

Learn more about becoming a Clean Power Partner



Q. What is MGE's Clean Power Partner program?

A. You can add solar photovoltaic (PV) systems to your home or business and sell the electricity to MGE for \$0.25 per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

The electricity flows directly into MGE's distribution system and becomes part of the electric grid. This renewable electricity helps our retail electric customers, who chose to participate in Green Power Tomorrow, offset some of their carbon dioxide emissions.

Q. MGE currently buys solar power from some customers. How is the new program different?

A. Some customers with PV systems are on our net metering rate. We purchase the electricity they produce with their PV systems that is beyond what they use in their home or business. They have one electric meter. If their system produces more electricity than used, the electric meter spins backward, and they are credited for the excess at their retail electric rate. The cost for this electricity is spread evenly across all customers. This program helps us to meet our minimum renewable energy requirement from the state.

Customers on our new rate have two meters: one for electricity generated from the PV system and the other for electricity used in the home or business. The PV electricity generated by your system is credited to your bill at a rate of \$0.25/kWh. This electricity is paid for by customers who participate in Green Power Tomorrow. This program helps us to go beyond the minimum state requirement for renewable energy.

Q. Why did MGE develop the new solar rate?

A. MGE's market research consistently shows that solar energy is our customers most preferred type of renewable energy. The new rate makes solar power more accessible and more affordable.

Q. Can customers who already have solar systems participate in the new program?

A. Eligibility is limited to retail electric customers with a PV meter set date of March 6, 2007, or later. There are size requirements too: solar systems must be between 1 kilowatt (kW) and 10 kW DC (direct current). MGE buys electricity from customers on a first-come, first-serve basis, up to 150 kW DC, as determined by a Pg-4 interconnection agreement signed by both the customer and MGE.

Q. Are there any other requirements?

A. You are responsible for the cost of any required upgrades needed to your solar system to make it compatible with MGE's systems and meet our safety and operational requirements. You are also responsible for meeting insurance requirements.

You must participate in Green Power Tomorrow and buy at least as much electricity through this program as your system produces.

Q. Is it expensive to install a solar system?

A. It is a significant investment—about \$8,000 per kW—to have a solar system installed. Focus on Energy offers solar system design assistance and financial incentives that can offset a portion of this cost. State and federal tax credits also may be available.

Before installing a solar system, MGE encourages you to consider conservation. Take steps to make your home or business as energy efficient as possible (switch to compact fluorescent bulbs and better control of the thermostat).

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Q. How can I withdraw from the program?

A. To participate, you sign an interconnection agreement with MGE. You agree to sell and MGE agrees to purchase the full electrical output of your PV system at a rate of \$0.25 kWh for 10 years. You have 12 months from the time the agreement is signed to interconnect and start supplying energy to MGE. You can withdraw by providing a 30-day written notice.

Q. Who should I contact with questions?

A. Call the Home Energy Line at 252-7117 or your Business Account Manager at 252-7007 with questions about solar systems or the new rate.

For more information

- Learn more about PV design and performance at www.mge.com/environment/solar/learned.htm.
- Read the complete tariff for this rate at mge.com/myrenewables.