

Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Questions and Answers

Note: the following Questions and Answers pertain to **Residential** Renewable Energy Solutions (RRES).

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Program, Application, and Documentation

1. Q: What is the new Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Program?

A: Connecticut Public Act 19-35, *An Act Concerning a Green Economy and Environmental Protection*, created this program to ensure continued growth of the residential renewable energy market at the end of the Connecticut Green Bank solar program and the state’s existing net metering policy. Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Program offers residential solar installations the opportunity to sell the energy and renewable energy certificates (RECs) at a fixed 20-year price by selecting one of two incentive rate structures: 1) Buy-all or 2) Netting. Under the Buy-All incentive rate structure Eversource or UI will purchase all the energy and Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) generated by the qualified project. Under the Netting incentive rate structure Eversource or UI will purchase all RECs generated by the qualified project, and in addition will provide monetary on-bill credits on the customer’s electric bill for any energy exported to the electric grid and not consumed on site.

2. Q: What are the incentive rates (Tariffs) that apply to the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Program?

A: PURA issued its Interim Decision in Docket No. 21-08-02 on October 6, 2021, which included the 2022 Buy-all and Netting Tariff rates. Based on this Interim Decision, the below incentive rates will be in effect for eligible Applications received beginning January 1, 2022.

	Buy-All Rate (\$/kWh)	Netting Rate (\$/kWh)	
		Incentive Rate	REC Rate
Eversource	\$0.2943	Customer's Retail Rate	\$0.0318
UI	\$0.2943	Customer's Retail Rate	\$0.0000
Low-Income Adder		\$0.025	
Distressed Municipality Adder		\$0.0125	

3. Q: Will the rates remain the same in years to come?

A: PURA has established an annual rate setting review process.

4. Q: What is the Application fee for the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Program?

A: Applications fees for each utility can be found here:

[Eversource Renewable Energy Solutions Website](#)

[UI Renewable Energy Solutions Website](#)

5. Q: Do I need to attach a Customer/Installer agreement with all new applications?

A: The Utility will require the customer-installer contract/agreement along with the first project submitted by each installer annually. This should be the official agreement between the installer and customer and is noted on the Customer Disclosure form.

6. Q: What forms of signature may be provided on complete Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Forms and Documentation?

A: System Installers or their agents may submit Residential Renewable Energy Solutions (RRES) forms and/or documentation that are physically signed by the Customer or executed with an electronic signature (“E-Signature”) using an enterprise E-Signature process. System installers or their agents must retain E-signatures and audit records necessary to authenticate any E-Signatures provided on RRES forms and/or documentation. RRES forms and/or documentation may be audited on an annual basis and any false or misleading information provided on a Customer Disclosure Form could result in enforcement action by PURA up to and including termination of eligibility, removal from RRES or other consequences within PURA’s discretion.

7. Q: When is a Tariff Payment Beneficiary Form necessary?

A: A Tariff Payment Beneficiary Form is necessary when someone other than the Customer of Record is identified to receive a Direct Payment. For the Buy-all option this is when a Tariff Payment Beneficiary is assigned to receive a percentage of the incentive as a direct payment. In this scenario, the Tariff Payment Beneficiary can only be a third-party individual or organization. For the Netting option this is when there are REC payments (including any adders) will be made as Direct Payments to either a Customer or to a third-party Tariff Payment Beneficiary

8. Q: Is the W-9 required for both Netting and Buy-All options?

A: Yes. W-9s are needed for RRES to ensure compliance with all applicable tax law. These are required any time a Direct Payment will be made to a designated Tariff Payment Beneficiary. For the Buy-all option this is when a Tariff Payment Beneficiary is assigned to receive a percentage of the incentive as a direct payment; and for the Netting option this is when there are REC payments (including any adders) that will be made as Direct Payments to either a Customer or to a third-party Tariff Payment Beneficiary.

9. Q: How do Eversource and UI define Customer of Record and System Owner?

A: Yes, the Customer of Record is a customer associated with an Eversource or UI account. The Customer of Record's name appears on the electric bill. A System owner is any person or entity that, alone or in conjunction with others, has legal ownership of a Qualified Project. The System Owner may, but is not required to be, the Customer of Record.

10. Q: What are soft costs?

A: The soft costs are any costs not directly associated with construction, but necessary, such as insurance or fees, services, etc. If there are none, indicate \$0.00 on the application.

11. Q: If we already have Title records on file, can we submit those in lieu of the Assessor's card?

A: If a Title clearly shows the information that is being requested, we will accept it.

12. Q: What is the typical time from application submittal to Permission to Operate (PTO)?

A: UI and Eversource intend to operate the Renewable Energy Solutions application review process in conjunction with the existing approved processes for Distributed Generation Interconnections, with the goal of maintaining timelines as noted in each utility's current approved Distributed Generation Interconnection Guidelines. Note that timing is a function not only of utility review cycle, but also completeness, accuracy, and other factors associated with the application submission. Generally, conditional approval can be provided in 2-5 weeks from submission of the application and payment of the application fee, whichever comes later. Final PTO, is dependent on several factors, including weather, time to construct the system and for approval by the municipal inspector. Currently most interconnections receive PTO 30-60 days after application.

