Customers interested in the Solar Share Program can participate by following these basic steps:

Step 1: Submit a Solar Share Subscription Application ("Subscription Application") to Santee Cooper.

Step 2: Santee Cooper will review the Customer's Subscription Application and provide written approval of the Customer's purchase of a Block and associated Program Rebates.

Step 3: Once Santee Cooper approves the Subscription Application, the Customer can purchase the approved number of blocks by paying the Discounted Subscription Fee provided in the Approval Letter within 60 days following the date of the letter.

Details of the final approved subscription and the fees required from Customer will be outlined in the Approval Letter. Each subscription shall be effective beginning on the date on which the subscription fee is received by Santee Cooper and will continue until December 20, 2033, or until a Subscription Buyout is initiated by Santee Cooper, whichever comes first. In the event the Customer fails to make the Discounted Subscription Fee payment as described in the Letter of Approval, the Subscription Application will be rejected and a subscription will not be initiated.

Solar Share subscriptions are associated with the Santee Cooper service account number listed on the Solar Share Subscription Application and are non-transferable. If the Customer relocates within Santee Cooper's service territory, a separate Subscription Application will be required for each specific service address.

4.3 Solar Share Rebate Information

The Solar Share Program offers a rebate of \$1,000 for each Block (“Rebate”) subscribed to by the Customer limited to a maximum of six (6) Blocks per Customer. The cost for each Block subscribed to is \$1,280 (“Subscription Fee”). The rebate is subtracted from the Subscription Fee to calculate the discounted subscription fee due from the Customer (“Discounted Subscription Fee”). The Discounted Subscription Fee must be paid as described in Section 4.4 before the Customer’s subscription will be completed. An example of the Discounted Subscription Fee calculation is presented in Table-1.

Table-1. Example of Discounted Subscription Fee Calculation

	\$/kW (A)	Subscription Amount (in kW) (B)	Total (A X B)
Subscription Fee	\$1,280	6.0	\$7,680
Rebate	\$1,000	6.0	\$6,000
Discounted Subscription Fee			\$1,680

4.4 Subscription Benefit

The Customer will receive credits in two ways. The first is a bill credit equal to the proportional amount of their share of generation from the Solar Farm at the same rate the Customer pays for electricity. The second is a bill credit equal to any excess generation from the Solar Farm that was not used by the Customer as outlined in the Distributed Generation Rider. The generation amounts for the Customer and the Solar Farm will be compared on an hourly basis and then incorporated into the monthly bill. The Program Application describes this process in more detail, and Appendix E contains an example of these calculations and a sample bill.

4.5 Subscription Buyout

Santee Cooper reserves the right to repurchase a Customer's subscription. Santee Cooper may initiate a Subscription Buyout process (as outlined below) in the event of any of the following conditions: 1. Change in the Customer's service address to an address outside of the Santee Cooper service territory, 2. Customer's account reported to be no longer in service, for any reason.

A Customer may not request Santee Cooper to repurchase its subscription under any conditions other than a change in the Customer's service address.

Subscription Buyout Process:

- a. Santee Cooper will send the Customer a Repurchase Notice, which will include a Repurchase Price to be paid to the Customer as compensation for the remaining years in the subscription term, to notify the Customer of its intent to repurchase Customer's subscription. For additional details on the calculation of the Repurchase Price, please contact solar@santeecooper.com
- b. The Subscription Agreement will be terminated on the date the Repurchase Price payment is issued and any additional rebates or credits available through the Program shall cease.

Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions

- What is a solar electric system?
 - A solar electric system or photovoltaic (PV) system, converts sunlight into electricity that can be used in your facility.
- Will I still have electricity when there is no sunlight?
 - Yes, if you are interconnected to Santee Cooper's electrical grid, Santee Cooper will serve your facility's electricity needs when there is inadequate sunlight.
- How do I know what system size to purchase?
 - The size of the system you choose will depend on a few factors, such as the amount of money you want to invest, the amount of electricity you want to produce, and the amount of space you have for installing solar panels. You should review your old electric bills to help determine how much electricity your business typically uses. A qualified Santee Cooper SE Trade Ally and NABCEP certified PV Installation Professional can help you to determine what size system is right for your facility. For a list of qualified Santee Cooper SE Trade Allies, please contact solar@santeecooper.com or (843) 347-3399.
- Do solar PV systems require maintenance?
 - The type of maintenance that may be required of a system is dependent on the particular system you purchase. Please consult your solar installer and manufacturer to find out if any additional maintenance will be needed.
- What happens to solar generation through my solar PV system during an electric outage?
 - It depends on your system. Systems with battery backup will continue to have power. Systems without battery backup must shut down until the outage has been restored. Having electricity run into the grid from a solar electric system is a safety hazard for anyone working on the power lines.
- Do systems with battery backup qualify for a rebate?
 - Rebates are available for the solar electric portion of a system but not for the battery portion of the system. The rebate is based on the installed capacity (kW AC).
- Does Santee Cooper install solar panels?
 - No, Santee Cooper does not install solar panels. To qualify for a rebate, you must choose a SE installer from our list of qualified solar Trade Allies and a NABCEP certified PV Installation Professional. For a list of qualified Santee Cooper SE Trade Allies, please contact solar@santeecooper.com.

