

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)



In the matter of the Design of the	)	Energy Commission
New Solar Homes Partnership	)	Docket No. 06-NSHP-1
	)	
	)	Notice of Business Meeting
	)	RE: New Solar Homes Partnership

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## Notice to Consider Establishing a Waiting List for the New Solar Homes Partnership Program

The California Energy Commission will hold a Business Meeting on:

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2011**

10 a.m.

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street

First Floor, Hearing Room A

Sacramento, California

(Wheelchair Accessible)

Audio from this meeting will be broadcast over the Internet.

For details, please go to:

[www.energy.ca.gov/webcast](http://www.energy.ca.gov/webcast)

As part of the November 16, 2011 Business Meeting, the Energy Commission will consider adopting staff's recommendation to establish a waiting list for the New Solar Home Partnership Program (NSHP).

### Background

The NSHP began in 2007 and is part of the California Solar Initiative, a comprehensive statewide solar program. The NSHP provides rebates to encourage the installation of eligible solar energy systems on energy efficient new homes and residential buildings. The goal of the NSHP is to install 400 MW of solar electric capacity on new homes and residential buildings by the end of 2016, helping to create a self-sustaining market for solar homes.

In December, 2006 the Energy Commission adopted administrative guidelines to govern the NSHP. The current guidelines, *New Solar Homes Partnership Guidebook, Third Edition* (Guidebook) describe the eligibility criteria and requirements for homeowners or

builders/developers to receive rebates for installing eligible solar energy systems on new homes and residential buildings.

As of October 17, 2011, the NSHP has made payments totaling \$37.3 million for 4,337 solar energy systems representing 13.3 MW of installed capacity.

## **Purpose**

Beginning August, 2011, the Energy Commission has seen a temporary surge in the number of rebate reservation applications received for NSHP funding. Due to this surge in program activity, the amount of funding requested will exceed current program funds. To address this shortfall in program funding, Energy Commission staff is proposing to establish a waiting list for the NSHP and criteria for processing rebate reservation applications placed on the waiting list. The Energy Commission's current Guidebook does not provide the ability to establish a waiting list or criteria for processing applications placed on such a list.

Energy Commission staff recommend the following criteria be used to establish a waiting list for the NSHP.

- 1) Complete rebate reservation applications that have not already been issued a reservation by the Energy Commission will be placed on the waiting list based on the time and date the application is submitted to the Energy Commission's program administrators. These program administrators are Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, and San Diego Gas & Electric Company. The Energy Commission is the program administrator for Bear Valley Electric Service.
- 2) For rebate reservation applications received by mail, the submitted date is the date the application is postmarked (or other identifying marks) by the post office. For applications submitted using the NSHP Online Application Tool, the submitted date is the date the application is electronically "Submitted".
- 3) Only complete rebate reservation applications with accurate information will be added to the waiting list. (Please see the attached checklist to prepare and submit a complete application.) Rebate reservation applications will be subject to the requirements, including the declining rebate levels, of the Guidebook in place at the time the application is submitted.
- 4) Incomplete rebate reservation applications will **not** be added to the waiting list and will be returned to the applicant. Applicants with incomplete applications may re-apply for program funding by submitting a new rebate reservation application. The new rebate reservation application will be subject to the requirements, including the declining rebate levels, of the Guidebook in place at the time the new application is submitted.

- 5) Requests for additional funding for a previously approved rebate reservation application, due to changes in the project design or the system size, design, or equipment, will be processed as a new rebate reservation application and placed on the waiting list based on the date and time that the complete application is submitted to the program administrator.
- 6) Rebate reservation applications on the waiting list will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis until available program funds are depleted. If additional program funds become available, these additional funds will be applied to the unfunded applications on the waiting list.
- 7) Unfunded rebate reservation applications will remain on the waiting list until December 31, 2012, unless the Energy Commission acts before this date to extend the waiting list. On December 31, 2012, the waiting list and any unfunded applications on the list will be automatically cancelled. Unfunded applications will need to re-apply for program funding by submitting a new rebate reservation application. The new rebate reservation application will be subject to the requirements in the Guidebook in place at the time the new application is submitted.

The waiting list will not affect projects with approved rebate reservations. Payment claims for approved rebate reservations will continue to be processed as specified in the Guidebook.

## Written Comments

Staff encourages the submission of written comments by 5 p.m. on November 9, 2011. Comments will be accepted through the Business Meeting. Please include the docket number 06-NSHP-1, and indicate New Solar Homes Partnership in the subject line or first paragraph of comments. Please hand deliver or mail an original copy to:

California Energy Commission  
Dockets Office, MS-4  
Re: Docket No. 06-NSHP-1  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

The Energy Commission encourages comments by e-mail. Please include your name or organization's name with your comments. Those submitting comments by electronic mail should provide them in either Microsoft Word format or as a Portable Document (PDF) to [[docket@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:docket@energy.state.ca.us)]. **One paper copy** must also be sent to the Energy Commission's Docket Unit. Please also submit your comments to [renewable@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:renewable@energy.state.ca.us) to ensure that staff receives a copy.

## Public Participation

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission activities. For information on how to participate in this forum, please contact the Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or toll free at (800) 822-6228, by FAX at (916) 654-4493, or by e-mail at [\[Public Adviser@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:PublicAdviser@energy.state.ca.us). If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz at (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance.

Please direct all news media inquiries to the Media and Public Communications Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at [\[mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us). For technical questions on the subject matter of this notice, please contact Le-Quyen Nguyen, Renewable Energy Program, at (916) 654-4650, or by e-mail at [\[lqnguyen@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:lqnguyen@energy.state.ca.us).

Date: October 28, 2011

Electronic Mail Lists: [Renewable](#), [GoSolar](#), [PV Calculator](#)