

# Understanding your Utility Bill with Community Solar

## PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS

### Overview

Every month, solar power is generated by the project connected to your solar subscription. The amount of solar energy produced directly results in discounts to your monthly utility bill. This document explains how community solar interacts with your utility bill.


### Before We Begin

To better understand your utility bill, it helps to understand how electricity consumption is measured and the charges based on that consumption.

#### 1. How Electricity Consumption is Measured


Every time you turn on a light bulb or plug in a device in your home, you are consuming electricity. The rate of power a device uses when it is turned on (or plugged in) is measured in watts (W) or kilowatts (kW). 1000 W = 1 kW. The rate of power a device consumes over time is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh).

A couple examples:


$$\begin{array}{r} 100W \\ \times \\ 10 \text{ hours} \\ \hline = 1 \text{ kWh} \end{array}$$

A single 100W light bulb that stays on for 10 hours is equal to **1 kWh**.

If it stays on for 20 hours, it will use **2 kWh**.


$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \text{ kW} \\ \times \\ 1 \text{ hour} \\ \hline = 1 \text{ kWh} \end{array}$$

A washing machine that uses 1000W or 1 kW of power and stays on for a 1-hour cycle will consume **1 kWh** of energy.

#### 2. How Your Bill Relates to Electricity Consumption

Your utility bill depends on a number of factors, including your electricity rate plan (examples include time of use (TOU) rate, fixed rate, or tiered rate), along with fees, taxes, and adjustments specific to your utility company and geographical location. The simplest way to calculate your monthly utility bill is to understand that the charges and fees you pay are largely based on the electricity you consume in a given month (kWh) multiplied by a per-kWh(\$/kWh) rate determined by your utility company.

### Your Utility Bill + Community Solar

The following section will help you understand your bill as it exists now and changes that will impact your bill upon signing up for community solar. Use the sample bill provided by your utility company to help follow along.

## Sections of Utility Bill (View full bill sample on pages 3–4)

### 1. Normal utility bill charges

These costs are based on your electricity consumption, taxes, fees, and adjustments—not solar energy production! After signing up for community solar, you will continue to be billed for the amount of electricity you consume every month per its normal schedule.

### 2. Bill Credits

These are monthly discounts that accrue based on the amount of solar energy (kWh) produced through your solar subscription. Bill credits are applied according to a per-kWh rate (\$/kWh) determined by your utility company. Rates can be found in the table below.

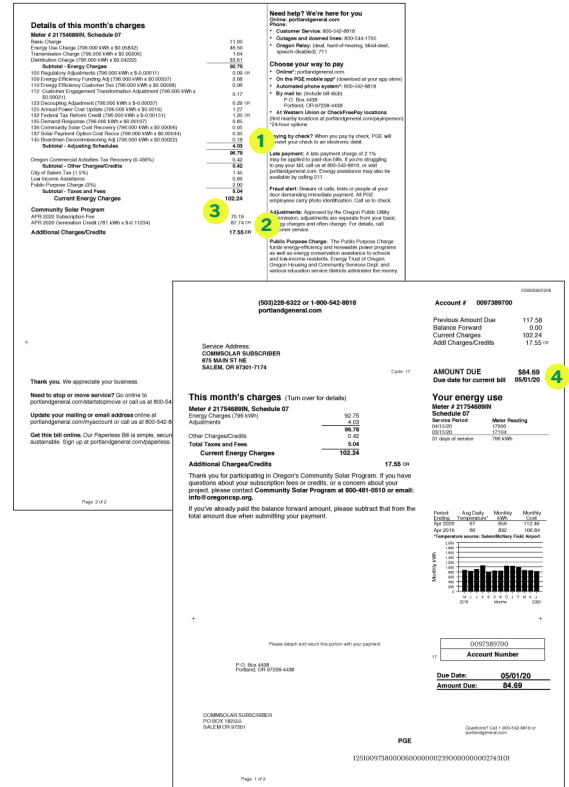
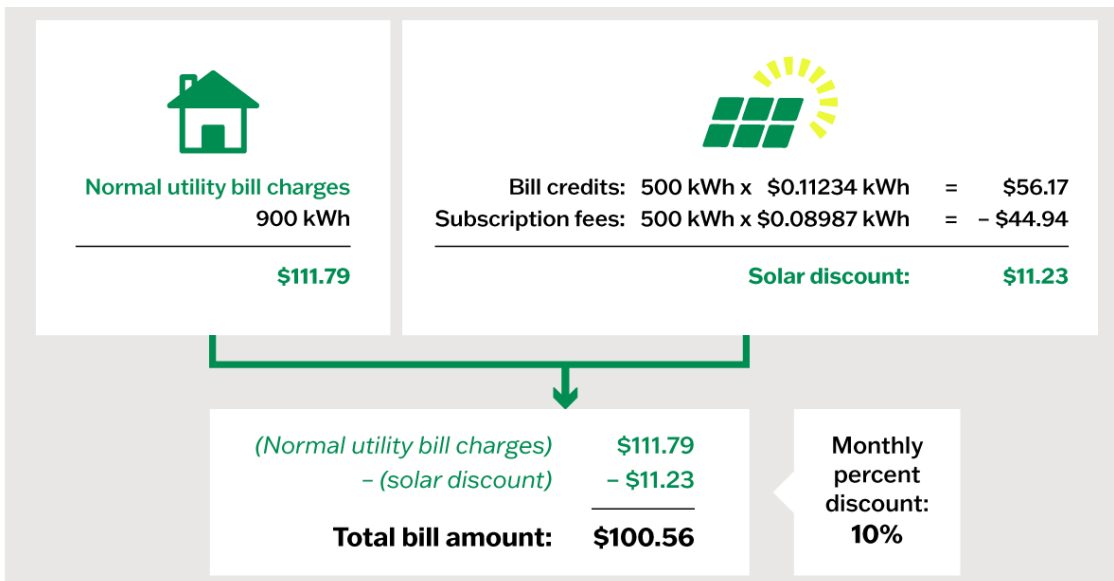
Rates (\$/kWh)	Portland General Electric	Pacific Power	Idaho Power
Bill Credit Rate	\$0.11234	\$0.0977	\$0.0848
Subscription Fee Rate	\$0.08987	\$0.07816	\$0.06784

