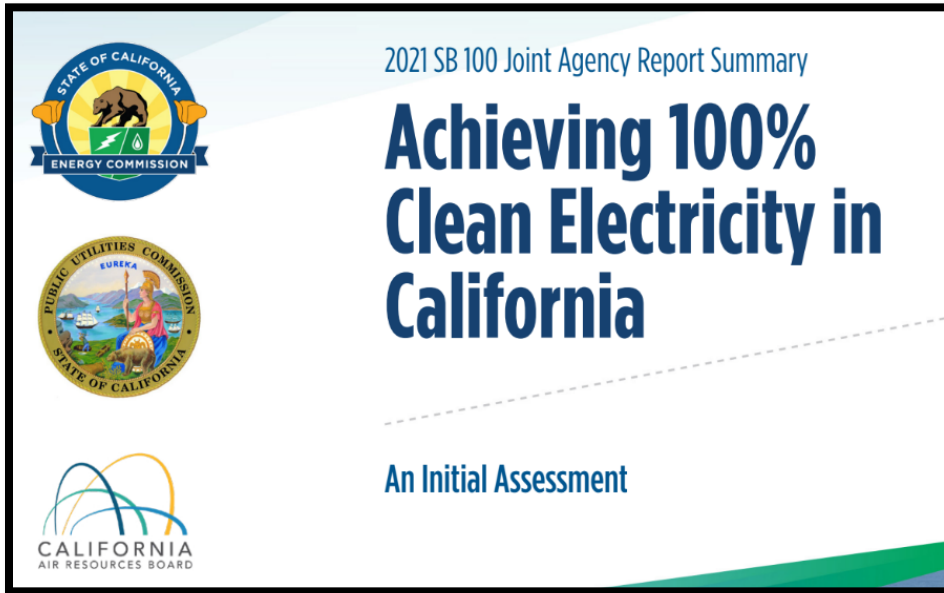


THE STATE OF ROOFTOP SOLAR IN CALIFORNIA



**SAVE
CALIFORNIA
SOLAR**

Rooftop solar in California:



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ENERGY COMMISSION

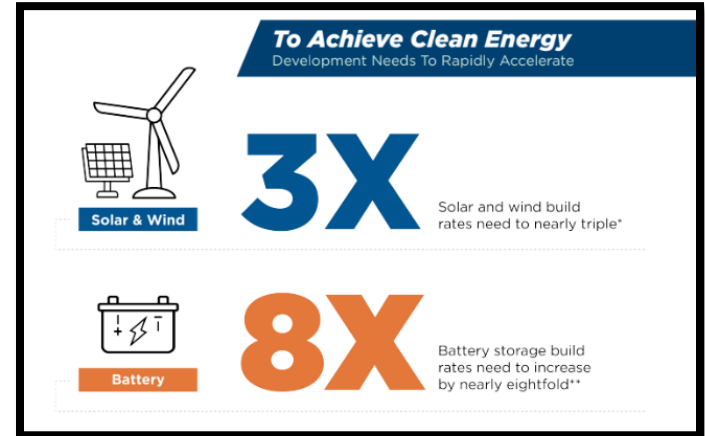
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
EUREKA
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA
AIR RESOURCES BOARD


