

Solar Panels & Battery Storage Rebate



This guide highlights the benefits of solar panels and battery storage, explains the approval process, and answers frequently asked questions to help you get started.

UP TO \$6,500 AVAILABLE IN REBATES
SEE BACK FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS

The **City of New Westminster**, in partnership with **BC Hydro**, is excited to offer **Solar Panels and Battery Storage Rebates**. This makes it easier and more affordable for residents to install solar panels and battery storage at home.

It also supports the City's **Seven Bold Steps for Climate Action** – including Carbon Free Energy, Carbon Free Homes and Buildings, and Pollution-Free Vehicles – while helping meet the province's growing need for renewable electricity and giving residents more ways to manage their energy use.

BENEFITS OF SOLAR PANELS & BATTERY STORAGE



Solar Panels

- ▶ **Lower bills and increase energy resilience:**
Generate your own electricity to reduce grid reliance and gain more control over your energy use.
- ▶ **Potentially increase your home's value:**
A home solar panel system can make your home more attractive to potential buyers.



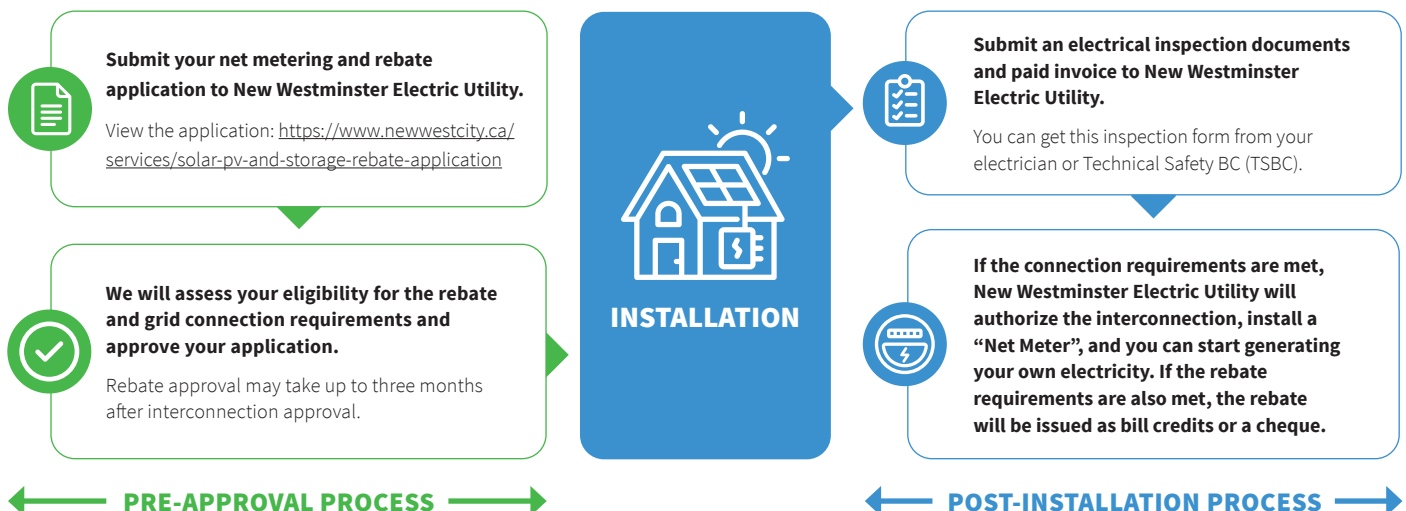
Battery Storage

- ▶ **Backup power:** Keep essential appliances running during outages.
- ▶ **Store energy for greater flexibility:**
Save excess solar electricity for later use, reducing peak-time electricity use and shifting consumption to more convenient or cost-effective times.

NET METERING & REBATE APPLICATION PROCESS

To qualify, you must apply for **Electrical Net Metering Program**. The approval process will be similar to the net-metering application process, where review the connection requirements and the installed system.

