

Frequently Asked Questions: Commonwealth Solar Rebate Programs

Questions: Both Commonwealth Solar II and Commonwealth Solar Stimulus Rebate Programs

Will the 50% “behind the meter” requirement exist in either of the new Commonwealth Solar Rebate Programs?

No.

Will rebates be per building or per meter in the new Commonwealth Solar Rebate Programs?

The rebate calculation is based on the size of the total PV system installation per building. Each building with a PV array is considered a separate project. If you would like to do multiple arrays on multiple buildings, you will need to submit a separate application for each project.

Is the 10% carve-out for Non-Expedited Primary Installer/Integrators a floor or a ceiling?

The 10 percent carve-out for Non-Expedited Primary Installer/Integrators is a ceiling for the second funding blocks of the Commonwealth Solar II Rebate Program and the Commonwealth Solar Stimulus Rebate Program. MassCEC reserves the right to change this carve-out level in future blocks.

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

Facilities located within the service territory of any MLP are eligible to apply for funding under the Commonwealth Solar Stimulus Rebate Program. However, only facilities located within the service territory of MLPs that pay into the Renewable Energy Trust are eligible to apply for funding under the Commonwealth Solar II Rebate Program. For more information on participating MLPs, visit the Commonwealth Solar website www.CommonwealthSolar.org.

Will there be a Public Building or Affordable Housing Adder?

At this time, the new Commonwealth Solar Rebate Programs do not provide adders for Public Building or Affordable Housing PV installations. Public and Affordable Housing entities are still welcome to apply to the rebate programs.

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.

When are you assigned your position in the queue?

Projects submitted by Expedited Primary Installer/Integrators are assigned a position within the application queue once the “submit” button is clicked in PowerClerk, based on the date and time of submittal. In order to maintain that position within the queue, MassCEC must receive a complete application, including all required backup documentation, within 7 calendar days of submitting the application in PowerClerk. Application packages for Commonwealth Solar Stimulus must be submitted in hard-copy form; application packages for Commonwealth Solar II must be submitted electronically via email.

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 7 calendar days of submitting the application in PowerClerk. Application packages for Commonwealth Solar Stimulus must be submitted in hard-copy form; application packages for Commonwealth Solar II must be submitted electronically via email.

When submitting a Third-Party Ownership project, which entity will be subject to the rebate cap?

For projects without a Third-Party Owner, the calculation of the cap is applied to the Primary Installer/Integrator Entity.

For projects with a Third-Party Owner that is the same as the Primary Installer/Integrator, the calculation of the cap is applied to the Primary Installer/Integrator Entity.

For projects with a Third-Party Owner that is different than the Primary Installer/Integrator, the calculation of the cap is applied to the Third-Party Owner entity, but not to the Primary Installer/Integrator entity.

See section 3.2 of the Program Manual for more information regarding Primary Installer/Integrator and Third-Party rebate caps.

What backup documentation needs to be included in the application?

The list can be found in the hardcopy application (Attachment A), available on the Commonwealth Solar website (www.CommonwealthSolar.org) and on the electronic applications generated through PowerClerk. Please note that the required backup documentation may differ between the Commonwealth Solar II Rebate Program and the Commonwealth Solar Stimulus Rebate Program, as well as between Expedited and Non-Expedited Primary Installer/Integrators.

Will projects funded by the Commonwealth Solar II or Commonwealth Solar Stimulus Rebate Programs be eligible to earn SRECs?

Accepting awards from Commonwealth Solar II or Commonwealth Solar Stimulus will not disqualify a project from earning or selling SRECs. Other qualification criteria may

have to be met, as specified by DOER. Note: MassCEC will not provide estimates of the future value of SRECs or provide strategic advice to projects regarding financing options.

Can projects that received a Commonwealth Solar I rebate or other MRET funding for the installation of a PV project also receive rebates under the new Commonwealth Solar Rebate Programs for system add-ons?

Funding will not be available for any PV system add-ons under the new Commonwealth Solar Rebate Programs if the system previously received funding under Commonwealth Solar I or another MRET incentive program, regardless of the System Owner entity.

I received an award for the installation of a PV project from MRET in the past. Can I apply for a Commonwealth Solar II or Commonwealth Solar Stimulus award for the same project?

You are not eligible to apply for Commonwealth Solar II or Commonwealth Solar Stimulus funding **for a specific project** if you have received (and not forfeited as of the time you apply) an award for the installation of PV for that same project from a previous Renewable Energy Trust initiative, including but not limited to, Commonwealth Solar I (CSI), Commercial, Industrial, Institutional Initiative (CIII), Green Affordable Housing Initiative (GAHI), Green Buildings Initiative (GBI), Green Schools Initiative (GSI), Large Onsite Renewables Initiative (LORI), Small Renewables Initiative (SRI), Solar to Market Initiative (SMI) and the Special Opportunities Partnership Initiative (SOPI). Receiving an award from the Clean Energy Choice Program does not disqualify you from applying to Commonwealth Solar II or Commonwealth Solar Stimulus.

Questions: Commonwealth Solar Stimulus Rebate Program Only

Will prevailing wage rates apply to all Commonwealth Solar Stimulus Rebate Program funding, regardless of size?

Yes.

Can systems larger than 200 kW receive a rebate from the Commonwealth Solar Stimulus Rebate Program on the first 200 kW?

No; systems larger than 200 kW will not be eligible to apply for the Commonwealth Stimulus Rebate Program. Projects with a capacity greater than 200 kW may still be eligible to receive funding under the SREC program.

Can projects for ground mounted systems larger than 60 kW apply for a rebate under the Commonwealth Solar Stimulus rebate for the first 60 kW?

Ground mounted projects with a nameplate capacity greater than 60 kW are not eligible for funding under the Commonwealth Solar Stimulus Rebate Program. Ground mounted systems greater than 60kW would trigger requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act, which cannot be accommodated within the rebate program timeline.

Does the Primary Installer/Integrator cap under the Commonwealth Solar Stimulus Rebate Program include remaining unfinished jobs from the Commonwealth Solar I

program? Does the Primary Installer/Integrator cap factor in projects under the Commonwealth Solar II program?

The Primary Installer/Integrator cap is 25% of the available funding under the second block of the Commonwealth Solar Stimulus Rebate Program. This program's Primary Installer/Integrator cap is independent of any other Commonwealth Solar program or funding block. Review the Program Manual for additional information.

Does equipment need be manufactured in the United States to qualify for the Commonwealth Solar Stimulus Rebate Program?

Only public works projects are required to meet this provision. For further guidance on this issue, please refer to Attachment C of the solicitation documents.

Does the Payee for the Commonwealth Solar Stimulus rebate application have to be the Applicant (i.e. Primary Installer/Integrator)?

Yes.

Questions: Commonwealth Solar II Rebate Program Only

Can commercial projects larger than 10 kW apply for Commonwealth Solar II?

No; commercial systems larger than 10 kW will not be eligible to apply to the Commonwealth Solar II program, but they will be eligible to apply to the Commonwealth Solar Stimulus program.

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?

Yes. 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 2008 or 2009 tax filings, whichever is more recent.