

HOMEOWNER WEBINAR:

Solar Panels and Battery Storage for Home Resiliency

Prepared by:

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Prepared for:

Homeowner Education Series

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Housekeeping



**This webinar is being
recorded.**



**Please remain muted
unless you need to
speak.**



**Q & A time will follow
presentation.**



**During the presentation,
use the chat box to ask
questions.**

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Keynote Presentation on:
“Solar Panels and Battery Storage for Home Resiliency”
 - Special Guest – Ben Giudici, Riverside Energy System
3. Energy Save New West Updates
4. Close



Image Source: BC Hydro

Keynote Presentation

Today's Keynote Speaker

Mr. Ben Giudici, P. Eng

Director, Riverside Energy Systems

Ben spent 12 years with BC Hydro in power systems design and operation as a protection and control specialist, and 21 years as a Thompson Rivers University faculty member in electronics and engineering, before joining Riverside Energy Systems as a director in 2009.

He is keenly interest in solar PV and storage, electrical design for zero energy buildings, and has been heavily involved in systems design, installation, and training for building professionals in these areas for over 16 years.

He holds degrees in electrical engineering, is registered as a Professional Engineer in BC and is a part-time faculty member in the BCIT Zero Energy Building program.



Energy Save New West Updates

Solar Panels & Battery Storage Rebate Program

Image source: BC Hydro

Program Details for Existing Homes:

- Rebate amount:
 - Max. \$5,000 for solar PV
 - Max. \$1,500 for battery storage (effective April 1, 2026)
- Battery storage **MUST** be paired with a solar PV system.
- Net metering connection must be applied for.
- Product must be on the eligible system/product list.
- **Must be installed by a Home Performance Contractor Network (HPCN) member to be eligible for rebates (effective June 1)**
- **Rebate Processing** : The program is funded by BC Hydro and requires BC Hydro's approval before the rebate can be issued. The approval process may take up to three months following interconnection.



How to Apply

- Combined Application for Net-Metering & Rebates:
 - <https://www.newwestcity.ca/services/solar-pv-and-storage-rebate-application>
- Additional Documents Required for Rebate Application: Paid Invoice(s)

Solar Panel & Battery Storage Infosheet

We're publishing a new infosheet on Solar & Battery Rebate!

It will provide information on:

- Benefits Of solar panels & battery storage
- Net-metering & rebate application process
- Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Visit the ESNW Resources page to download a copy!
<https://energysavenewwest.ca/resources/>

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 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).

Submit your net metering and rebate application to New Westminster Electric Utility.
View the application: <https://newwestelectric.ca/submit-rebate-application>

We will assess your eligibility for the rebate and grid connection requirements and approve your application.
Rebate approval may take up to three months after interconnection approval.

INSTALLATION

Submit an electrical inspection document and paid invoice to New Westminster Electric Utility.
You can get this inspection form from your electrician or Technical Safety BC (TSBC).

If the connection requirements are met, New Westminster Electric Utility will authorize the interconnection, install a "Net Meter", and you can start generating your own electricity. If the rebate requirements are also met, the rebate will be issued as bill credits or a cheque.

← PRE-APPROVAL PROCESS → → POST-INSTALLATION PROCESS →

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1 Rebates
What rebates are available?
The program provides up to \$6,500 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.

2 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.

3 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 **Net Urban Solar Access**, and waitlists are available for residential building residents who are interested. Please contact EnergySaveNewWest@city.ca for details.

4 Permits
What types of permits do I need?
Permit requirements depend on your project:

- **Electrical permits:** Required for all grid-tied solar installations and typically obtained by the electrician.
- **Building permits:** May be required to ensure structural safety.
- **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 604-527-4589 or buildingdept@newwest.ca.

5 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.

6 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 CUL C22.2 No. 107.1 certified, comply with CSA C22.3 No. 950, and include anti-islanding protection per CEC Part 1, rule 84.008.
- Battery storage must be certified to CUL 1973 and CUL 9542. If installed in living spaces, must meet CUL9540A requirements. Tesla products are not eligible. See the [BC Hydro product EQA](#) for more details.

7 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](mailto:EnergySaveNewWest@city.ca).

Infosheet – FAQ Examples

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Questions/comments/thoughts?

THANK YOU

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