

Solar Energy Report

My initial discussion with SunPower by E2 Solar out of Dennis concerning the feasibility of installing a photovoltaic system using solar energy on Corn Hill lead to several specific questions that must be addressed as part of the examination.

1. Is the Association organized as a non-profit?
2. If not, what does the Association pay in taxes each year. Will the decision to go solar be made by individuals for their own units or be everyone as a whole?
3. How are the units metered?
4. Does everyone have their own utility account and get billed separately by the utility?
5. If not, is there one meter and electricity is included in your fees?
6. Or one meter and multiple sub-meters for each unit with everyone paying the Association based on individual use?
7. Is there year-round internet?
8. Need a copy of the most recent electric bill for every meter.
9. Are there any generators used?
10. How old are the roof shingles?
11. Do we need to go through a historic approval to get solar?
12. What fuel is used to heat the buildings?
13. What fuel is used to heat the water?

Why Solar: As an Association, are we contemplating exploring solar energy for energy efficiency, clean energy, tax incentives, etc. Some of the incentives lapse in the years to come.

Residential Incentives:

- [Federal Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit](#) - A credit of up to 26 percent of qualifying project costs (Declining to 22 percent in 2021 then 0 percent in 2022)
- [Massachusetts Personal Income Tax Credit](#) - A credit of \$1,000 or 15 percent of qualifying project costs, whichever is less
- [Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target \(SMART\) Program](#) - A production-based incentive that is paid directly by investor-owned electric utilities in Massachusetts to solar electric system owners. SMART was launched by the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) in conjunction with participating investor-owned utilities. The selected Solar Program Administrator, CLEAResult, intakes and processes applications. Typical residential systems are eligible to participate for 10 years and will receive incentive payments monthly via checks or electronic payments. Please see the [DOER SMART website](#) and the [program administrators SMART website](#) for more information and a [downloadable calculator](#) to estimate SMART project incentives.
- [Net Metering](#) - Allows customers to receive credits on their utility bill for excess generation in any given month. The credits can then be applied during times when the system is not generating electricity. Net metering credit values depend on a number of factors, including system size. [Residents can learn more about net metering from the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities](#)
- [Avoided electricity costs](#) - Cost savings from the electricity generated by the solar electric system
- [Mass Solar Loan](#) - A state-run program connecting homeowners with low-interest loans for solar electric systems, and additional incentives for income qualified customers
- [Solarize Mass](#) - A group-buying program providing discounts for residents in participating communities
- [Municipal Light Plant Solar Rebate Program](#): A rebate program for the installation of solar photovoltaic systems of 25 kW DC or less in certain Municipal Light Plant (MLP) service territories

Learn more about incentives for residential systems in [MassCEC's Residential Guide to Solar Electricity](#).

The cottages are closed from November to April resulting in no use of electricity. In order to move forward, we would be remiss if we did not explore the implication of the closure and if the installation of solar energy is beneficial to cottages that close down for 5 months. I understand that solar energy can be stored, however, what are the implications of shutting down the electricity and shutting down the internet?