

Frequently Asked Questions: Commonwealth Solar II Rebate Program

Rebate Eligibility

Can projects larger than 15 kW apply for a Commonwealth Solar II rebate?

No. Starting in Block 9, Commonwealth Solar II rebate eligibility is limited to projects up to 15 kW in DC nameplate capacity per property. This applies to both residential and commercial projects.

There is already solar PV at my home or business, but I want to add more. Can I apply for a rebate?

Eligibility for additional capacity depends on whether you have previously received Commonwealth Solar II funding for a PV project at your project site. Please see section 5.1 in the Program Manual called “Expansions” for more information.

I had solar PV at my old home, but now I’ve moved to a new home and would like to invest in PV. Can I apply for a Commonwealth Solar II rebate?

Yes. The rebate caps introduced in Block 9 apply to the project site. Provided your new home meets all of the program eligibility requirements, and does not have a total solar PV capacity that exceeds the capacity and rebate caps, you are welcome to apply for a rebate. Please note that if you received a residential adder (Moderate Home Value or Moderate Income) on the previous system, you would not be eligible to receive a residential adder for a second property.

Are facilities located within the service territory of a Municipal Light Plant (MLP) eligible to participate in the Commonwealth Solar II Rebate Program?

As of January 2012, the only MLPs whose customers are eligible for rebates are Ashburnham, Holden, Holyoke, Russell, and Templeton. For more information on participating MLPs, visit the Commonwealth Solar website www.masscec.com/solar.

Can public entities apply for Commonwealth Solar II rebates?

Yes. In addition to meeting all other program requirements, public entities must submit evidence of compliance with public bidding laws before rebates will be awarded. However, these projects are not eligible for the Moderate Home Value or Moderate Income Adders.

Application and Completion Process

How am I assigned my position in the queue?

Projects submitted by Expedited Primary Installers/Integrators are added to the queue once the “submit” button is clicked in PowerClerk. Please note that Expedited Installers will now be required to electronically upload all required documentation in PowerClerk prior to submitting the application and establishing a place in the queue. PowerClerk

submissions containing inaccurate or insufficient backup documentation may lose their place in the queue.

Projects submitted by Non-Expedited Primary Installer/Integrators are assigned a position within the application queue once an email, which includes an electronic copy of the application (Attachment A), is emailed to MassCEC at cs@masscec.com. The date and time of the email defines your place in the queue. In order to maintain that position within the queue, MassCEC must receive a complete application, including all required backup documentation, within 10 calendar days of submission.

What backup documentation needs to be included in the application?

A list of required documentation can be found in both the hardcopy application (Attachment A) as well as section 6.1, “Complete Applications” in the Program Manual, both available on the Commonwealth Solar II website (www.masscec.com/solar). In addition, when entering an application into PowerClerk, the list of required backup documentation will be shown. Please note that the required backup documentation is not the same for Expedited as for Non-Expedited Primary Installer/Integrators.

Should I submit a copy of the turnkey installation contract with the back-up documentation for an application?

With the exception of a Community Solar project, the turnkey installation contract is not required when submitting a rebate application. However, by signing the Participant’s Agreement, System Owners certify that a turnkey contract is in place and meets the outlined requirements.

Should I submit a shading analysis with the backup documentation for an application?

Expedited Installers/Integrators are not required to submit a shading analysis with their application. By signing the Participant’s Agreement, all parties certify that the project meets the 80% of optimal output requirement outlined in the Minimum Technical Requirements (Attachment D). However, including a shading analysis to demonstrate that a system will meet the optimal production requirement at the time of application submission may facilitate a quicker review of your application. Non-Expedited Installers/Integrators are required to submit a shading analysis.

Do I need to submit my application to Spillane Consulting Associates, Inc., for Moderate Income verification, prior to applying for a Commonwealth Solar II rebate?

If applying for the Moderate Income Adder, you are required to submit an income verification application to Spillane Consulting Associates, Inc. (Spillane) prior to, or concurrent with, your application submission to the Commonwealth Solar II Rebate Program. In order for Spillane to process your application, they will need to access either your 2010 or 2011 tax filings, whichever is more recent. Do not send tax information directly to MassCEC.

Can the project components change after the original application has been approved?

Yes, provided that the change does not cause the project to be out of compliance with Program Guidelines, including eligible system size limits and compliance with the

Minimum Technical Requirements (Attachment D). All changes must be noted on the Change Request Form that is submitted at project completion. The rebate will never increase from the original approved rebate value, and may decrease if the system size has decreased or if the project no longer uses the MA Company Components Adder.

Are Approved System Owners required to submit a W-9?

If you are a System Owner and have received a Notice of Award for your Commonwealth Solar II Rebate Application, you must complete and return a W-9 Form to MassCEC in order to receive your rebate payment. MassCEC will not release a rebate payment without receipt of this signed document. **Note:** In instances where more than one System Owner is listed in the application (e.g. a husband and wife), the Systems Owners will need to make a determination about which individual should be considered the System Owner for taxability purposes and submit a W-9 Form. Only one person must submit a W-9. The selected individual also must sign all main project-related documents, which includes the Application, Participant's Agreement, and Project Completion Form in order for MassCEC to remit the rebate payment. For more information on how to submit a W-9, go to www.MassCEC.com/solar and click on the link for "Instructions for Submitting a W-9."

Installers/Integrators

Can an installer submit multiple applications as a Non-Expedited Installer?

No. Non-Expedited Installers/Integrators may only submit one application initially. Any subsequent applications received prior to completing the "Crawl Before You Walk Policy" will be rejected and removed from the Process Queue.

Is there a designated funding Carve-Out for Non-Expedited Primary Installer/Integrators?

Yes, there is a 5% carve-out for Non-Expedited Primary Installers/Integrators.

What is the process to become an Expedited Installer/Integrator?

Installers/Integrators must complete the "Crawl Before You Walk" process before becoming an Expedited Installer/Integrator. See section 4.2 of the Program Manual at www.masscec.com/solar for more information.

Miscellaneous

Where can I find more information about solar PV in Massachusetts?

For homeowners and small businesses considering solar PV (or solar hot water), visit www.masscec.com/aboutsolar.

Will projects funded by Commonwealth Solar II be eligible to earn SRECs?

Renewable Energy Certificates ("RECs") created from solar facilities will be designated as SRECs. For each megawatt hour (1,000 kWh) that a system generates, one SREC will

be created. Solar system owners, including those who receive rebates from the Commonwealth Solar II program, may be eligible to sell their SRECs, as long as the project meets the requirements outlined by the RPS Solar Carve-Out. For additional details, go to www.masscec.com/solar and click on the link for “SREC Information.”

Are rebates considered taxable income?

All parties are strongly encouraged to consult with a tax professional to determine the federal and state tax implications of receipt of the Rebate. The IRS and the Massachusetts Department of Revenue may consider rebates to be taxable income, and a rebate tax liability may exist even if you did not directly receive the rebate check.