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| Case 21-E-0629- | In the Matter of the Advancement of Distributed Solar |
| Case 19-E-0735- | Petition of New York State Energy Research and Development Authority Requesting Additional NY-Sun Program Funding and Extension of Program Through 2025 |
| Case 14-M-0224- | Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Enable Community Choice Aggregation Programs |

# Statewide Solar for All Compensation Level Schedules – 2027 Program Year

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## New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

## Albany, NY


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## Introduction

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) submits this filing in accordance with the New York State Public Service Commission's (Commission) Case 21-E-0629 In the Matter of the Advancement of Distributed Solar *Order Approving Statewide Solar with Modifications*, issued on May 16, 2024 (S-SFA Order). Specifically, the S-SFA Order directed NYSERDA to file initial Statewide Solar for All (S-SFA) compensation levels schedules to be included within utility S-SFA tariff statements, applicable to distributed solar and energy storage projects participating in the third year of the S-SFA program, running from December 1, 2026 to November 30, 2027.

## Section 1: Background

On May 19, 2023, Department of Public Service Staff (Staff) filed a proposal for a Statewide Solar for All (S-SFA) program in Cases 14-M-0224 and 19-E-0735 (S-SFA Proposal).[1] Under the S-SFA Proposal, investor-owned utilities (IOUs)[2] would aggregate Value of Distributed Energy Resource (VDER) "Value Stack" bill credits generated by participating solar PV and energy storage community distributed generation (CDG) projects (a practice referred to as credit pooling) and evenly distribute them among customers automatically enrolled in the utility's low-income energy affordability program (EAP). The Commission adopted, with modifications, the recommendations set forth in the S-SFA Proposal in the S-SFA Order, for a Solar for All program to be administered at each of the IOUs that serve electric EAP customers residing in a disadvantaged community. The IOUs were directed to commence S-SFA credit distribution to eligible customers on December 1, 2025.

For a participating S-SFA CDG project, as adopted by the S-SFA Order, the Value Stack credits generated by the project are split into three portions: (1) a Customer Share to be used for participating customers' benefit, based on the project's compensation level; (2) a Utility Administrative Fee and (3) the remainder, which would be paid directly to the project owner. With regard to the Customer Share, the Commission adopted a Standard Offer approach, where a prespecified percentage of a project's total Value Stack compensation (referred to as the Compensation Level) would be paid to the project for its monthly generation via the net crediting mechanism, with the remaining portion added to the customer credit pool, less utility

[1] Cases 19-E-0735 Petition of New York State Energy Research and Development Authority Requesting Additional NY-Sun Program Funding and Extension of Program Through 2023 and 14-M-0224 Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Enable Community Choice Aggregation Programs, *Department of Public Service Staff Proposal on a Statewide Solar for All Program* (filed May 19, 2023).

[2] The IOUs include Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid (National Grid), Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation (Central Hudson), Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Edison), Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. (O&R), New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG), and Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation (RG&E).

administrative fees. The Compensation Level accepted by a project would remain with the project for 25 years, consistent with the VDER compensation term.

The Commission directed NYSERDA to develop a process for determining Compensation Levels for participating S-SFA solar PV and energy storage projects, based on factors including prevailing project economics; the project's technology type; the utility territory and/or NYISO load zone; whether or not the project previously received the Market Transition Credit (MTC), Community Credit (CC), Community Adder incentive (CA) or Inclusive Community Solar Adder (ICSA); and whether or not the project received the federal Low-Income Bonus Tax Credit (LICBTC). For projects receiving a NY-Sun incentive, the customer share shall be set at a minimum of 10%, plus the utility administrative fee. The Standard Offer compensation levels will be reviewed by Staff and NYSERDA on at least an annual basis, and NYSERDA was directed to file updated compensation level schedules with the Secretary to the Commission, on or before November 1 of each year, beginning on or before November 1, 2024.

**Section 2: S-SFA Compensation Level Schedules**

Table 1 specifies compensation levels for participating S-SFA CDG solar PV, paired solar-storage, and energy storage projects for the 2026 S-SFA program year (running from December 1, 2026 to November 30, 2027). For the purposes of S-SFA participation, a paired solar-storage project is defined as one whose nameplate capacity (in kilowatts of alternating current) for the solar PV component is 10% or greater than that of the energy storage component.

As authorized by the S-SFA Order, the S-SFA program allowed for a one-time election process whereby non-operational[3] projects awarded the CA, CC, MTC, and/or ICSA prior to March 1, 2025 could elect to enroll in S-SFA by March 31, 2025.[4] Projects awarded a CA, CC or MTC prior to March 1, 2025 were allowed to retain this incentive for S-SFA participation purposes; however, projects awarded an ICSA were required to give up their ICSA award upon enrolling in S-SFA.

As directed by the S-SFA Order, NYSERDA has made available a targeted incentive for solar PV and paired solar-storage projects participating in S-SFA (the S-SFA Adder) that do not receive a CA, CC, MTC or ICSA starting in 2025. The compensation levels specified in Table 1 apply to projects receiving the S-SFA Adder that enroll in the 2027 program year, with the possible exception of projects that do not receive the S-SFA Adder due to exhaustion of available funding, if this occurs during the 2027 program year. NYSERDA will update this filing to specify compensation level schedules for these projects (if different from those specified in Table 1) in the event that S-SFA Adder funding is exhausted. NYSERDA may also update this filing in the event

[3] A non-operational project is defined as one that has not received utility Permission to Operate (PTO).

[4] Projects already in operation, i.e., that have received utility approval for PTO, cannot subsequently enroll in the SSFA program.

that meaningful changes are made to VDER rates and/or other NYSERDA incentive rates during the program year.

**Table 1: Compensation Levels for Projects Enrolling in Statewide Solar for All Between December 1, 2026 and November 30, 2027**

| Utility | Central Hudson Gas & Electric | Con Edison (NYISO Zone J) | Con Edison (NYISO Zones H and I) | National Grid | NYSEG | Orange & Rockland | RG&E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Standalone Energy Storage | 94% | 94% | 94% | 94% | 94% | 94% | 94% |
| Solar PV and Paired Solar-Storage[5] | 87% | 85% | 86% | 86% | 87% | 86% | 87% |
| Solar PV and Paired Solar-Storage (Awarded Category 4 Low Income Communities Bonus Credit) | 76% | 76% | 76% | 76% | 76% | 76% | 76% |

[5] For the purposes of S-SFA participation, a paired solar-storage project is defined as one whose nameplate capacity (in kilowatts of alternating current) for the solar PV component is 10% or greater than that of the energy storage component or has a solar project that has received NY-Sun funding.