For rebate approval, you will need to submit one additional document – a **paid invoice** – when providing the required post-installation documents. The invoice should contain all the information identified in the [BC Hydro's solar and battery sample invoice](#) (i.e. contractor information, invoice number and date, participant info, installation confirmation, size, make, and model of the system, proof of payment, and total cost).



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

? [Rebates](#)

What rebates are available?

The program provides up to \$5,000 for eligible grid-connected solar panels and an additional \$1,500 for battery storage systems, only if the battery system is installed with solar. Rebates are capped at 50% of the total installed system cost, including labour and materials.

? [Applicant Eligibility](#)

How do I know if I am eligible for a rebate?

To qualify, you must:

- ▶ Be 18 years or older and a New West Electrical Utility active account holder.
- ▶ Purchase and install eligible products at an eligible property.
- ▶ Meet all requirements for the [net-metering program](#).

For full details, see the [program terms and conditions](#).

? [Eligible Homes](#)

What types of properties are eligible for the rebate?

- ▶ Single-family detached homes
- ▶ Duplexes, triplexes, row homes, or townhomes
- ▶ Mobile homes fixed to a permanent foundation

Do new builds qualify for the rebate?

Yes, but we recommend applying after your permanent meter has been installed.

I live in a multi-unit residential building (e.g., condo, apartment).

What options are available?

Currently, the program is only available for single-family homes. The City of New Westminster and Energy Save New West operate two [Urban Solar Gardens](#), and waitlists are available for residential building residents who are interested. Please [contact Energy Save New West](#) for details.

? [Permits](#)

What types of permits do I need?

Permit requirements depend on your project:

- ▶ **Electrical permit:** Required for all grid-tied solar installations and typically obtained by the electrician.
- ▶ **Building permit:** Required for all rooftop solar PV systems.
- ▶ **Heritage properties:** Homes in Queen's Park Heritage Conservation Area or with a Heritage Designation Bylaw may need to follow specific design guidelines.

For information on building permit or heritage requirements, please contact the Building Department at 604-527-4580 or buildingdept@newwestcity.ca.

? [Multiple or Combined Rebates](#)

Can I apply for solar or battery rebates for multiple properties, multiple accounts, or secondary homes? Are laneway houses eligible?

- ▶ Rebates are per customer per New Westminster Electrical Utility account.
- ▶ **Multiple properties:** Each property with a separate account can receive a rebate.
- ▶ **Multiple accounts on one property:** Each separately metered account can qualify if it meets program requirements; separate applications are required.
- ▶ **Secondary homes:** Most are eligible, but secondary suites or units within an eligible property are not eligible.
- ▶ **Laneway houses:** Eligible only if the unit is a primary residence with its own account and meter; units connected to the main meter are not eligible.

When and how will I receive my rebate?

Rebates are typically paid within 3 months after receiving notice of interconnection approval. Payments are issued either as a utility bill credit or as a cheque reimbursement.

? [Product Eligibility](#)

Where can I find information about eligible products?

Lists of commonly used inverters and battery systems are provided for reference but are not exhaustive.

- ▶ If your inverter is not listed, submit its datasheet with certification information as part of your net-metering application.
- ▶ Inverters: Must be CSA C22.2 No. 107.1 certified, comply with CSA 22.3 No. 9:20, and include anti-islanding protection per CEC Part I, rule 84-008.
- ▶ Battery storage: Must be certified to CUL 1973 and CUL 9540; if installed in living space, must meet CUL9540A requirements. Tesla products are not eligible. See the [BC Hydro product FAQ](#) for more details.

? [Contractor Requirements](#)

Do I need a specific contractor for the program?

- ▶ Yes. Starting June 1, 2026 participants must choose a contractor from the Home Performance Contractor Network (HPCN). Find contractors serving New Westminster on the [HPCN Contractor Search Tool](#).
- ▶ It is recommended to obtain at least three quotes before proceeding.
- ▶ Self-installations are not eligible.



More Questions?

Please read our [Terms and Conditions](#) for more information. To learn more about this program, contact Energy Save New West.