

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). $1000\text{ W} = 1\text{ kW}$. The rate of power a device consumes over time is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh).

A couple examples:



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

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 3–5)

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	\$0.11234	\$0.0977	-

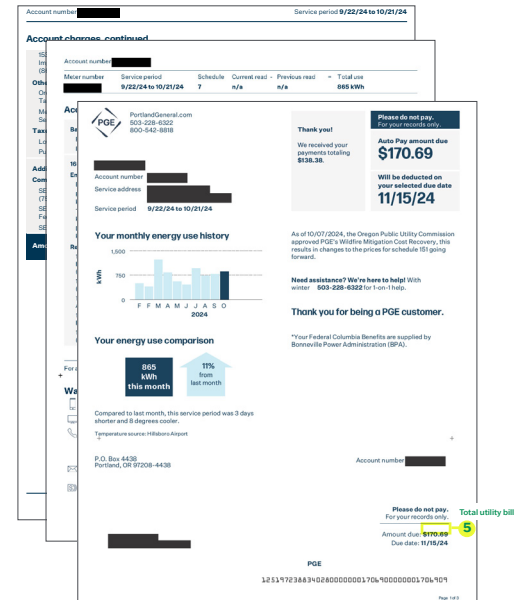
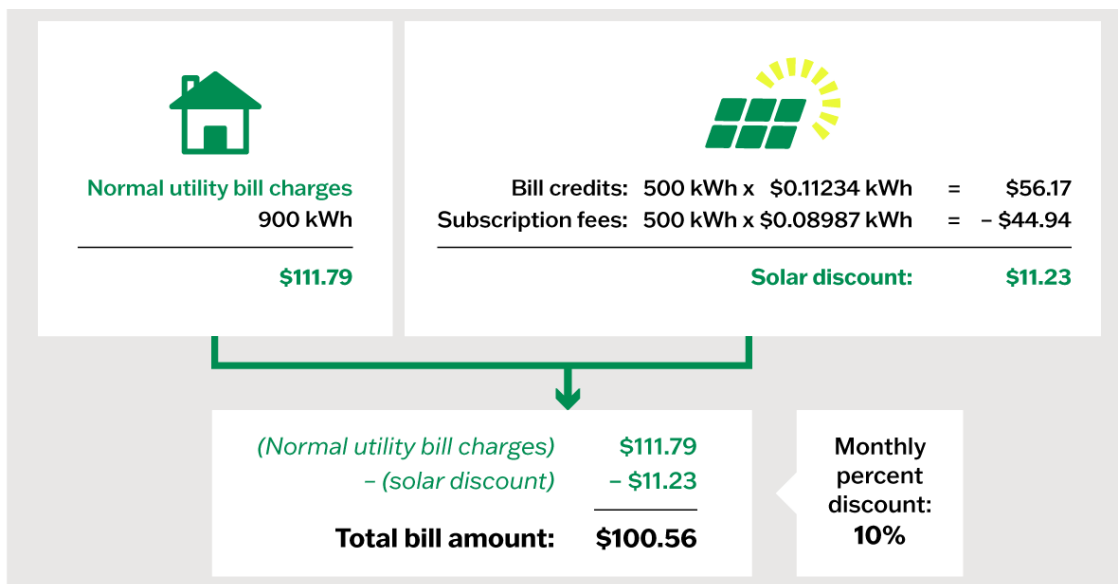
*Bill credit rates are fixed for Tier 1 projects. Bill credit rates for Tier 2 projects will escalate 2% each year beginning in April 2023. This escalator is only applicable to Portland General Electric and Pacific Power customers.

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 but are always lower than your bill credit rate.¹ In Tier 1 projects, subscription fees must be at least 20% less than your bill credits. In Tier 2 projects, subscription fees must be at least 40% less than your bill credits, i.e., these projects offer greater bill savings. The difference between bill credits and subscription fees accounts for your monthly discount! Subscription fee rates for individual projects can be found within the Project Finder on the ORCSP website.

4. Total Utility Bill

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



¹ Some projects offer greater discounts. Special circumstances apply for projects involving subsidized housing participants.



