

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 3–5)

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

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.

Bill Credit Rate	Portland General Electric	Pacific Power	Idaho Power
Tier 1	\$0.11234	\$0.0977	\$0.0848
Tier 2 (residential)	\$0.11234	\$0.0977	-
Tier 2 (non-residential)	\$0.101106	\$0.08793	-

*Tier 1 bill credit rates are constant for the life of the project. Tier 2 bill credit rates are effective through March 2023 and will escalate 2% each year beginning in April 2023 for residential and non-residential customers.

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. Tier 1 subscription fee rates are constant for the life of the project. Tier 2 subscription fee rates will also escalate each year according to the same timing as the bill credit rate.

4. Program Administration Fees


Monthly fees that recover the costs of administering 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 does not pay them directly. Instead, the cost of these fees are included in the customer’s subscription fee rate. Low-income customers are exempt from paying all program administration 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

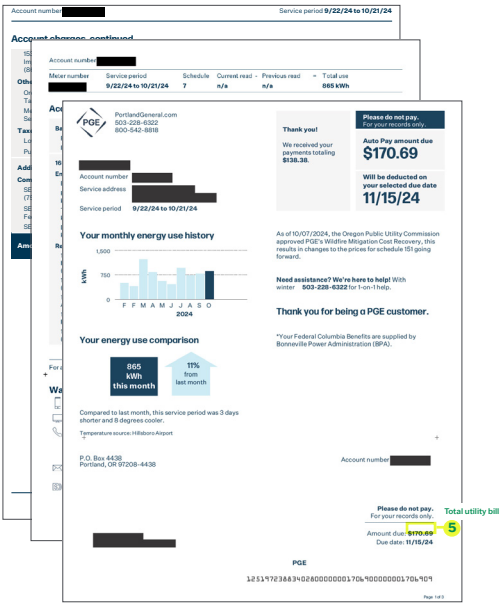
Program fee: 3 kW x \$0.96 = - \$2.88

Solar discount: \$3.29

(Normal utility bill charges) \$111.79

- (solar discount) - \$3.29

Total bill amount: \$108.50



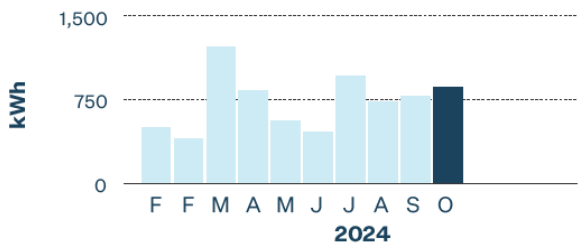
Sample Portland General Electric Utility Bill, front



PortlandGeneral.com
503-228-6322
800-542-8818

Account number [redacted]
Service address [redacted]
Service period 9/22/24 to 10/21/24

Your monthly energy use history



Your energy use comparison



Compared to last month, this service period was 3 days shorter and 8 degrees cooler.

Temperature source: Hillsboro Airport

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

Thank you!

We received your payments totaling \$138.38.

Please do not pay.
For your records only.

Auto Pay amount due
\$170.69

Will be deducted on
your selected due date
11/15/24

As of 10/07/2024, the Oregon Public Utility Commission approved PGE's Wildfire Mitigation Cost Recovery, this results in changes to the prices for schedule 151 going forward.

Need assistance? We're here to help! With winter 503-228-6322 for 1-on-1 help.

Thank you for being a PGE customer.

*Your Federal Columbia Benefits are supplied by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Account number [redacted]

Please do not pay.
For your records only.

