

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814Main website: www.energy.ca.gov

In the matter of the Design of the New Solar)
Homes Partnership)
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Docket No. 06-NSHP-1

NOTICE OF BUSINESS MEETING
RE: Revision of the New Solar
Homes Partnership Guidebook

Notice to Consider Adoption of Revisions to the *New Solar Homes Partnership Guidebook*

The California Energy Commission will hold a Business Meeting on:

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012
10 a.m.
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 Ninth Street
First Floor, Hearing Room A
Sacramento, California
(Wheelchair Accessible)

DOCKET	
06-NSHP-1	
DATE	_____
RECD.	DEC 22 2011

Audio from this meeting will be broadcast over the Internet.

For details, please go to:
www.energy.ca.gov/webcast

As part of the January 11, 2012 Business Meeting, the Energy Commission will consider adopting revisions to the *New Solar Homes Partnership Guidebook, Fourth Edition*. The New Solar Homes Partnership (NSHP) Guidebook describes the requirements for participating in NSHP and receiving incentives for installing eligible solar energy systems on new residential construction located in specified investor-owned utility territories.

Staff, with input and guidance from lead Commissioner Carla Peterman, is recommending the following proposed revisions to the *Guidebook*:

- Modify the incentive levels and decline schedule for market rate housing and affordable housing.
 - Market rate housing incentives will be based on the achieved energy efficiency level of the project.
 - The incentive level for Tier I projects will begin at \$2.00/watt.

- The incentive level for Tier II projects will begin at \$2.25/watt.
 - Affordable housing common areas will no longer qualify for the affordable housing incentive levels and will be subject to the market rate housing incentive level decline schedule.
 - The incentive level for affordable housing residential unit projects will begin at \$2.90/watt.
- A 30-day notice will not be provided prior to a decline in incentive levels. Applicants may view the current incentive levels, and the MW capacity approved and under review at [<https://www.newsolarhomes.org/RebateLevels.aspx>].
- The incentive for affordable housing projects will be limited to 75% of the total system cost. The incentive for all other projects will be limited to 50% of the total system cost. For projects subject to the 7.5 kW AC system size cap, the incentive will be equal to the lesser of the system size cap or total system cost cap. NSHP Program Administrators may request documentation to verify system costs.
- Increases in system size for approved reservations will be funded at the incentive level in effect at the time the change request, with supporting documentation, is submitted to the NSHP Program Administrator and deemed complete.
- Funding for Solar as an Option projects will be reserved assuming a 3 kW AC system size at the Tier I or Tier II incentive level in effect at the time of reservation.
- The Field Inspection Energy Checklist (CF-4R-EE NSHP) form must be completed by a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Rater and uploaded to a HERS Provider data registry to show that the installation of energy efficiency measures has been verified.
- Each building where a portion of the electric load is offset by a solar energy system shall meet the NSHP energy efficiency requirements. If the solar energy system offsets the electrical load in a building that has no conditioned space, then at least one residential building associated with that system must meet the NSHP energy efficiency requirements.
- Common area spaces attached to a residential building can no longer be separated from the rest of the building and used to show compliance with NSHP energy efficiency requirements. The whole building must now meet the NSHP energy efficiency requirements in order to be eligible for NSHP incentives.
- Common area spaces that are detached from a residential building in a multifamily development must meet the NSHP energy efficiency requirements. In addition, at least one residential building associated with that common area must also meet the NSHP energy efficiency requirements.

- A complete NSHP reservation package must be submitted prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for that project.
- Removes the 180-day window between the issue date of a solar energy system permit and the issue date of a certificate of occupancy. A solar energy system permit must be applied for prior to the issuance of the certificate of occupancy. NSHP Program Administrators may request documentation verifying the application date of the solar energy system permit and the issue date of the certificate of occupancy.
- Requires projects applying for the Solar As Standard incentive to submit a build-out schedule with the reservation application.
- Requires projects approved for the Solar As Standard incentive to submit to the Program Administrator an update on the project's construction and system installation progress 18 months after reservation approval. This will be used to evaluate the progress of the project. Depending upon the progress of the project, the project's funding reservation may be reduced or cancelled.
- Applicants must use the same HERS Provider for both the Energy Efficiency and Photovoltaic (PV) field verifications.
- Recognizes virtual net metering for multifamily housing as acceptable to apply for NSHP incentives.

This list of major proposed revisions includes additional changes recommended by staff as a result of written public comments received by the Energy Commission as of November 16, 2011. These public comments were submitted in response to the Energy Commission's earlier notice of proposed *Guidebook* revisions, which was issued on September 13, 2011, and notice to consider establishing a waiting list, which was issued on November 4, 2011.

A revised draft of the proposed *Guidebook* revisions that includes staff's additional proposed changes is available online at [www.energy.ca.gov/renewables/06-NSHP-1/documents/index.html].

Written Comments

Staff encourages the submission of written comments by 5 p.m. on December 23, 2011. Comments will be accepted through the Business Meeting. Please include the docket number 06-NSHP-1, and indicate New Solar Homes Partnership in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments. Please hand deliver or mail an **original copy** to:

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 06-NSHP-1
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

The Energy Commission encourages comments by e-mail. Please include your name or organization's name in the name of the file. Those submitting attached comments by electronic mail should provide them in either Microsoft Word format or in Portable Document Format (PDF) to [docket@energy.state.ca.us]. Please also submit your comments to renewable@energy.state.ca.us to ensure that staff receives a copy.

Public Adviser

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission activities. If you would like information on how to participate in this forum, please contact the Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or toll free at (800) 822-6228, by FAX at (916) 654-4493, or by e-mail at [PublicAdviser@energy.state.ca.us]. If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz at (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance.

Please direct all news media inquiries to the Media and Public Communications Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at [mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us].

If you have questions on the technical subject matter of this meeting, please contact Le-Quyen Nguyen, Renewable Energy Program, at (916) 654-4650, or by e-mail at [lqnguyen@energy.state.ca.us].

CARLA PETERMAN
Lead Commissioner

Electronic Mail Lists: [GoSolar](#), [PVCcalculator](#), [Renewable](#)