

# SolarHomes

## Pre-Approval Application

SolarHomes offers rebates to Nova Scotia homeowners for installing eligible solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, using installers approved by Efficiency Nova Scotia. To be eligible for rebates, pre-approval is required from Efficiency Nova Scotia **prior to installing equipment**. Program rebate levels are subject to change over time. Pre-Approval Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Receiving pre-approval from Efficiency Nova Scotia provides program participants with assurance that a specific rebate amount will be offered to the participant within the timeline indicated in the pre-approval (6 months for existing homes and 12 months for homes under construction).

### We'll Help You Every Step of the Way.

**Step 1** – Review SolarHomes program details at [efficiencyns.ca/solarhomes](http://efficiencyns.ca/solarhomes). If you have any questions, please contact us at 1 877 999 6035 or at [solarpv@efficiencyns.ca](mailto:solarpv@efficiencyns.ca).

**Step 2** – Contact SolarHomes approved solar installers in your area to receive a free quote and solar assessment report. Efficiency Nova Scotia recommends obtaining at least 3 quotes. You should also contact your home insurance provider to notify them and learn if there will be any changes to your policy and/or coverage.

**Step 3** – Once you have decided to install a solar PV system, notify your chosen solar installer and let them know you are ready to move forward.

**Step 4** – Work with your solar installer to complete this Pre-Approval Application form. Your solar installer will send this completed application (along with all required supporting documents) to Efficiency Nova Scotia. If you are a residential solar PV participant of HRM Solar City, HRM will submit this application on your behalf.

*Note – incomplete applications will delay the approval process and may impact your ability to receive rebates.*

**Step 5** - You will be contacted by Efficiency Nova Scotia to confirm your details and, if eligible, receive approval. This approval will detail the rebate level available to you, and the timelines that this rebate will be available. Efficiency Nova Scotia will also notify your solar installer (as well as HRM if you are a Solar City participant).

**Step 6** - Once you have received approval, you can purchase and install your solar PV system. This will include working with your solar installer to obtain any required permits and approvals with your municipality and/or electrical utility, as applicable.

**Step 7** - When your installation is complete, and you have had a final approved electrical inspection, submit the “SolarHomes Rebate Application” and all required documentation within the timeline specified in your approval date.

*Note – if your approved timeline has passed and you still plan to install your solar PV system, contact Efficiency Nova Scotia as soon as possible to re-register. Rebate levels are subject to change following the end of your approved timeline.*

**Step 8** – The rebate cheque will be sent by mail (allow 6 to 8 weeks for processing).

## Rebates:

- Efficiency Nova Scotia will post current rebate levels at [efficiencyns.ca/solarhomes](http://efficiencyns.ca/solarhomes).
- Rebates are based on the nameplate wattage of the solar panels (DC).
- Rebates are capped at \$10,000 per home, or up to 40% of eligible system costs (excluding HST).
- Efficiency Nova Scotia reserves the right to decline pre-approval where it is determined that the system will not meet a reasonable level of performance for the projected expense.
- Efficiency Nova Scotia acknowledges the importance of equal access to affordable renewable energy (including solar PV systems) to all Nova Scotians, regardless of income, geographical location, or housing type. On this basis, Efficiency Nova Scotia reserves the right to change incentive levels, amend the eligibility criteria, or end this program to achieve this objective at any time.
- The rebate is conditional upon the participant operating the equipment for a minimum period of 36 months following submission of the rebate application. In the event that the participant ceases to use the equipment prior to the expiry of the 36-month period, the participant shall repay to Efficiency Nova Scotia a pro rata payment equivalent to 1/36th of the total rebate, multiplied by the number of months or partial months remaining in the 36-month period.

## Participant Eligibility:

- Single family homes (including detached, semi-detached, townhouses and rowhouses) located in Nova Scotia are eligible.
- Seasonal properties may be eligible; however, rebates may be reduced. If a grid-connected residential property is not used year-round but the system is net-metered year-round, the rebate level will be not change, but will be subject to net-metering sizing requirements. For off-grid seasonal residential properties, the rebate is 50% of the standard rebate.
- First Nations Band-owned homes and Co-operative Housing are eligible.
- The program participant must own the home and the equipment (financed and lease-to-own systems are eligible).
- For electrical grid-connected homes, the participating home must have a residential utility account and the utility must allow net-metering.
- Expansions to existing systems are permitted as long as the expansion meets the minimum size requirement of 1 kW.
- Participants receiving pre-approval from Efficiency Nova Scotia will be given a specified period under which the rebates will be available. This is 6 months for existing homes and 12 months for homes under construction. If this timeline expires without the system being installed and all final documentation received by Efficiency Nova Scotia, the participant will need to re-apply for pre-approval. Rebate levels are subject to change following expiry of this timeline.
- Participants must be willing to participate in site visits from Efficiency Nova Scotia and/or their third-party representatives for quality assurance and evaluation purposes.
- Where system performance data is collected, participants agree to share with Efficiency Nova Scotia and/or their third-party representatives.
- Multi-unit residential, non-profit (non-residential use), commercial, institutional or industrial buildings are not eligible for rebates.
- This rebate is designed to be a stand-alone rebate and not combined with other forms of direct government incentives. It is the responsibility of the participant to ensure they are not combining (i.e. stacking) multiple financial government incentives.

