

## Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Frequently Asked Questions

### About Residential Renewable Energy Solutions and Former RSIP Program

1. **Q:** What is the new Residential Renewable Energy Solutions?

**A:** This program is designed to ensure continued growth of the residential renewable energy market. Residential Renewable Energy Solutions offers residential solar installations the opportunity to sell the energy and renewable energy certificates (RECs) at a fixed 20-year price by selecting one of two incentive rate structures: Buy-All and Netting.

2. **Q:** How does the Buy-All incentive structure work?

**A:** Under the Buy-All incentive rate structure, Eversource or UI will purchase all the energy and Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) generated by the qualified project.

3. **Q:** How does the Netting Incentive structure work?

**A:** Through Netting incentive rate structure, Eversource or UI will purchase all RECs generated by the qualified project, and in addition will provide monetary credits on your electric bill for any energy exported to the electric grid and not consumed on site.

4. **Q:** When will the UI's Residential Renewable Energy Solutions begin accepting applications?

**A:** We will begin accepting applications on January 1, 2022.

5. **Q:** What if I received approval for interconnection from UI prior to January 1, 2022

**A:** A renewable energy system is not eligible for the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions if the System Owner has received Approval to Interconnect from UI prior to January 1, 2022 and/or if the Application to Interconnect was submitted prior to January 1, 2022.

6. **Q:** When will the Connecticut Green Bank stop approving Residential Solar Investment Program (RSIP) and RSIP-Extension (RSIP-E) incentive applications?

**A:** The RSIP and RSIP-E are expected to reach their capacity in October 2021. Visit [cgbrsip.powerclerk.com](http://cgbrsip.powerclerk.com) for updates.

7. **Q:** What does the expiration of the RSIP and RSIP-E mean for me if I am interested in installing solar in the remaining months of 2021?

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**A:** When RSIP and RSIP-E reach capacity, the Connecticut Green Bank (“CGB”) will stop reviewing and approving new incentive applications. If capacity becomes available (due to cancellations), some new projects may be approved at the CGB’s discretion. This means that some residential solar customers who install solar toward the end of 2021 will not receive a CGB incentive and would not yet be eligible for an incentive through the new Connecticut Residential Renewable Energy Tariff Solutions (“Residential Renewable Energy Solutions”), launching January 1, 2022. Projects falling within this timeframe can still receive the existing residential net metering rate through UI. Note, the existing net metering rate currently being offered is only available for qualified systems that submit a complete application to interconnect through UI before January 1, 2022. After January 1, 2022, the only utility incentive available will be through the new Residential Renewable Energy Solutions.

- 8. Q:** I have an approved RSIP or RSIP-E incentive. What happens if I do not apply for interconnection before January 1, 2022?

**A:** If an approved RSIP or RSIP-E project cannot receive existing net metering (due to missing the 12/31/21 interconnection application deadline), the RSIP or RSIP-E incentive will be cancelled and you can apply under the new Residential Renewable Energy Solutions. RSIP and RSIP-E qualified projects must receive the existing net metering rate (this rate is available for qualified systems that submit a completed application for interconnection before December 31, 2021).

If a solar project has already received or been approved for an incentive under the Connecticut Green Bank’s Residential Solar Incentive Program (“RSIP”), the project is NOT eligible to participate in the Connecticut Residential Renewable Energy Tariff Solutions for the same solar PV project.

- 9. Q:** What happens if I previously received an incentive through RSIP? And what if I am adding more generation at my residence?

**A:** If a solar project has already received or been approved for an incentive under the Connecticut Green Bank’s RSIP, the project is not eligible to participate in the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions for the same solar PV project.

However, if you are adding generation to a property with an existing system, the new system will be separately metered. The existing system will continue to be compensated utilizing the former net metering or Renewable Energy rate and the new system will be compensated in accordance with the Buy-All incentive rate in effect at the time of Application

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**10. Q:** When can I expect to learn more details regarding application, eligibility, and process for the Residential Renewable Energy Program?

**A:** Eversource and UI have submitted extensive program materials to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (“PURA”) for review and approval as part of Docket No. 20-07-01 and Docket No. 21-08-02. Once Eversource and UI receive approval from PURA on program details, the information will be shared via multiple channels including on each utility’s website and via webinars for solar contractors (developers) beginning November 2021.

### **About the 2022 Buy-All Incentive Rate:**

**11. Q:** What is the 2022 Buy-All Incentive Rate that will apply to the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions?

**A:** The Buy-All incentive rate that has been established by PURA is \$0.2943 per kWh. This incentive rate is inclusive of compensation for both energy and Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).

**12. Q:** Will the rates remain the same in years to come?

**A:** PURA has established an annual rate setting review process to evaluate whether the program is achieving its objectives (e.g., deploying 50 to 60 MW per year), which may result in adjustments to the rates from year-to-year.

