

# 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).



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.



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.

1

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

# 1. Normal utility bill charges

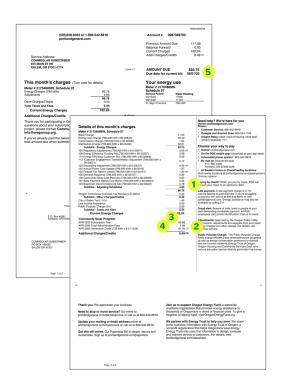
These costs are based on your electricity consumption, taxes, fees, and adjustments—not solar energy production! After signing up for community solar, you will continue to be billed for the amount of electricity you consume every month per its normal schedule.

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

<sup>\*</sup>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.

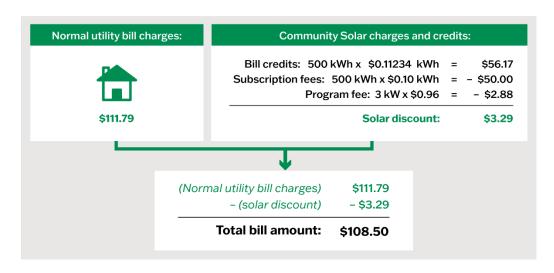
#### 4. Program Fees

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
<b>Program Administrator Fee</b>	\$0.85	\$0.85	\$0.85
Utility Fee	\$0.11	\$0.20	\$0.48
<b>Total Program Fee</b>	\$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:



# Sample Portland General Electric Utility Bill, front

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

Service Address: COMMSOLAR SUBSCRIBER 875 MAIN ST NE SALEM, OR 97301-7174 Account # 0097389700

Previous Amount Due
Balance Forward
Current Charges
Addl Charges/Credits

0.00 102.24 8.49 CR Detailed breakdown on back page

AMOUNT DUE

Due date for current bill

\$93.75 05/01/20

009935800248

117.58

Total utility bill

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

Meter # 21754689IN, Schedule 07

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

# 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

#### Additional Charges/Credits

8.49 CR

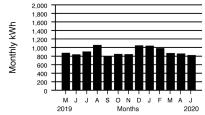
Cycle: 17

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.

Period	_ Avg Daily	Monthly	Monthly
Ending	Temperature*	kWh	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
Account Number

Due Date: 05/01/20
Amount Due: 93.75

COMMSOLAR SUBSCRIBER PO BOX 182555 SALEM OR 97301

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

**PGE** 

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# Sample Portland General Electric Utility Bill, back

#### Details of this month's charges

#### Meter # 21754689IN, Schedule 07

motor # 2170 tooding combatation	
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
Subtotal - Energy Charges	92.75
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
Subtotal - Adjusting Schedules	4.03
	96.78
Oregon Commercial Activities Tax Recovery (0.436%)	0.42
Subtotal - Other Charges/Credits	0.42
City of Salem Tax (1.5%)	1.45
Low Income Assistance	0.69
Public Purpose Charge (3%)	2.90
Subtotal - Taxes and Fees	5.04
Current Energy Charges	102.24

Outages and downed lines: 800-544-1795

Need help? We're here for you Online: portlandgeneral.com Phone:

Customer Service: 800-542-8818

Oregon Relay: (deaf, hard-of-hearing, blind-deaf, speech-disabled): 711

#### Choose your way to pay

- Online\*: 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) \*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. Energy assistance may also be

Normal utility bill charges

#### **Community Solar Program**

Additional Charges/Credits

APR 2020 Subscription Fee APR 2020 Total Administration Fees APR 2020 Generation Credit (725 kWh x \$-0.11234)

**Program fees** 

68.88 4.08 81.45 CR 8.49 CR Subscription fee

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customer service.

Bill credits

e Public Purpose Charge enewable power programs n 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 or call us at 800-542-8818.

Update your mailing or email address online at 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.

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.

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.

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# Sample Portland General Electric Utility Bill, back - Administration fees included in subscription fee

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Normal utility bill charges

81.45 CR 8.49 CR

2.90

5.04

102.24

Subscription fee

'ublic Utility om your basic tails, call

he Public Purpose Charge

customer service

Bill credit

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.

### Community Solar Program

Subtotal - Taxes and Fees

Public Purpose Charge (3%)

APR 2020 Subscription Fee APR 2020 Generation Credit (725 kWh x \$-0.11234)

**Current Energy Charges** 

**Additional Charges/Credits** 

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# **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