## Solar Photovoltaic System Eligibility:

- Panels and inverters must be new and include a permanently affixed nameplate that states the manufacturer and model number.
- The minimum system size needed to qualify for a rebate is 1 kW.
- While there is no set maximum system size, the maximum rebate will be the lesser of \$10,000 or 40% of total eligible system costs. Eligible system costs include:
  - Expenses (excluding HST) for the purchase of the solar PV equipment for the project (i.e. solar PV modules, racking, inverters, transformer (if any), cabling, conduit, fittings, disconnects and monitoring interface);
  - Expenses (excluding HST) for the installation of the project;
- Solar PV systems can be net-metered (connected to the grid), or they can also be independent of, and not connected to the grid (also known as off-grid).
- If the system is net-metered, there must be compliance with net-metering procedures, including completion of the Interconnection Request and Equipment Information Form.
- All Equipment must meet applicable provincial, federal and municipal licenses, permits and approvals. Approved Solar Installers will work with participants to ensure these requirements are met, including adherence to the equipment criteria outlined below.
- All solar PV equipment installed, including array and ancillary equipment, and all installation work must be in compliance with the Canadian Electrical Code (CEC) and have a CSA or other internationally recognized standards agency symbol. This includes compliance with CEC CSA 22.2 No. 107.1 and be inspected prior to being energized.
- Applicable solar PV system equipment standards for Nova Scotia include:
  - CSA - C61215 (revised 2013) - Crystalline Silicon Terrestrial PV Modules;
  - CSA - C61646.10 - Thin Film PV Modules;
  - CSA - C62817.15 - Design Qualifications for Solar Trackers (only applicable for ground mounted systems using solar tracking systems);
  - CSA - C61730 - PV Module Safety Qualifications;
  - UL1741 Standard for Inverters, Converters, Controllers and Interconnection System Equipment for Use with Distributed Energy Resources;
  - UL 2703 Standard for Mounting Systems, Mounting Devices, Clamping/Retention Devices, and Ground Lugs for Use with Flat Plate PV Modules and Panels;
  - IEC 62109 - Central Inverter Safety Qualifications; and
  - UL 1703 - PV System Safety Qualifications. (UL 1703 and IEC 61730 are being merged to create one recognized international standard for PV system safety for all future equipment).
  - Note: UL certification indicates compliance with the National Electrical Code in the United States. Any supplier displaying only a UL symbol should be asked to prove compliance with CEC.
- Ancillary equipment for a solar PV system includes the following: AC and DC cabling, combiner boxes, switches, meters, panels, and transformers required to allow the array to feed AC power to the customer's building or to the grid. Installations must follow CSA SPE-900-13 solar PV rooftop installation best practices guideline (2013).
- Grid connected installations must comply with CEC section 64 as well as Nova Scotia Power interconnection guide, corresponding with section 84 of CEC.

- Off-grid connected systems should follow all generally accepted industry best practices including CSA SPE - 900-13, as well as be in compliance with the CEC Section 64 for renewable energy systems.
- Modules must carry a minimum warranty of 20-year power performance and 10-year manufacturing. Inverter(s) and/or micro-inverter(s) must carry a minimum 10-year manufacturing warranty.

## Solar Photovoltaic System Installation Requirements:

- Systems must be designed and installed by an Efficiency Nova Scotia Approved Solar Installer.  
**Residents are not permitted to install the system themselves.**
- Equipment must be installed on a rooftop or ground-mounted. Systems installed on portable or temporary structures are not eligible. This would include, for example, recreational vehicles and trailers.
- Equipment must be either installed or connected on or after June 25, 2018 to be eligible for a rebate. The date on the signed final electrical inspection will be used to verify the equipment installation date and the date(s) on the Net-Metering Interconnection Agreement will be used to verify the connected date.