Amount due: **\$170.69**
Due date: 11/15/24

Total utility bill

5

PGE

125197238834028000000001706900000001706909

Sample Portland General Electric Utility Bill, back

Account number [REDACTED]

Meter number	Service period	Schedule	Current read	- Previous read	= Total use
[REDACTED]	9/22/24 to 10/21/24	7	n/a	n/a	865 kWh

Account charges

Balance forward	4.45	
Previous amount due 10/15/24	142.83	
Payments through 10/22/24	138.38 (CR)	
16940 SW Naples Ct	170.69	
Energy charges	154.30	
Basic Charge	13.00	
Energy Use Charge (865.000 kWh x \$0.08814)	76.24	
Transmission Charge (865.000 kWh x \$0.00678)	5.86	
Distribution Charge (865.000 kWh x \$0.06844)	59.20	
Regulatory charges and credits	13.45	
102 Federal Columbia River Benefits supplied by BPA (865.000 kWh x \$-0.00679)	5.87 (CR)	
105 Regulatory Adjustments (865.000 kWh x \$-0.00039)	0.34 (CR)	
109 Energy Efficiency Funding Adj (865.000 kWh x \$0.00788)	6.82	
118 Bill Adjustment Cost Recovery	1.88	
123 Decoupling Adjustment (865.000 kWh x \$-0.00014)	0.12 (CR)	
126 Power Cost Variance Mechanism (865.000 kWh x \$0.0008)	0.69	
135 Demand Response (865.000 kWh x \$0.00067)	0.58	
136 Community Solar Cost Recovery (865.000 kWh x \$0.00012)	0.10	
137 Solar Payment Option Cost Recov (865.000 kWh x \$0.00024)	0.21	
145 Boardman Decommissioning Adj (865.000 kWh x \$-0.00048)	0.42 (CR)	
146 Colstrip Power Plant Oper Life Adj (865.000 kWh x \$0.00403)	3.49	
150 Transportation Electrification (865.000 kWh x \$0.00056)	0.48	
151 Wildfire Mitigation Costs (417.586 kWh x \$0.00498) for 14 days	2.08	
151 Wildfire Mitigation Costs (447.414 kWh x \$0.00356) for 15 days	1.59	
152 Extreme Weather & Pandemic Costs (865.000 kWh x \$0.00263)	2.27	

Normal utility bill charges

Continued on page 3

For a detailed explanation of your account, please visit [PortlandGeneral.com/MyAccount](https://portlandgeneral.com/MyAccount).

Ways to pay

- On the **PGE app**
- PortlandGeneral.com**
- 503-228-6322**
- Oregon Relay** (deaf, deaf-blind, hard-of-hearing, speech-disabled): **711**
- P.O. Box 4438**
Portland, OR 97208-4438
- Western Union®** and **CheckFreePay®**
To find a nearby location, visit [PortlandGeneral.com/PayInPerson](https://portlandgeneral.com/PayInPerson).

More to know

- Late payment charge**
A fee of 2.3% may be applied to past-due bills.
- Paying by check**
PGE will convert your check to an electronic debit.
- Get help with your bill**
For billing questions, call us at **503-228-6322** or visit [PortlandGeneral.com/Help](https://portlandgeneral.com/Help). For additional information, call Utility Assistance at **211**.
- We share with Energy Trust of Oregon**
They receive some customer information to design, evaluate and improve service to our customers. For details, visit [PortlandGeneral.com/DataShare](https://portlandgeneral.com/DataShare).

Account number [REDACTED]

Service period 9/22/24 to 10/21/24

Account charges, continued

153 Community Benefits and Impact Advisory Group Costs (865.000 kWh x \$0.00001)	0.01	
Other charges and credits	0.07 (CR)	
Oregon Commercial Activities Tax Recovery (-0.122%)	0.20 (CR)	
Metro Supportive Housing Services Tax Recovery (0.083%)	0.13	
Taxes and fees	3.01	
Low Income Assistance	0.60	
Public Purpose Charge (1.5%)	2.41	
Additional charges and credits	4.45 (CR)	
Community Solar Program	4.45 (CR)	
SEP 2024 Generation Credit (759.34500 kWh x \$-0.11688)	88.75 (CR)	2 Bill credit
SEP 2024 Total Administration Fees	4.33	4 Program Administration Fees
SEP 2024 Subscription Fee	79.97	3 Subscription fee
Amount due 11/15/24	\$170.69	

For a detailed explanation of your account, please visit [PortlandGeneral.com/MyAccount](https://portlandgeneral.com/MyAccount).

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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