

Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program

2023 Administrative Rule Proposals

2023 Legislative Session

HB 3409, Section 68, extended the sunset of the [Oregon Solar + Storage Rebate Program](#) to January 2, 2029. SB 5506, generally known as the End of Session Bill, also included an additional investment of \$10 million in the program. Existing language in Section 1 of Oregon Laws 2019 Chapter 655 required that a contractor purchase, construct, and install a paired solar and storage system together. HB 3409 amended the language and requires that only the *purchase* need occur at the same time. While installation may occur separately, the solar electric system and energy storage system must still be paired once fully installed.

Administrative Rule Proposals

The Oregon Department of Energy is proposing the following concepts as potential administrative rule amendments and is seeking feedback from the public. You can provide comments about these proposals and other rulemaking items by emailing James Cogle james.cogle@energy.oregon.gov or by [attending the webinars](#) on September 18 and October 2, 2023. Please ensure all written comments are submitted by **Friday October 6, 2023**. ODOE will review and consider comments, then produce and file draft rules with the Secretary of State. The Department will then notify stakeholders and open a new comment period for the public to weigh in and comment on the draft rule language.

Change Definition of “Paired solar and storage system”

Change the definition of “Paired solar and storage system” to align with recent legislative changes, which require only the purchase of a paired solar and storage system to occur at the same time — installation may be done separately.

An additional change of one, or more, of the following options is being considered:

- a) In the case of paired solar and storage systems, permit the solar incentive portion of the rebate to be claimed separately from the storage portion following installation of the solar system and proof of its completion, including passing inspections from the authority having jurisdiction.
- b) Extending the time that a reservation for paired solar and storage is valid for.
- c) In addition to other increases in the number of reservations per contractor outlined below, increasing the number of reservations a contractor can have at a time for systems for residential customers who are not low- or moderate-income. This could allow a contractor to have reservations waiting on the installation of storage and have greater capacity to reserve rebates for, and potentially complete installation of, other solar only systems.

Feedback is sought on whether delays associated with the shipping and installation of storage are still occurring and which of the above options would be the most effective at reducing the impact of those delays.

Increase Number of Low- or Moderate-Income Reservations per Contractor

Increase the number of low- or moderate-income residential customer or low-income service provider reservations a contractor can have at a time from 20 to 25.

Reduce Residential Rebate Rate for Customers who are not Low- or Moderate-Income

Reduce the residential rebate rate for customers who are not eligible for a utility incentive and are not low- or moderate-income to \$0.30 per watt DC from \$0.50 per watt DC.

Extend Reservation Limit

Increase the amount of time a reservation for a low-income service provider can be extended from a one-year reservation with a possible extension of 180 days, to a one-year reservation with a possible extension of an additional year.

Other Language Revisions

ODOE will also remove language in rules that was written when the program was established and relates to the original budget timeline and replace it with more general budget language that removes dates but maintains the same allocations.