

# Understanding your Utility Bill with Community Solar

## 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 electricity bill. This document explains how community solar interacts with your bill.

## Before We Begin

To better understand your 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).



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

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. Look at your electricity bill to see a breakdown of your electricity costs.

## Your Utility Bill + Community Solar

The following section will help you understand your bill as it exists now and changes that will be added once you sign 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.

	Portland General Electric	Pacific Power	Idaho Power
Bill Credit Rate	\$0.11234	\$0.0977	\$0.0848

\*These rates are based on the 2020 Interim Offering and are constant for the life of the project

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.

4. Program Fees


Monthly fees that reflect the administration costs of the Oregon Community Solar Program (\$/kW-AC per month). Some Project Managers may choose to pay these fees on behalf of subscribers, and therefore the subscriber would not pay them directly (but instead the cost of these fees would be included in the customer’s subscription fees). Fees may be updated on an annual basis by a process overseen by the Oregon Public Utility Commission.

All fees paid on a \$/kW-month basis	Portland General Electric	Pacific Power	Idaho Power
Program Administrator Fee	\$0.85	\$0.85	\$0.85
Utility Fee	\$0.11	\$0.20	\$0.48
Total Program Fee	\$0.96	\$1.05	\$1.33

5. Total Utility Bill

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

Normal utility bill charges:



\$111.79

Community Solar charges and credits:

Bill credits: 500 kWh x \$0.11234 kWh = \$56.17

Subscription fees: 500 kWh x \$0.10 kWh = - \$50.00

Program fee: 3 kW x \$0.96 = - \$2.88

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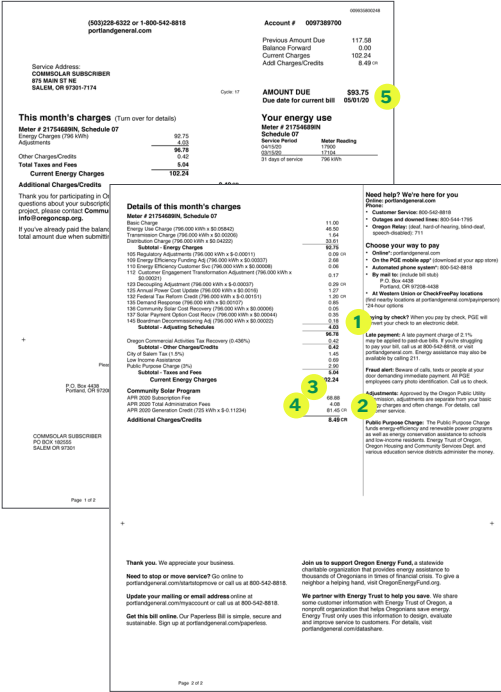
Solar discount: \$3.29

(Normal utility bill charges) \$111.79

- (solar discount) - \$3.29

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Total bill amount: \$108.50



Sample Portland General Electric Utility Bill – front

009935800248

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

Account # 0097389700

Previous Amount Due 117.58  
Balance Forward 0.00  
Current Charges 102.24  
Addl Charges/Credits 8.49 CR

Detailed  
breakdown on  
back page

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

Cycle: 17

AMOUNT DUE \$93.75  
Due date for current bill 05/01/20

5  
Total utility bill

This month's charges (Turn over for details)

Meter # 21754689IN, Schedule 07

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

Additional Charges/Credits 8.49 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

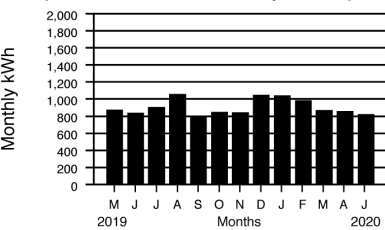
Meter # 21754689IN

Schedule 07

Service Period Meter Reading  
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



Please detach and return this portion with your payment.

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

COMMSOLAR SUBSCRIBER  
PO BOX 182555  
SALEM OR 97301

0097389700

Account Number

Due Date: 05/01/20

Amount Due: 93.75

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

PGE

12510097380000600000002390000000002743101



## Total Savings

A customer's overall savings will depend on the subscription fees charged by their Project Manager and their subscription size. To learn more about how this works, please refer to the Oregon Community Program Bill Impact Calculator.

### **We support you.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at:

**OregonCSP.org**

**1-800-481-0510**

**[info@oregoncsp.org](mailto:info@oregoncsp.org)**