



End the Utility Power Grab in California: **SOLAR CUSTOMERS DESERVE FAIR CREDIT WITH NET METERING**



Like rollover minutes on a cell phone bill, net metering gives renewable energy customers fair credit on their utility bills for the excess clean power they contribute back into the grid. This simple billing arrangement is one of the most important state policies for encouraging investment in solar - and it benefits solar and non-solar ratepayers alike!

Net metering grid benefits **\$92.2** Million outweigh the costs by: per year¹



Saves on expensive and polluting conventional power



Saves on investment in transmission and distribution infrastructure



Reduces electricity lost over the wires



Saves on cost of managing power delivery



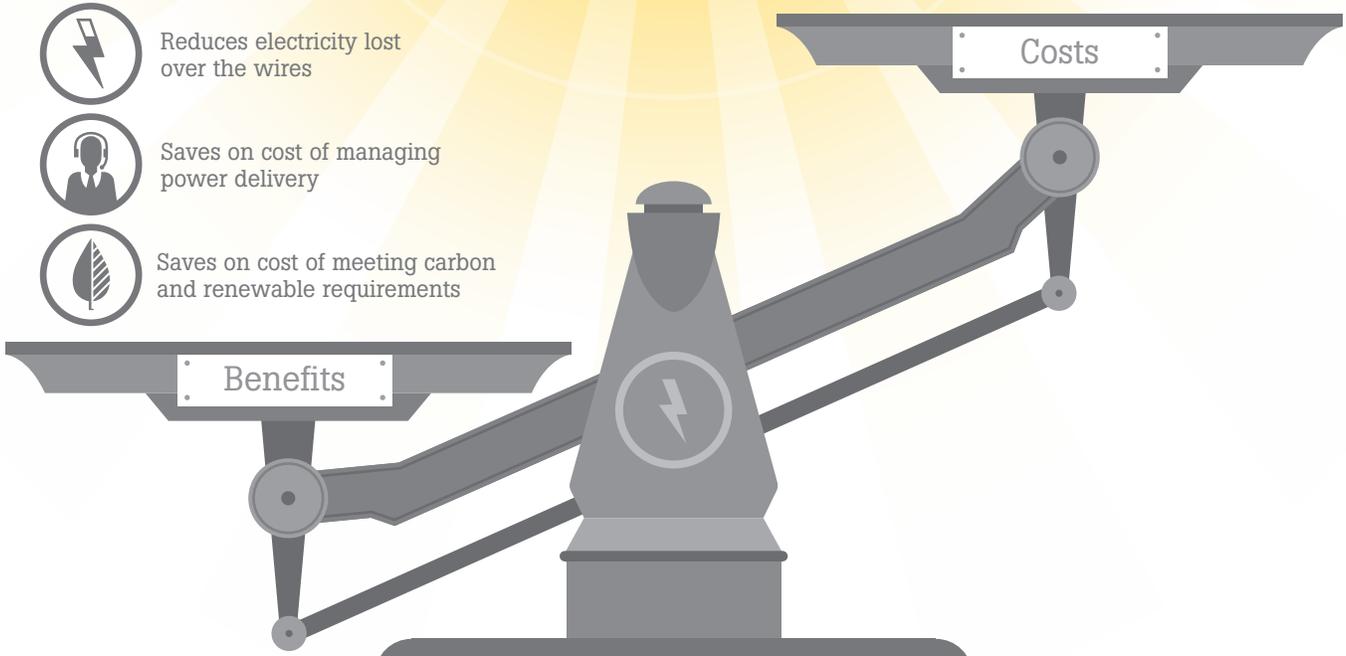
Saves on cost of meeting carbon and renewable requirements



Costs to manage net metering program



Lowers revenue to cover utility infrastructure costs



The utilities' tricky math doesn't add up.

Some utilities claim that net metering is not cost-effective for non-solar ratepayers, but time and again they use inaccurate numbers to make their case:

Utilities overstate net metering credits by as much as 40%.

Utilities assume that net metered customers are always credited at the highest rate tiers. Real-world data shows that many net metered customers are in lower tiers, so the utilities are losing much less revenue than they claim.

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Utilities overstate the amount of solar power impacting the grid by as much as 80%.

Most solar output is used on-site without ever reaching the grid. Just like energy efficiency, solar used on-site places no burden on the utility system, and yet utilities are accounting for it as if it's a cost.

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Utilities claim there are almost no cost-saving benefits of net metering.

Proven benefits are ignored. Individual customer investment in solar delivers high value power, creating a host of benefits to the grid including savings on conventional generation, transmission and distribution investments, line losses, and avoided environmental compliance costs. But the utilities' math counts only the first benefit, at most.

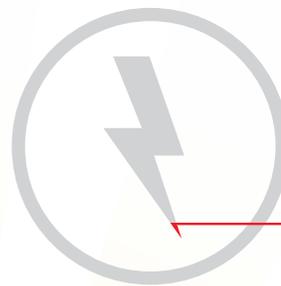
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Overinflated cost claims

Utility cost claims are a red herring.

Other annual utility financials for perspective:

- Investor-owned utilities' annual electric revenues are \$25 Billion
- Out-of-service San Onofre nuclear power plant cost SCE ratepayers \$820 Million in 2012²
- PG&E's annual natural gas and coal power purchases from outside sources cost \$1 Billion



0.37%

Net metered power is just 0.37% of total utilities' power demand

Net metering works for California.



43 Thousand jobs in the California solar industry³



\$10 Billion in private investment



2/3 of home solar installations now occur in low and median income neighborhoods⁴



\$2.5 Billion in energy bill savings for schools & other public agencies

Net metering is good for ratepayers, taxpayers, the economy and the environment.

The interests of a few monopoly utilities should not outshine the rest of us.

Learn more at www.protectnetmetering.org

Prepared by: The Vote Solar Initiative.

References: ¹Annual net benefits to non-solar ratepayers once 5% cap is reached, from Evaluating the Benefits and Costs of Net Energy Metering in California, Crossborder Energy, January 2013 ²San Onofre nuclear plant outage costs top \$300 million, Los Angeles Times, November 2012 ³SEIA CA Fact Sheet, January 2013 ⁴CSI California Solar Statistics data