

Watt's New

Solar updates, industry news, and more



Welcome back to Watt's New!

This month, we're sharing an important update from BC Hydro regarding upcoming changes to its self-generation program. We're breaking down what's changing, what current and future solar customers should know, new opportunities for commercial and community generation, and why solar continues to make strong long-term sense.



BC Hydro's Self-Generation Program is Evolving

BC Hydro has announced updates to its self-generation program that were recently approved by the **BC Utilities Commission (BCUC)**, the independent regulatory body that oversees utilities in British Columbia.

Beginning July 1, 2026, new customers enrolling in BC Hydro's program will participate under a new Self-Generation Service Rate (RS2289), replacing the current Net Metering structure (RS1289).

Under the current Net Metering program, excess solar generation is banked as electricity credits that can later offset electricity consumption. Under the new Self-Generation structure, excess exported energy will instead be credited at a fixed rate of 10¢/kWh.

One important thing remains unchanged: the electricity your solar system produces is still used within your home or business first, helping reduce the amount of energy you need to purchase from the grid.

What Existing Net Metering Customers Should Know

For customers already enrolled in BC Hydro's current Net Metering program, transition provisions have been approved to help provide continuity moving forward.

According to the approved structure:

Customers who **did not receive a BC Hydro solar rebate** may remain on the current Net Metering structure for 10 years from their individual service start date.

Customers who **received a BC Hydro solar rebate** will transition to the new structure beginning July 1, 2026, unless they choose to repay the rebate amount to remain on the current program for the grandfathering period.

BC Hydro has indicated affected customers will be contacted directly regarding available options and timelines.

Most importantly, existing solar systems will continue operating normally and continue generating clean energy and energy savings for years to come.

What Future BC Hydro Solar Customers Should Know

For customers enrolling with Solar after July 1, 2026, systems will participate under the updated self-generation structure. While the compensation model for exported energy is changing, the core value of solar remains the same: the electricity your system produces is first used within your home or business, helping reduce the amount of electricity purchased from the grid.

For many homeowners and businesses, direct self-consumption continues to be one of the biggest long-term benefits of solar.

The updated structure also places greater emphasis on thoughtful system design and understanding energy usage patterns to maximize on-site energy usage and long-term value.

That's why working with an experienced solar team matters. Whether your goal is offsetting daytime usage, planning for future energy needs, or maximizing long-term savings, our team helps design systems tailored to how your home or business actually uses power.

The Solos Energy team is always here to answer any questions.

New Opportunities for Commercial & Community Solar

Alongside the program updates, BC Hydro's approved changes also introduce new opportunities for larger-scale and shared solar participation.

BC Hydro is also introducing a new **Community Generation Service (RS2290)**. According to BC Hydro, this program allows multiple customers to collectively contribute to and benefit from community generating

facilities, helping expand access to self-generation for customers who may

not otherwise be able to participate.

Under this model, a community generator builds and operates a shared generating facility and distributes monetary credits for excess generation to eligible customers, known as benefitting customers. For example, a strata corporation could operate a shared solar facility while individual unit owners receive a share of the generation credits.

This new structure could support future projects such as:

- Multi-unit residential buildings
- Shared commercial developments
- Community solar projects
- Strata and rental properties

Community generation facilities may be sized up to 2 MW, depending on the number and type of participating customers.

This updated program is intended to expand access to self-generation for customers who may not have previously been able to participate in solar directly.

Looking for more information?

[BC Hydro Rate Update](#)

[BCUC News Release](#)

or contact our knowledgeable team anytime:

250-258-8344

That's a wrap!

Stay tuned for the next edition of Watt's New.

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We're here to help you make the switch to solar!

Have questions or ready to start your project? Give us a call:

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