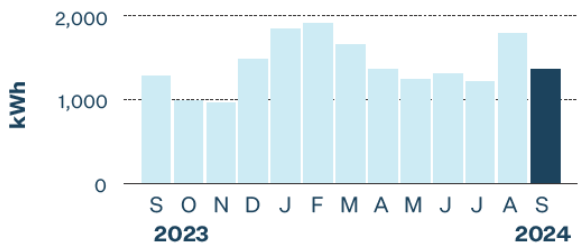
PortlandGeneral.com
503-228-6322
800-542-8818

Amount due
\$296.56

Due date
9/20/24

Account number
Service address
Service period **8/5/24 to 9/4/24**

Your monthly energy use history



Community Solar performance

\$90.78
July savings

Thank you for supporting renewable energy. For project details, contact the Oregon Community Solar Program at **800-481-0510** or visit **OregonCSP.org**

Thank you for being a PGE customer.

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

Your energy use comparison

1,363 kWh this month

6% from this month last year

24% from last month

Compared to this time last year, this service period was 3 days shorter and 3 degrees cooler.

Temperature source: Troutdale Airport
+

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

Account number

Amount due: **\$296.56**
Due date: **9/20/24**

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Total utility bill

PGE

125158446800003000000002013400000002965605

Sample PGE Utility Bill – back

Account number

Meter number	Service period	Schedule	Current read -	Previous read	= Total use
	8/5/24 to 9/4/24	7	2,547	1,184	1,363 kWh

Account charges

Balance forward	186.00		
Previous amount due 8/21/24	186.00		
		201.34	
Energy charges	235.65		
Basic Charge	13.00		
Energy Use Charge (1,363.000 kWh x \$0.08814)	120.13		
Transmission Charge (1,363.000 kWh x \$0.00678)	9.24		
Distribution Charge (1,363.000 kWh x \$0.06844)	93.28		
Regulatory charges and credits	21.12		
102 Federal Columbia River Benefits supplied by BPA (1,363.000 kWh x \$-0.00679)	9.25 (CR)		
105 Regulatory Adjustments (1,363.000 kWh x \$-0.00039)	0.53 (CR)		
109 Energy Efficiency Funding Adj (1,363.000 kWh x \$0.00788)	10.74		
118 Bill Adjustment Cost Recovery	1.88		
123 Decoupling Adjustment (1,363.000 kWh x \$-0.00014)	0.19 (CR)		
126 Power Cost Variance Mechanism (1,363.000 kWh x \$0.0008)		1.09	
135 Demand Response (1,363.000 kWh x \$0.00067)		0.91	
136 Community Solar Cost Recovery (1,363.000 kWh x \$0.00012)		0.16	
137 Solar Payment Option Cost Recov (1,363.000 kWh x \$0.00024)		0.33	
145 Boardman Decommissioning Adj (1,363.000 kWh x \$-0.00048)		0.65 (CR)	
146 Colstrip Power Plant Oper Life Adj (1,363.000 kWh x \$0.00403)		5.49	
150 Transportation Electrification (1,363.000 kWh x \$0.00056)		0.76	
151 Wildfire Mitigation Costs (1,363.000 kWh x \$0.00498)		6.79	
152 Extreme Weather & Pandemic Costs (1,363.000 kWh x \$0.00263)		3.58	
153 Community Benefits and Impact Advisory Group Costs (1,363.000 kWh x \$0.00001)		0.01	

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

Service period 8/5/24 to 9/4/24

Account charges, continued

Income-qualified bill discount	61.51 (CR)
Other charges and credits	0.09 (CR)
Oregon Commercial Activities Tax Recovery (-0.122%)	0.24 (CR)
Metro Supportive Housing Services Tax Recovery (0.083%)	0.15
Taxes and fees	6.17
City of Portland Tax (1.5%)	2.76
Multnomah County Tax (0.026%)	0.05
Low Income Assistance	0.60
Public Purpose Charge (1.5%)	2.76
Additional charges and credits	90.78 (CR)
Community Solar Program	90.78 (CR)
JUL 2024 Generation Credit (1941.51500 kWh x \$-0.11688)	226.92 (CR)
JUL 2024 Subscription Fee	136.14
Amount due 9/20/24	\$296.56

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Bill credit

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Subscription fee

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

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Total Annual Discounts

Most participants of the Oregon Community Solar Program can expect to save between 10-15% on their electricity bills every year.² 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

² Percent savings vary according to your utility company.