

Fort Collins Solar Power Purchase Program

“SP³”



Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: 9/30/2013

Question: What is the Fort Collins Solar Power Purchase Program (“SP³”)?

Answer: Through the program, Utilities will purchase energy from eligible renewable projects from 10 kilowatts to 1000 kilowatts within its service territory.

Question: How will the program work?

Answer: Utilities plans to purchase renewable energy from commercial project sites under a long-term Solar Power Purchase Agreement (SPPA) that will be offered at a set price. This price will include all energy, capacity rights, and environmental attributes associated with the project.

Question: What are the program submittal deadlines?

Answer: The objective of the SP³ is to procure roughly 4.5 megawatts of new local PV capacity (2.3 megawatts in each of two application periods). The initial application period for this program closed on September 22th, 2013. A second application period will close at midnight February 2nd, 2014.

Question: What is the project selection process?

Answer: In the event more complete applications are received than there is capacity available, a lottery process will be instituted to randomly select projects to assign shortlist priority. Otherwise application packets received before the closing of the application period, will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. Please see program guidelines at www.fcgov.com/solar .

Question: Will a waitlist be maintained for applications that are not received in time?

Answer: Applications received after the lottery process or after the program is fully allocated will be placed on a waiting list ordered by date and time received. In the event that shortlisted projects do not go forward, waitlisted projects may be offered the opportunity to participate.

Question: Can I reduce my bill and sell excess energy with the power purchase program?

Answer: No. All the energy produced from the SP³ projects must be sold to Utilities, including all the capacity rights and environmental attributes associated with the projects.

Question: I installed a solar electrical system but did not apply for any incentives. May I sign up with the SP³?

Answer: SP³ was created to encourage new renewable resources. A system in operation prior to the execution of the SPPA is not eligible to participate.

Question: Does the Applicant have to live/operate within the City of Fort Collins in order to participate in the SP³?

Answer: No, the only requirement is the solar generator is within Utilities' service territory.

Question: Has funding been allocated to assure participants that these funds will last for the lifetime of the program?

Answer: Fort Collins City Council has authorized the budget and 20 year contract structure supporting this program.

Question: What happens at the end of the 20 year power purchase agreements (PPA)?

Answer: Utilities may request to extend the PPA, alternately the energy and RECs revert to the control of the owner. See the language in the SPPA for details.

Question: What are the restrictions on the quantity of projects constructed per parcel or parcels per Application?

Answer: Multiple projects may be proposed on a legal parcel as long as the total installed capacity does not exceed 1000kW. If multiple legal parcels are involved the maximum is 2000kW for any single owner entity. A separate application would be required for each installation. Utilities reserves the right to determine what constitutes a separate installation/project.

Question: Can the energy produced by a system be used locally in the event of a power outage?

Answer: All energy produced must be delivered to Utilities' Distribution System. In the event of a power outage, the system shall have anti-islanding features in place for the safety of Utilities' field crews.

Question: Is the system's ownership transferable?

Answer: Participants shall not assign any of its rights or delegate any of its obligations without prior written consent from Utilities, as set forth in the SPPA. No changes to the project location are allowed.

Question: Is the Solar Power Purchase Agreement (SPPA) negotiable?

Answer: No, it is a standard contract where all terms and conditions within the SPPA must be accepted as-is.

Question: Can the Seller keep the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) produced from the system?

Answer: No, all the energy, capacity rights and environmental attributes such as RECs are sold to Utilities as stated in the SPPA.

Question: Where can I find additional information on zoning requirements?

Answer: Additional zoning information at www.fcgov.com/building

Question: Where can I find additional information about interconnection?

Answer: See SP³ program guidelines Appendix E (at www.fcgov.com/solar)

Question: Can Development Team members listed on the Application be switched out for new members during the Application process?

Answer: Yes, but the Developer Experience rule where at least one member of the development team must have developed one or more similar projects still holds.

Question: What is the MW cap installed/awarded per Applicant?

Answer: An Applicant may apply for multiple projects but that Applicant will only be awarded on projects up to an aggregate amount of one megawatt on any single parcel and two megawatts total across multiple parcels.

Question: Are there any special provisions in place for non-profit organizations?

Answer: No, all Applications received are considered equally.

Question: If my application is selected, can my project capacity be adjusted before the system is operational?

Answer: If the proposed project capacity is altered, changes due to unanticipated site issues or final equipment selections for example, the operation capacity must be between 90 and 100% of what was originally proposed.

Question: If my application was not selected in round one, will it have a priority position in round two?

Answer: No. Our intent with SP3 is to run an open, fair and transparent process. Having two selection rounds was announced in the initial program guidelines and some potential applicants have made plans accordingly.