2021 SB 100 Joint Agency Report Summary

Achieving 100% Clean Electricity in California


An Initial Assessment



To Achieve Clean Energy
Development Needs To Rapidly Accelerate


Solar & Wind

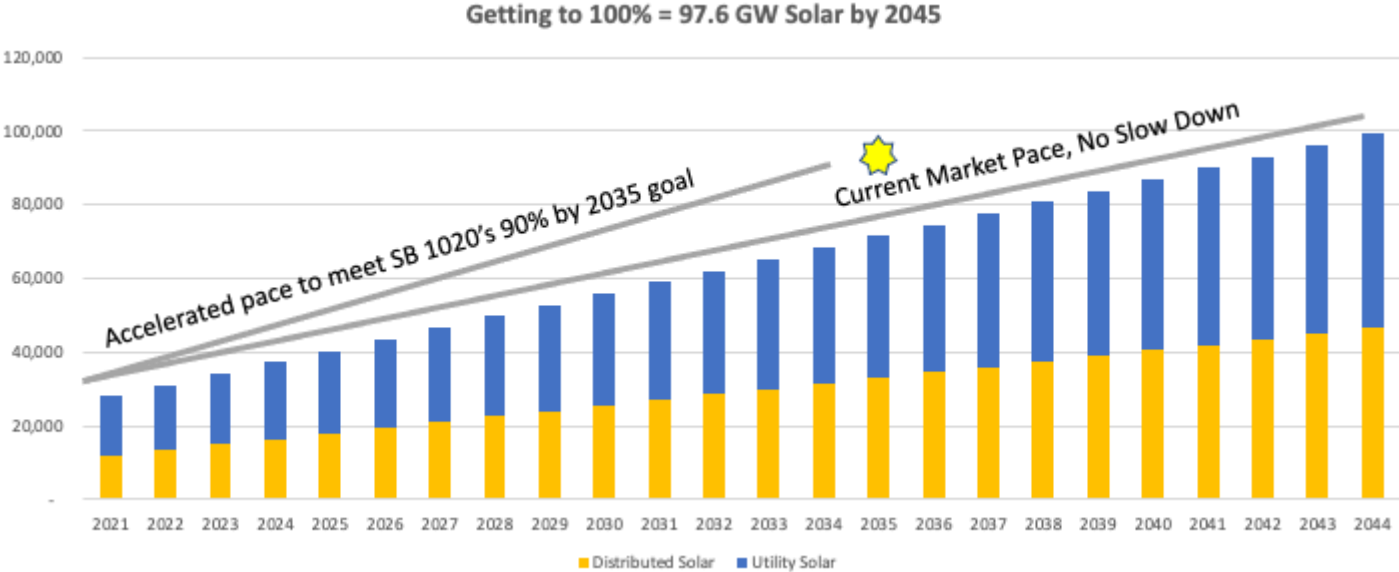
3X Solar and wind build rates need to nearly triple*


Battery

8X Battery storage build rates need to increase by nearly eightfold**

Net metering (NEM) lets solar users share their extra solar energy with the community, for a bill credit. It's the foundation of rooftop solar.

CA needs to speed up rooftop solar:



Source: California Energy Commission, CALSSA

Where solar stood before the CPUC decision:



- ❑ 1.5 million solar rooftops.
- ❑ Just under half going into middle and working class neighborhoods.
- ❑ Households making under \$50K and over \$250K getting solar in similar numbers.
- ❑ PPAs allowing working class people to get solar without cash or loan.
- ❑ Affordable housing solar on the upswing.

The Save California Solar Campaign:

- The utilities' goal was to kill rooftop solar with a triple whammy:
 1. A Solar Tax of up to \$700/yr.
 2. 80% cut to solar credit
 3. Retroactive changes for existing solar customers

- The Save California Solar campaign was one of the largest grassroots efforts in recent state history.
 - ▣ 170,000 people wrote, called, marched, testified, and protested
 - ▣ 600 nonprofit organizations, cities, schools, businesses, and elected officials
 - ▣ Equity leaders were on the front line of this grassroots movement.

California's new rooftop solar program:



- What happened:
 - ▣ Stopped the Solar Tax dead in its tracks
 - ▣ Protected the 1.5 million current solar users from any changes for the duration of their lock-in period
 - ▣ But the CPUC voted to slash solar credit by 75%

What the cut to solar credit means:



- The way the system used to work (**NEM1** and **NEM2**):
 - ▣ When you make extra solar energy, it flows back to the grid.
 - ▣ The utility sells that extra energy to your neighbors and gives you a bill credit roughly equal to whatever they sold it to your neighbor.
 - ▣ This bill credit offsets the electricity you buy from the utility when the sun's not shining.
 - ▣ You can stay on this program for 20 years from the date your system was turned on.

