



## **California Solar Initiative Single-Family Affordable Solar Homes (SASH) Program**

### **Program Overview**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has allocated \$108 million to the nonprofit GRID Alternatives to administer the Single Family Affordable Solar Homes program - a new program that provides substantially higher incentives to help qualifying low-income homeowners install solar electric systems. These projects help reduce long-term housing costs for low-income residents, help meet local greenhouse gas reduction targets under California legislation AB32, and provide hands-on “green job” training opportunities for local job training programs.

The SASH Program provides photovoltaic (solar) electricity-generating systems to qualifying low-income homes. SASH’s goal is to increase the number of solar homes and to reduce low-income homeowners’ electricity bills without raising household expenses.

### **California Housing Partnership (CHPC) Role**

CHPC and GRID Alternatives are working with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to implement the SASH program.

CHPC is working to identify qualified deed-restricted, owner-occupied, low-income homes throughout California. Cities and counties can contact CHPC to ensure that the jurisdiction’s qualified homes are targeted for outreach.

### **SASH Program Eligibility**

The SASH Program is specifically geared for low-income homeowners. To qualify for the SASH program homeowners must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Electric service bill must come from Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), or San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E).
2. Total household income must be 80% of the area median income (AMI) or less
3. The residence must be owner-occupied
4. The residence must be subject to a deed restriction or covenant with a public entity – ensuring that the units will be available at an affordable housing cost.

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## **Benefits to Homeowners**

### *Fully Subsidized*

For households with incomes of 50 percent AMI and below, the SASH Program fully subsidizes a 1 kW system for costs up to \$10,000. A qualifying household can elect for either the 1 kW system or take a partial subsidy for a larger system.

### *Highly Subsidized*

For households with incomes below 80 percent AMI, the SASH Program provides a partial subsidy depending on total household income and participation in the California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) program. The household's cost will not exceed \$6,000.

## **Benefits to Local Jurisdictions**

The goal of SASH is to provide low-income homeowners in California access to solar photovoltaic systems, and reduce bills without increasing monthly expenses. This program also provides benefits to local governments.

- Reduces long-term housing costs for low-income residents.
- Helps meet local greenhouse gas reduction targets under AB32.
- Provides hands-on “green job” training opportunities for local job training programs.
- Creates no administrative costs to local governments since GRID Alternatives will provide turn-key outreach, project management and installation services.

GRID Alternatives will handle everything from client outreach and education to system planning, obtaining building permits, preparing and submitting rebate and utility paperwork, and providing an industry-standard warranty for each system.

## **Next Steps**

To help identify qualifying low-income homeowners local governments in areas served by PG&E, SCE and SDG&E should contact CHPC and provide us with the following:

- A list of addresses of deed-restricted, low-income, owner-occupied housing;
- Written/email assurance from the jurisdiction that the enumerated homes are part of a development of two or more units with 20 percent of the units held as affordable for low-income households; and
- A sample deed-restriction demonstrating that the housing will be preserved at an affordable housing cost (as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 50052.5).

## **For more information**

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Visit CHPC's SASH partner websites:

Grid Alternatives—SASH Program; <http://www.gridalternatives.org/sash>

CPUC—California Solar Initiative; <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/Solar/>