### 3. Subscription Fees

Monthly fees that accrue based on the amount of solar energy (kWh) produced through your solar subscription. Subscription fees are applied according to a per-kWh rate (\$/kWh) determined by your Project Manager but are always lower than your bill credit rate.<sup>1</sup> In general, subscription fees are calculated at 80% of your bill credit rate. The 20% difference between bill credits and subscription fees accounts for your monthly discount! Rates can be found in the table above.

### 4. Total Utility Bill

Your total electricity bill is calculated by subtracting your solar discounts from your electricity costs. Here is an example:



<sup>1</sup> Some projects offer greater discounts. Special circumstances apply for projects involving subsidized housing participants.

009935800248

(503)228-6322 or 1-800-542-8818  
portlandgeneral.com

Account # 0097389700

Service Address:  
COMMSOLAR SUBSCRIBER  
875 MAIN ST NE  
SALEM, OR 97301-7174

Previous Amount Due 117.58  
Balance Forward 0.00  
Current Charges 102.24  
Addl Charges/Credits 17.55 CR

Detailed breakdown on back page

Cycle: 17

AMOUNT DUE \$84.69  
Due date for current bill 05/01/20

4

Total utility bill

**This month's charges** (Turn over for details)

**Meter # 21754689IN, Schedule 07**

Energy Charges (796 kWh)	92.75
Adjustments	4.03
	<b>96.78</b>
Other Charges/Credits	0.42
<b>Total Taxes and Fees</b>	<b>5.04</b>
<b>Current Energy Charges</b>	<b>102.24</b>

**Additional Charges/Credits** **17.55 CR**

Thank you for participating in Oregon's Community Solar Program. If you have questions about your subscription fees or credits, or a concern about your project, please contact **Community Solar Program at 800-481-0510 or email: info@oregoncsp.org.**

If you've already paid the balance forward amount, please subtract that from the total amount due when submitting your payment.

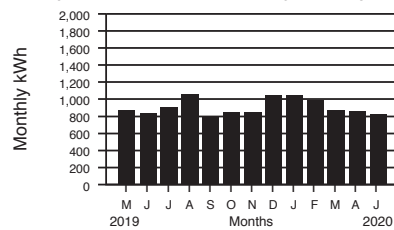
**Your energy use**

**Meter # 21754689IN**  
**Schedule 07**

<b>Service Period</b>	<b>Meter Reading</b>
04/15/20	17900
03/15/20	17104
31 days of service	796 kWh

Period Ending	Avg Daily Temperature*	Monthly kWh	Monthly Cost
Apr 2020	67	856	112.46
Apr 2019	66	832	106.84

\*Temperature source: Salem/McNary Field Airport



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Please detach and return this portion with your payment.

