

SMUD News Release

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

• News Media Services

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Letting the sun shine on the payback of solar power

The SMUD online Clean Power Estimator answers many customers' questions

Solar power is becoming a more common site in California, in news headlines, in advertisements and even in neighborhoods. Ever wonder how much it would cost to go solar? Clueless about weighing the investment versus the payback of installing solar panels on the roof? Well, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) now offers an online Clean Power Estimator to help customers shed some light on the actual cost of going solar. The feature is available at smud.org.

Solar photovoltaic (PV) power has been around SMUD territory for a couple of decades but many customers still have questions about the installation costs and the potential savings. With the SMUD Clean Power Estimator, customers can enter specific information about their homes and businesses and get help to make good financial choices.

Simply visit smud.org and click on "Community & Environment," then scroll down to the "SMUD Solar Electric PV System Estimator" link. After entering information about the structure and your bills, the estimator will calculate the cost, including financial and tax incentives and the monthly costs if you finance the project. The estimator even provides the amount of carbon dioxide greenhouse gas emissions you would alleviate.

SMUD does not sell or install PV systems but can provide you with a list of SMUD-approved solar power contractors to contact and start getting estimates. As with any SMUD program, a real person can also answer many of your questions if the estimator leaves you wondering.

As the nation's sixth largest publicly owned utility, SMUD has been providing low-cost, reliable electricity for more than 60 years to Sacramento County (and a small portion of Placer County). SMUD is a recognized industry leader and award winner for its innovative energy efficiency programs, renewable power technologies, and for its sustainable solutions for a healthier environment. For information about any of SMUD's money-saving renewable energy or energy efficiency programs, visit smud.org.

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