**13. Q:** Can a Buy-All incentive be split between the Customer and a Tariff Payment Beneficiary (third party)?

**A:** Yes, the Buy-All incentive rate can be split at any percentage (0%-100%) between a customer and a Tariff Payment Beneficiary. The percent allocated to the Customer will be calculated and displayed as a credit on the Customer’s electric bill. The percent allocated to the Tariff Payment Beneficiary other than the customer will be paid to the Tariff beneficiary separately by check.

**14. Q:** Can I change the Tariff Payment Beneficiary?

**A:** Yes, you may change the Tariff Payment Beneficiary and percent allocation once per year using the Tariff Payment Beneficiary Change Form

**15. Q:** Can I Cash out my Buy-All Incentive?

**A:** Yes, a Customer may cash out a Buy-All credit balance once annually.

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### **About the 2022 Netting Incentive Rate:**

**16. Q:** What is the Netting Incentive Rate that applies to Residential Renewable Energy Solutions?

**A:** The 2022 Netting Incentive Rate for the purchase of energy will be equal to the Customer's applicable retail rate (\$ per kWh). This rate will be applied to any net electricity produced and exported to the grid (electricity produced from the distributed generation; less electricity consumed by the customer). The incentive will appear as a monetary credit on the Customer's electric bill. For UI in 2022, there will be no additional incentive for RECs.

**17. Q:** Will the rates remain the same in years to come?

**A:** PURA has established an annual rate setting review process to evaluate whether the program is achieving its objectives (e.g., deploying 50 to 60 MW per year), which may result in adjustments to the rates from year to year.

**18. Q:** Can a Netting REC Incentive paid to the Customer or to Tariff Payment Beneficiary (third party)?

**A:** Yes, typically the Netting REC Incentive rate may be paid to the Customer or to a Tariff Payment Beneficiary. However, for 2022 this REC incentive value is \$0.

**19. Q:** Can I change the Tariff Payment Beneficiary?

**A:** Yes, you may change the Tariff Payment Beneficiary and percent allocation once per year using the Tariff Payment Beneficiary Change Form.

**20. Q:** Can I Cash out my Netting Incentive?

**A:** A customer may only cash out a credit balance from the Netting Incentive at the time the customer closes their account.

### **About the Application Process:**

**1. Q:** How do I apply for Residential Renewable Energy Solutions and Distributed Generation Interconnection?

**A:** Use the [this link](#) to apply for the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions and Distributed Generation Interconnection.

**2. A:** What is the fee to apply to the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions and Distributed Generation Interconnection?

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**Q:** The application fee for the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions is \$129 . This is in addition to the existing Distributed Generation Interconnection fees. All Fees are noted below:

Renewable Energy Solutions Tariff Application Fees:

1. ≤25 kW Res. Renewable Energy Solutions Application Fee - \$129
2. >25 kW Bus. Renewable Energy Solutions Bid Fee - \$300
3. Tariff Payment Beneficiary Revision - \$22

Distributed Generation Interconnection Fees:

1. New 25 kW or less Application - \$200.00
2. Upgrade to Fast Track Application from 25 kW - \$300.00
3. New Fast Track Application - \$500.00
4. New Fast Track Application (2+ MW) - \$1000.00
5. Additional Site Visit - \$150.00

Monthly Netting or Buy-All Metering Equipment:

1. REC Meter Fee 120/240 V single phase. Form 2S - \$181.00
2. REC Meter Fee 120/208 V single phase. Form 25S - \$274.00

These fees need to be paid for at the time of application.

- 3. Q:** Are there equity considerations to eligibility for the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions:

**A:** Yes, the program will strive to deploy 40 percent of residential renewable energy systems in low-income households statewide and low- to moderate-income households in economically distressed communities as defined by the Connecticut State guidelines.

- 4. Q:** Are there additional benefits available to income-eligible customers or customers in economically distressed municipalities?

**A:** Yes, there is an additional incentive adder of \$0.025/kWh for income-eligible customers and an additional incentive adder of \$0.0125/kWh for customers who reside in Economically Distressed Communities as defined by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (“DECD”)<sup>1</sup>. Customers can only apply for one of these adders, and the adder must be applied for during the Application process. Once approved for an adder, the adder will remain in effect for the 20-year life of the program, regardless of whether the customer’s eligibility status changes. More information on the eligibility criteria for these adders can be found [here](#).

- 5. Q:** How do I know if I meet the Income-Eligibility criteria?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/About\\_DECD/Research-and-Publications/02\\_Review\\_Publications/Distressed-Municipalities](https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/About_DECD/Research-and-Publications/02_Review_Publications/Distressed-Municipalities).

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**A:** Customer's with income at or below the following income thresholds (60% State Median Income thresholds by family size as of August 2, 2021.<sup>2</sup>) may qualify for the Income-Eligible adder. Link for [details](#).