P.O. Box 4438  
Portland, OR 97208-4438

0097389700
<b>Account Number</b>

17

**Due Date: 05/01/20**  
**Amount Due: 84.69**

COMMSOLAR SUBSCRIBER  
PO BOX 182555  
SALEM OR 97301

Questions? Call 1-800-542-8818 or portlandgeneral.com

PGE

12510097380000600000002390000000002743101

# Sample PGE Utility Bill – back

## Details of this month's charges

### Meter # 21754689IN, Schedule 07

Basic Charge	11.00	
Energy Use Charge (796.000 kWh x \$0.05842)	46.50	
Transmission Charge (796.000 kWh x \$0.00206)	1.64	
Distribution Charge (796.000 kWh x \$0.04222)	33.61	
<b>Subtotal - Energy Charges</b>	<b>92.75</b>	
105 Regulatory Adjustments (796.000 kWh x \$-0.00011)	0.09	CR
109 Energy Efficiency Funding Adj (796.000 kWh x \$0.00337)	2.68	
110 Energy Efficiency Customer Svc (796.000 kWh x \$0.00008)	0.06	
112 Customer Engagement Transformation Adjustment (796.000 kWh x \$0.00021)	0.17	
123 Decoupling Adjustment (796.000 kWh x \$-0.00037)	0.29	CR
125 Annual Power Cost Update (796.000 kWh x \$0.0016)	1.27	
132 Federal Tax Reform Credit (796.000 kWh x \$-0.00151)	1.20	CR
135 Demand Response (796.000 kWh x \$0.00107)	0.85	
136 Community Solar Cost Recovery (796.000 kWh x \$0.00006)	0.05	
137 Solar Payment Option Cost Recov (796.000 kWh x \$0.00044)	0.35	
145 Boardman Decommissioning Adj (796.000 kWh x \$0.00022)	0.18	
<b>Subtotal - Adjusting Schedules</b>	<b>4.03</b>	
	<b>96.78</b>	
Oregon Commercial Activities Tax Recovery (0.436%)	0.42	
<b>Subtotal - Other Charges/Credits</b>	<b>0.42</b>	
City of Salem Tax (1.5%)	1.45	
Low Income Assistance	0.69	
Public Purpose Charge (3%)	2.90	
<b>Subtotal - Taxes and Fees</b>	<b>5.04</b>	
<b>Current Energy Charges</b>	<b>102.24</b>	

### Community Solar Program

APR 2020 Subscription Fee 70.19  
 APR 2020 Generation Credit (781 kWh x \$-0.11234) 87.74 CR

### Additional Charges/Credits

17.55 CR

## Bill credits

## Need help? We're here for you

Online: [portlandgeneral.com](http://portlandgeneral.com)

Phone:

- **Customer Service:** 800-542-8818
- **Outages and downed lines:** 800-544-1795
- **Oregon Relay:** (deaf, hard-of-hearing, blind-deaf, speech-disabled): 711

## Choose your way to pay

- **Online\*:** [portlandgeneral.com](http://portlandgeneral.com)
- **On the PGE mobile app\*** (download at your app store)
- **Automated phone system\*:** 800-542-8818
- **By mail to:** (include bill stub)  
 P.O. Box 4438  
 Portland, OR 97208-4438
- **At Western Union or CheckFreePay locations**  
 (find nearby locations at [portlandgeneral.com/payinperson](http://portlandgeneral.com/payinperson))  
 \*24-hour options

**Paying by check?** When you pay by check, PGE will convert your check to an electronic debit.

**Late payment:** A late payment charge of 2.1% may be applied to past-due bills. If you're struggling to pay your bill, call us at 800-542-8818, or visit [portlandgeneral.com](http://portlandgeneral.com). Energy assistance may also be

## 1 Normal utility bill charges

## 3 Subscription fees

Public Utility Commission on your basic bills, call customer service.

**Public Purpose Charge:** The Public Purpose Charge funds energy-efficiency and renewable power programs as well as energy conservation assistance to schools and low-income residents. Energy Trust of Oregon, Oregon Housing and Community Services Dept. and various education service districts administer the money.

**Thank you.** We appreciate your business.

**Need to stop or move service?** Go online to [portlandgeneral.com/startstopmove](http://portlandgeneral.com/startstopmove) or call us at 800-542-8818.

**Update your mailing or email address** online at [portlandgeneral.com/myaccount](http://portlandgeneral.com/myaccount) or call us at 800-542-8818.

**Get this bill online.** Our Paperless Bill is simple, secure and sustainable. Sign up at [portlandgeneral.com/paperless](http://portlandgeneral.com/paperless).

**Join us to support Oregon Energy Fund,** a statewide charitable organization that provides energy assistance to thousands of Oregonians in times of financial crisis. To give a neighbor a helping hand, visit [OregonEnergyFund.org](http://OregonEnergyFund.org).

**We partner with Energy Trust to help you save.** We share some customer information with Energy Trust of Oregon, a nonprofit organization that helps Oregonians save energy. Energy Trust only uses this information to design, evaluate and improve service to customers. For details, visit [portlandgeneral.com/datashare](http://portlandgeneral.com/datashare).

## Total Annual Discounts

Most participants of the Oregon Community Solar Program can expect to save between 10-15% on their electricity bills every year.<sup>2</sup> Your annual discount in dollars will depend on the size of your subscription. To learn more about how this works, please refer to our **solar savings** document.

### We support you.

If you find that you need extra assistance, please feel free to reach out to us at:

**CommunityEnergyProject.org**  
*Community Solar Coordinator*  
971-544-8718  
[solar@communityenergyproject.org](mailto:solar@communityenergyproject.org)

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<sup>2</sup> Percent savings vary according to your utility company.