



# GOING SOLAR WITH DESERT COMMUNITY ENERGY



**Whether you are interested in getting solar or already have it on your home or business, learn how our Net Energy Metering (NEM) Program can work for you!**

## **What is Desert Community Energy (DCE) and how does it work?**

Desert Community Energy (DCE) is the new local not-for-profit electricity provider serving residential, commercial and municipal customers in Palm Springs. DCE is a Community Choice Energy program established by state law to offer you a choice in electricity generation providers and access to clean energy at competitive rates. Briefly stated, DCE will take over the generation of customer's electricity. Southern California Edison (SCE) will continue to deliver it, maintain the grid, and provide customer service and billing.

## **Does DCE offer a solar or Net Energy Metering (NEM) program?**

Yes. DCE believes in a greener future and supports customers who already have or wish to have solar installed on their homes or businesses. DCE customers with solar panels can participate in our NEM program. DCE will purchase the excess energy you produce at the same rate as SCE.

## **Do I have to do anything to enroll in DCE?**

If you are already a solar customer with SCE, you do not have to do anything. Your account was automatically enrolled in DCE's Carbon Free plan in May 2020. Credits for surplus electricity earned under SCE's NEM program prior to May 2020 will be trued up and paid by SCE following enrollment into DCE's NEM program.

## **What if I already have solar panels or other generating systems? Am I still able to offset my energy charges with the energy I generate?**

Yes, you are still able to offset your charges with excess generated energy. At the end of your relevant period (May 2021 for most DCE NEM customers), you will either receive a check or a bill, and if you are a net consumer for that year, you will only receive one bill for energy consumption annually. If you are a net generator, DCE will compensate you for your Net Surplus Generation at the same rate as SCE. This allows you a full 12 months to net out any generation charges.

## **What are the advantages of DCE's NEM program versus staying with SCE?**

If you need energy beyond what your system produces, DCE will provide that energy. The City of Palm Springs has prioritized reducing greenhouse (GHG) emissions and chosen to have DCE automatically enroll every customer into DCE's Carbon Free plan. You can stay green and make a bigger impact on the environment by remaining in DCE's Carbon Free plan. You also have the choice to purchase energy at a lower cost than what you now pay SCE with our Desert Saver plan. To opt down to Desert Saver, visit [DesertCommunityEnergy.org/your-options/opt-out/](https://DesertCommunityEnergy.org/your-options/opt-out/) or call toll free (855) 357-9240 Monday through Friday between 8 A.M. and 5 P.M. PST. It only takes a few minutes to opt down and save!



## What is DCE's Net Surplus Compensation Rate?

DCE's Net Surplus Compensation Rate (NSCR) is the same as SCE's and typically is only adjusted by the DCE board when annual rates are set. Customers will receive advanced notice of rate changes and be able to provide input at DCE board meetings.



## When is DCE's "relevant period"?

A relevant period refers to the yearlong NEM billing period, in which NEM credits and charges are tracked. DCE will annually true up all NEM customers at the end of your relevant period each May, rather than on a unique date for each customer.

## Why did DCE choose May as the annual "true up" date?

The most opportune month to launch the NEM program for the majority of NEM customers would be the end of May. We consulted with local solar experts and discovered that this is typically the time that most customers would have saved up the most solar credits through the spring before using them to offset the higher usage in summer months. Therefore, the end of May represents the time period when your balance should be the lowest.

## What if I am grandfathered into SCE's "NEM 1.0" program?

Automatic enrollment into DCE's NEM program will not affect NEM 1.0 customers' status. Desert Community Energy will honor SCE's NEM 1.0 and 2.0 status for those customers already grandfathered in at that status, and the time-of-use periods you have with SCE will remain the same. However, should a NEM customer decide to opt-out of DCE outside of the 60-day post enrollment window to go back to SCE, they will be enrolled in SCE's most recent NEM status. Note that the 60-day post enrollment period begins on the customer's meter read date in May. NEM 1.0 and 2.0 customers that opt out of DCE prior to the 60-day post enrollment window will retain their NEM 1.0 or 2.0 status when they return, and their original relevant period will be restored.

## New to solar and Net Energy Metering?

Your licensed solar company should be able to help you start the process to convert to solar. Once you've completed the SCE NEM enrollment process, you will automatically be enrolled in DCE's NEM program if you are an eligible DCE customer.

## Endorsed by:



## Have additional questions about NEM and/or your service?

Please call us at (855) 357-9240 Monday through Friday between 8 A.M. and 5 P.M. PST, or reach us by email at [customerservice@desertcommunityenergy.org](mailto:customerservice@desertcommunityenergy.org). Additional information is also available on our website at <https://desertcommunityenergy.org/your-options/net-energy-metering/>