## Homeowner Information

<b>Homeowner First Name:</b>	<b>Homeowner Last Name:</b>
<b>Civic Address:</b>	
<b>City/Town:</b>	<b>Postal Code:</b>
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Alt Phone:</b>
<b>Email Address:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to receive email communications (tips, promotions, etc.) from Efficiency Nova Scotia. (You may withdraw your consent at any time.)	
<b>Mailing Address:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Same as civic	
<b>City/Town:</b>	<b>Postal Code:</b>

## Home Information

<b>Electrical Utility:</b>	<b>Rate Code:</b>
<b>Electrical Utility Account Number:</b>	
<b>Please note: Providing a copy of a recent electric utility bill may expedite the approval. (Optional)</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if the house is an off-grid home, and there will be no connection with the electrical utility.	
<b>Building Type:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Single Detached <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Detached <input type="checkbox"/> Row/Town House <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Home <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below):	
<b>Use:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Full Time Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal Property <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below):	
<b>Construction:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Existing Building <input type="checkbox"/> New Construction	
<b>If new construction, is the property enrolled in Efficiency Nova Scotia's New Home Construction Program?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Mounting location:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Roof of House <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify below):	

## Solar Installer Information (to be completed by the installer)

<b>Business Name:</b>
Are you currently an Approved Solar Installer of Efficiency Nova Scotia? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will you meet the following requirements: use a construction electrician to perform electrical connections including combiner boxes, panel boards, micro-inverters that are not assembled with factory installed connectors, utility switches rapid shutdowns, and meter bases. This includes the grounding of the systems and bonding of the frames to ground. A construction electrician will also be used where a separate ground or bond wire is a requirement for the solar PV system. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the PV system identified in the quote (and to be installed) meet all program criteria? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If no, please provide details:
Do you offer a 1 year workmanship warranty on the PV system installation? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does your solar assessment report include, at a minimum, the following pieces of information? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of modules, module capacity (W), system capacity (kW)</li><li>• Orientation (in degrees, where 180° is due South), slope (degrees), and annual shading factor (as a percentage, where 0% = no shading)</li><li>• Estimated annual electricity production (kWh), first year energy savings (\$)</li><li>• Total cost (\$), Installed cost per Watt (\$/W), and return on investment (ROI - %)</li></ul> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If no, please provide details:
Total system capacity (kW):
Estimated annual electricity production (kWh):
Project cost (excluding HST):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Installer Signature

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
DD MM YYYY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Installer Name *(please print)*

## Additional Information

All additional information listed below must be provided with this application in order to receive approval for a rebate. Please confirm the criteria below and provide additional details where necessary:

- The participant has reviewed Efficiency Nova Scotia's site guideline recommendations ([efficiencyns.ca/solarhomes](http://efficiencyns.ca/solarhomes)) and agrees that the property and home is suitable for a solar PV installation.
- A quote for the proposed system is included with this application, and the system meets all requirements specified in this application.
- Photos of the proposed system location are included with this application, showing an unobstructed view of the roof and its surroundings.
- A solar production analysis report is included in this report, and meets requirements detailed in this application.
- A copy of the completed Net-Metering Interconnection Request and Equipment Information Form (ICR) and supporting documentation are included with this application.

Is the participant receiving any additional direct sources of government funding to install the PV system?

No  Yes If yes, provide details: \_\_\_\_\_

## Participant Release of Information

I hereby consent and acknowledge that:

- I am the owner of the home indicated above.
- I have read and agree to all program eligibility criteria.
- The above information is true to the best of my knowledge. Any willful misstatement may be cause for the rejection of my application and cancellation of the rebate.
- Efficiency Nova Scotia and its agents or auditors may contact me for the purposes of program administration, implementation and evaluation and/or provide me with further information on this or other conservation-related programs.
- My current electrical utility is hereby authorized to release to Efficiency Nova Scotia my billing account information, including such details as the name of the account and the number of kilowatt hours of electrical consumption pertaining to the residence of the above noted homeowner.
- If I am an HRM Solar City participant, I permit HRM to submit this application on my behalf and allow Efficiency Nova Scotia and HRM to discuss and share details of my solar installation.
- If I am applying for net-metering, I allow Efficiency Nova Scotia and my electrical utility to exchange information about my net-metering application.
- Where collected and available, I agree to share solar production data with Efficiency Nova Scotia and/or their third-party representatives.

Efficiency Nova Scotia is a franchise operated by EfficiencyOne, official Licensee of the Province of Nova Scotia. By providing your consent you agree to release your personal information to the current and successive holders of the Efficiency Nova Scotia franchise. By completing and submitting this form, I hereby consent to the purposes for which Efficiency Nova Scotia is collecting, using and disclosing personal information as set out in Efficiency Nova Scotia's Privacy Policy. More information on Efficiency Nova Scotia's Privacy Policy can be found online, [efficiencyns.ca/privacy-policy](http://efficiencyns.ca/privacy-policy) or by email, [privacy@efficiencyns.ca](mailto:privacy@efficiencyns.ca)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
DD MM YYYY

### Send completed documents by email, mail or fax:

**Email:**

**solarpv@efficiencyns.ca**

(Please note that we cannot accept high risk attachments such as ZIP, EXE or files that exceed 10MB.)

**Mail:**

**SolarHomes  
230 Brownlow Ave., Suite 300  
Dartmouth, NS B3B 0G5**

**Fax:**

**902 470 3599**  
Attention: SolarHomes

Funded in part by:  
Financé en partie par :

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efficiencyns.ca  
1 877 999 6035

NOVA SCOTIA