- Does Santee Cooper finance solar panels?
 - Financing options are available for Santee Cooper's residential Customers only.
- What if my facility is not suitable for solar panels?
 - If your facility is not suitable for solar panels for any reason, participating in the Solar Share program may be a more viable option for you. Solar Share is a community solar program that allows Customers to subscribe to a portion of the energy generated by a Santee Cooper-sponsored community Solar Farm, without having to install a solar PV system at your facility. Customers subscribe to a certain number of blocks (measured in kW) to support the community Solar Farm, and receive a pro-rated share of the energy produced by the Solar Farm in the form of bill credits.
- What are renewable energy credits (RECs)?
 - A REC represents the property rights to the environmental, social, and other non-power qualities of renewable energy generation. In exchange for rebates offered by the programs, Santee Cooper will retain the ownership of all RECs associated with Customer installation of rooftop solar electric system and Customer subscription through the Solar Share program.
- If I expand the size of my system, can I apply for another rebate?
 - Yes, applications for increasing the size of a system are subject to the Program Manual, rebate caps, Terms & Conditions and other rebate program criteria in place at the time of acceptance of the rebate application. The total rebate per Customer over the life of the program is capped at 6 kW.
- Who will help me apply for the Santee Cooper Solar Business rebate?
 - All qualified Santee Cooper Trade Allies and NABCEP certified PV Installation Professionals can assist in the rebate application process.
- What happens if I move out of Santee Cooper's territory?
 - Solar Share – If you move out of Santee Cooper's territory, Santee Cooper may buy back your solar subscription at a depreciated value, depending on the number of years you have held the subscription. Email solar@santeecooper.com for more information.
 - Solar Business – If you move out of Santee Cooper's territory, the next Business owner will be required to sign an amended Interconnection Agreement and receive the credits outlined in the current DG Rider if the next business owner is interested in retaining the PV system interconnected to Santee Cooper's grid.
- Can the Rebate Application be submitted by the Trade Ally on behalf of Santee Cooper's Customers?
 - Yes, as long as the Customer signs the application.
- Should I submit the rebate application before or after I install a solar PV system?
 - The Rebate Application should be submitted prior to installing a solar generation system. The Interconnection Request Application needs to be submitted and approved by Santee Cooper before you can begin a solar installation on your Business/business. Rebate Application submittals should be sent to solar@santeecooper.com.
- Does being approved for interconnection guarantee a rebate?
 - No, the Interconnection Request Application and the Rebate Application are two separate components of the program. Rebate approval is contingent upon fulfilling all of the program requirements. For more information, please review the Program Manual.
- Do I need to submit proof of interconnection approval when submitting my rebate application?
 - No, Santee Cooper will perform an internal check on the status of your Interconnection Request Application.
- Is there a cap on the system size I can install?
 - The rebate is capped at the lesser of 6 kW or the Customer's historic peak kW over the past 12 months. However, non-residential Customers may install systems up to 100 kW. Any additional capacity installed over 6 kW will not be eligible for rebate.
- Can Customers with existing systems apply for a rebate?
 - Solar Business rebates are intended for solar systems installed on or after December 1, 2023. If your system was installed prior to this date, please contact Santee Cooper at solar@santeecooper.com to receive more information about your options.

- If I own two buildings in Santee Cooper's territory, can I obtain a rebate for installing solar PV systems at both locations?
 - As long as the two buildings have their own meter base numbers and meet the program requirements, it is possible to obtain rebates for two systems.
- How soon after submitting my completed application should I expect to receive my rebate?
 - Typically, rebates are mailed within 6 weeks of Santee Cooper receiving a completed Customer Rebate Application.
- Does Santee Cooper provide one-to-one net metering?
 - Santee Cooper does not provide one-to-one net metering. However, Santee Cooper does credit customer-generated energy that is consumed by the customer at the full retail rate. Any generated energy that is exported back to the grid is credited to the customer at the rate specified on the most recent Distributed Generation Rider.