

# Green Power Solar Grant

## Information for applicants

### Background

Over 81,500 PSE customers support clean, renewable power by participating in PSE's Green Power and Solar Choice programs. Participants in these programs now support the generation of 739,709 MWh annually. That's enough to power 69,889 average homes for one year.

In 2023, the programs will offer competitive funding awards to local non-profits (501(c)(3)), public housing authorities, and tribal entities to install solar on their facilities. This grant is funded through PSE's Green Power and Solar Choice customers to bring local, community-oriented solar projects to PSE's electric service area, while providing vital support to those in need through lower utility bills for our low-income and/or Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) customers and the organizations that serve them.

Over the past six years, PSE has awarded over \$4,000,000 in total grant funding to 57 local solar projects.

Please describe any commitments or expectations of the applicant to recognize in-kind donors. Do not include the value of in-kind contributions in the Project Budget section; this section should only include actual costs to the applicant.

### Eligibility

Up to \$750,000 in grant funding is available. Grants will be awarded in amounts up to \$100,000 per project to support solar electric (also called photovoltaics or "PV") projects. These projects must be on facilities in PSE's electric service area that are owned or leased by eligible organizations. Eligible organizations are non-profits (501(c)(3)), public housing authorities, or tribal entities serving low-income and/or Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community members. Religiously-affiliated organizations providing vital support services to the aforementioned community members are eligible. Eligible facilities also include transitional and low-income housing. If a facility is leased, the applicant must demonstrate project support from the building owner and affirm that they will be in that space for at least five years.

Proposed projects must receive sufficient sunlight, as determined by a solar installer. Specifically, the total solar resource fraction (TSRF) must be at least a 75% average of all points in the proposed solar array.

Green Power Solar Grants will fund 100% of the design, installation, permitting and equipment costs of grid-connected, solar PV systems only. Green Power Solar Grant funds may also be used, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000, for efforts to raise awareness about the benefits of solar within the recipients' community. Projects located on an existing building may include a contingency fund for necessary electrical upgrades (e.g. for electrical panels), representing no more than 5% of the total project budget.

#### Awards will not fund:

- Structural or site improvements required prior to project construction such as canopies, roofing, tree removal, lighting, flooring, and structural reinforcement
- Fees incurred for project estimates or bids
- Site evaluation expenses
- Engineering expenses incurred prior to project funding
- Landscaping costs
- Construction bond costs
- Equipment (e.g. monitors) used to display solar production at the site
- Future maintenance or repair costs
- Donated, in-kind, or volunteer materials or labor

## Requirements of grantees

Awarded funds will be disbursed when the applicant has entered into contract with the proposed installer and an Award Funding Agreement has been signed with PSE. Projects must be completed by September 30, 2024.

Grantees must work with PSE to recognize the Green Power and Solar Choice programs for award funding. Recognition may include onsite signage, advertisement on the grantee's website, promotion in an annual report or similar publication, a joint press release, events and other activities. PSE will provide project signage, planning assistance and funding for recognition activities and events. Specific recognition requirements may be included in award funding agreements.

Grantees must maintain insurance coverage of the solar system for a minimum of five years, and PSE recommends maintaining insurance for the life of the system.

Grantees must retain [Renewable Energy Certificates](#) (RECs) for the life of the project or sell them to PSE. RECs are a market-based instrument that represent the non-power, "green" attributes of renewable electricity generation. Grantees comply simply by not selling these attributes to any entity other than PSE.

## Project evaluation

PSE will broadly consider the following questions when evaluating proposed projects:

- Community impact: How and to what magnitude will the project positively impact low-income and/or BIPOC community members?
- Awareness and recognition: Will the project raise awareness of community-based renewable energy and recognize the PSE Green Power and Solar Choice programs?
- Project feasibility and readiness: Is the project likely to be completed as planned and provide the stated benefits over the life of the equipment?
- Budget: Is the project cost-effective and likely to be completed within budget?

Please note:

Being a past grant recipient does not disqualify an applicant. However, if PSE receives a large number of applications, it may consider an award received in the previous round as an evaluation factor.

Projects that include expansion of a current system are eligible to apply. However, please note that PSE will give preference to new solar projects at locations where a solar project did not or does not currently exist.

## Funding process and timeline

Applications will be evaluated in a competitive process. Applicants may submit questions and final applications to [psegreenpower@pse.com](mailto:psegreenpower@pse.com) by the deadline below. Please include "green power solar grant" in the subject line. Responses will be sent directly to the applicant and posted biweekly on [pse.com/applygpsg](https://pse.com/applygpsg) in an FAQ format.

June 21, 2023: Grant application published

December 2023: Notification of award

September 7, 2023: Questions due in writing

January 2024: Funding disbursed

September 8, 2023: Applications due by 5 p.m. (PST)

September 30, 2024: Projects completed

## Your next steps

1. Gain support within your organization and with community members.
2. Contact solar installer(s) to help you conceptualize a project. **PSE strongly encourages applicants to obtain multiple bids on the project** to ensure your needs are met and pricing is competitive. Please see the attached "Solar Contractor List" for contact information of solar installers in your area.
3. Select your preferred installer.
4. Submit any questions about the grant program at any time on or before September 7.
5. Complete and submit your application on or before September 8 at 5 p.m. (PST).