Household Size	Maximum Qualifying Household Income
1	\$39,027.14
2	\$51,035.50
3	\$63,043.85
4	\$75,052.20
5	\$87,060.55
6	\$99,068.90
7	\$101,320.47
8	\$103,572.04

Evidence of income-eligibility may include:

- Participation in any of UI's Winter Protection Program, Matching Payment Plan (Mapp), or Forgiveness Matching Payment Programs
- Participation within the past three years in the Home Energy Solutions Income Eligible (HES-IE) program
- Proof of participation in any of the programs noted below:

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ocs/comm\\_liheap\\_im2002smiattachment\\_fy2021.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ocs/comm_liheap_im2002smiattachment_fy2021.pdf)

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Income-Eligible Adder Qualification	Documentation
<b>Energy Assistance</b>	Energy Award Letter
<b>Disability/SSI</b>	Letter proving qualifying benefit
<b>Temporary Assistance to Need Families (TANF)</b>	Letter proving qualifying benefit
<b>State Administered General Assistance (SAGA)</b>	Letter proving qualifying benefit
<b>DSS State Cash Assistance</b>	Letter proving qualifying benefit
<b>Women Infants and Children (WIC)</b>	Letter proving qualifying benefit
<b>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</b>	Letter proving qualifying benefit
<b>Medicaid or HUSKY</b>	Letter proving qualifying benefit
<b>Financial Support from US Dept of Veterans Affairs</b>	Letter proving qualifying benefit, OR copy of most recent bank statement showing direct deposit from qualifying benefit
<b>Public Income Assistance, Aid to the Blind, Families with Dependent Children</b>	Letter proving qualifying benefit
<b>Connecticut free lunch program or Head Start</b>	Letter proving qualifying benefit
<b>Section 8 Housing</b>	Voucher
<b>Unemployment</b>	Unemployment Benefit Letter Most recent bank statement showing direct deposit of unemployment
<b>Job</b>	Paid Weekly - Last 4 consecutive pay stubs Paid Bi-Weekly - Last 2 consecutive pay stubs Prior year 1040
<b>Self-Employment</b>	Most recent 1099 Tax Form
<b>Child Support, Pension, Other</b>	Benefit Letter Most recent bank statement showing direct deposit of unemployment Documentation the recipient's sole source of income is Social Security, such as a Social Security budget sheet

An Income-Eligible Customer of Record who does not have any of the above-listed eligibility documents may contact us directly to have their income verified.

**6. Q:** How do I know if I meet the Economically Distressed Community Adder criteria?

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**A:** The following communities in UI's service territory are currently designated as Economically Distressed by the CT DECD.<sup>3</sup>

- Ansonia
- Bridgeport
- Derby
- East Haven
- Stratford
- West Haven

Please refer to the CT DECD website to verify the list of communities is current at the time of application. As of the today, if your project is in any of the municipalities noted above, the project will be eligible for the Economically Distress Community Adder

**7 Q:** What is a Tariff Payment Beneficiary, and how can I designate one?

**A:** A Tariff Payment Beneficiary, is an individual or entity designated by a System Owner to receive incentive payments. For the Netting Incentive Rate, the Tariff Payment Beneficiary may, but is not required to be, the System Owner or the Customer. For the Buy-All Incentive rate, the Tariff Payment Beneficiary must be a third party. The Tariff Payment Beneficiary is identified at the time of application using the Tariff Payment Beneficiary Form. Customers may change the Tariff Beneficiary one time per year for a fee of \$22 using the Tariff Payment Beneficiary Revision Form

### **About System Size and Site Requirements:**

**1.** What happens if I move into a dwelling/property which has a generation system already installed which been compensated at either the former net metering rate or Renewable Energy Tariff rate?

**A:** The new Customer will receive the prevailing rate, which is the same rate originally assigned to the Customer who enrolled the system in the tariff at the dwelling/property.

**2. Q:** What is the system size limit for the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions?

**A:** The size limit for the new Residential Renewable Energy Solutions is 25 kW. Residential projects greater than 25 kW in size are not eligible for the Residential Renewable Energy Program. These projects may still apply for interconnection under UI's or Eversource's Fast Track and Study Distributed Generation Interconnection process but will not be eligible for Buy-all or Net metering incentive rates.

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<sup>3</sup> The EDCs will review the DECD list regularly and update information accordingly. In the event that this list and the list on the DECD website differ, the DECD website shall be the final determinant of whether a community meets the Economically Distressed qualification criteria.



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**3. Q:** What if my residential project utilizes a technology other than solar PV?

**A:** The Residential Renewable Energy Solutions specifically applies to solar PV projects. Any other types of residential renewable energy projects seeking to apply to the Program should email [res.renewableenergysolutions@uinet.com](mailto:res.renewableenergysolutions@uinet.com) requesting an exception and the project will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

**4. Q:** Can I oversize my system?

**A:** Projects must be sized such that a system's expected annual production does not exceed the highest annual consumption over any 12-month period within the past 5 years by more than 5%. Projects may be oversized to exceed load if the Customer has planned future electrification (1 or 2 electric vehicles, air source heat pumps or ground source heat pumps).

**5. Q:** What happens if a customer is adding generation to an existing system?

**A:** The new system will be separately metered. The existing system will continue to be compensated utilizing the former net metering or Renewable Energy Tariff rate and the new system will be compensated in accordance with the Buy-All incentive rate in effect at the time of Application.