What the cut to solar credit means:

- The way solar credit will work now (**NEM3**) for anyone who goes solar after mid-April 2023:
 - They will get 75% - 80% less for their extra solar energy than current solar users.
 - That's a drop from 30 cents / kWh today to about 5 cents / kWh (some solar users will get a little more initially before dropping to 5 cents).
 - They will also be forced onto a rate plan with high evening electricity rates.
 - The lock-in period will be only 9 years.
 - Payback periods will go from an average of 6 years today to more than 10 years.

What the cut to solar credit means:

- A few things to know if:
 - You don't have rooftop solar and you want it
 - Your 20-year lock in period is ending soon
 - You want to add more than 1kW or 10% (whichever is greater) to your current system

- **By April 14th, a complete and correct interconnection application must be submitted to your utility.**
 - A signed contract with a solar provider
 - A single-line diagram
 - A complete California Contractors State License Board Solar Energy System Disclosure Document
 - A signed California Solar Consumer Protection Guide
 - An oversizing attestation (if applicable)
 - Construction does not need to be complete by April 14th.

Moving forward:



1. Reverse/modify NEM3 decision where possible
2. Fight like hell to ensure a solar tax never sees the light of day again
3. Make solar and batteries cheaper by cutting red tape and pushing for battery rebates
4. Educate consumers about their options

The NEM3 Appeal:



The Protect Our Communities
FOUNDATION

1. The CPUC decision violates the law requiring the sustainable growth of rooftop solar in California.
2. The CPUC decision violates the law requiring them to put forward an alternative that increases solar adoptions in working class communities.
3. The decision violates CPUC rules by failing to account for all of the benefits and costs of rooftop solar and batteries.
4. The decision makes it impossible to accurately measure its impact.
5. The decision violates CPUC rules by slashing the solar program for churches, schools and businesses without basis.

How the Palos Verdes Democrats can help:

- The San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee passed a [Resolution to Reverse the CPUC NEM3 Decision](#)
 - ▣ Passing the same resolution with same wording
 - ▣ Sending it for consideration to the CA Dem Central Committee
 - ▣ Sending it to local legislators, Governor Newsom, and CPUC as an “FYI”, amplifying the message of the appeal
 - alice.reynolds@cpuc.ca.gov
 - public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov
 - <https://www.gov.ca.gov/contact>

How individuals can help:

- [Write Letters to the Editor](#) to keep the story alive and relitigate in the court of public opinion
- Help get the word out to consumers so they know what's happening and how these changes will impact them
 - ▣ Solar Rights Alliance has some resources:
 - [FAQ](#) and [statewide webinar recording](#)
- Join the campaign to make it faster, easier, and cheaper for folks to go solar through streamlined rooftop solar permitting

Making it faster and easier to go solar:

- ❑ It is twice as expensive to go solar in California than in many other developed places because local permitting requirements drive up the cost of going solar here.
- ❑ Streamlining solar permitting can cut red tape and make it cheaper and easier for you and your neighbors to install solar panels and/or batteries.
- ❑ Most cities have to make the switch to an automated rooftop solar permitting system as mandated by a recent state law (SB 379).
- ❑ One free tool to do that is SolarAPP+.
- ❑ All your elected officials need to do is choose to use SolarAPP+ or an equivalent system to comply with the law. [You can help make sure they do.](#)

Streamlined rooftop solar permitting campaign:



A few other things to be aware of:

- Virtual Power Plants (VPP):
 - ▣ The concept: lots of solar and battery systems stitched together for the benefit of the community.
 - ▣ They don't exist unless you have a lot of solar and a lot of batteries at scale. That only happens with good policies that help reduce the cost of solar and batteries for everyday people.
 - ▣ Not all VPPs are alike, and the details matter.
- Other forms of solar
 - ▣ Community solar, microgrids, etc.



THANK YOU!

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