13. Q: Can the SEIA disclosure forms be submitted to satisfy the disclosure requirement?

A: No. Renewable Energy Solutions has PURA-approved disclosure forms.

14. Q: For a 1099, would that include income from the REC direct cash payment incentive and any on bill credits?

A: Customers should consult a tax professional as to the taxability of any utility incentives. The utilities will provide 1099s to those entities/individuals who received Direct Payments in excess of \$600 in a given year.

15. Q: If a customer would like to self-consume their solar production with no export to the grid, is an interconnection agreement needed?

A: Yes, the system must go through the interconnection process.

16. Q: Can the incentives be aligned with the PV solar hardware 25-year warranty?

A: The regulatory approved term rate for Residential Renewable Energy Solutions is 20-years.

17. Q: Is the entire value of the Buy-all tariff subject to taxation?

A: Customers should consult a tax professional as to the taxability of any utility incentives.

18. Q: If we are no longer applying for the net metering for UI how do we obtain a job number?

A: For Eversource, project numbers will still be assigned the same way. This number will now serve as both the interconnection ID/project number and Residential Renewable Energy Solutions ID/project number. For UI, after the Applicant receives an approval email with a Statement of Qualifications and a Unique Tariff ID, the Applicant/electrician can utilize this [Renewable Energy Solutions Meter Request Form](#) to request a Job Number.

19. Q: How does this program work with 3rd-party ownership of a residential system?

A: The Residential Buy-all or Netting incentive structures apply to both customer-owned and third party owned (lease / PPA) systems. For third-party owned systems under the Netting incentive structure, the customer of record would receive monetary on-bill credits for their netted production; and they can assign the REC incentive direct payments either to themselves or to a designated third-party Tariff Payment Beneficiary. For the Buy-all option, the incentive could be split such that any percentage (0%-100%) goes to the customer of record as an on-bill credit, and the remaining percentage can be assigned as a direct payment to a third-party Tariff Payment beneficiary (in the case of the buy-all this must be someone than the customer).

20. Q: Are projects with other types of renewable energy systems, such as a hydroelectric generator, eligible for the program?

A: Residential Renewable Energy Solutions was created to support the growth of residential solar in Connecticut and act as the successor program to the Connecticut Green Bank's RSIP, which was specifically focused on solar. Any other types of residential renewable energy projects seeking to apply to this Program should email ctresrenewables@eversource.com or res.renewableenergysolutions@uinet.com requesting an exception and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

21. Q: How does a project > 25 kW interconnect?

A: Per the State of CT legislation, the cap for residential projects is 25 kW AC. Projects that exceed this threshold will need to apply for interconnection via the Fast Track and Study process and may be eligible to participate in the Non-residential renewable energy tariff program.

Additional information on Eversource interconnections can be found here:

www.eversource.com/renewableenergysolutions

Additional information on UI interconnections can currently be found here:

www.uinet.com/renewableenergysolutions

22. Q: After 20 years, and the Buy-all or Netting agreement ends, does the interconnection agreement continue?

A: The Interconnection Agreement (IA) is a standalone contract between the generator contractor and utility that contains the rights, duties, and obligations of the parties thereto for the interconnected life of a facility. The length of the term is pursuant to Sections 3 and 4 of the IA and may differ with each project.

23. Q: When a house sells that is enrolled in Netting or Buy-all, will the new owner have a choice of which incentive type they prefer?

A: No, the prevailing incentive structure for the premise would remain.

24. Q: How can I find out more about PURA processes and Dockets?

A: Those interested in learning more about PURA processes and dockets can visit the PURA website (<https://portal.ct.gov/pura>) or can reach out to Laura Lupoli (Laura.Lupoli@ct.gov).

25. Q: Is there a requirement to apply to be a qualified installer in the program?

A: There is no requirement to apply to be a "qualified installer."

26. Q: Do you anticipate documents will be updated on an annual cadence like the tariff rates?

A: The documents will be updated based on timelines provided in PURA Decisions within Dockets 21-08-02 and 20-07-01. It is possible that certain documents, such as required payment forms for UI, may be updated periodically but not necessarily aligned with PURA timelines. The EDCs will endeavor to communicate to the developer community when documents have been updated.

Project Qualification and System Sizing

27. Q: What is the size limit for Residential Renewable Energy Solutions?

A: The size limit for Residential Renewable Energy Solutions is 25 kW AC.

28. Q: Are there only heat pump or EV kWh allowances? What about inground pool heater and/or hot tubs which also increase consumption significantly?

A: Yes, whole-home heat pumps and EV charging are the only allowances. Heat pumps and electric vehicles are in support of the CT's clean energy goals whereas pool heaters and/or hot tubs would not be. Allowances are as follows:

Future Electrification Measure	Estimated Expected Annual Load
Electric Vehicle (per vehicle, maximum of two)	3,285kWh
Whole-Home Air Source Heat Pump	3,608kWh
Whole-Home Ground Source Heat Pump	2,458kWh

Documentation supporting addition of these electrification measures is not required.

29. Q: For the annual consumption calculation that drives system sizing limits, do the 12 months in the last 5 years selected as the baseline have to be sequential or can it be any individual 12 months?

A: In verifying system size, the utilities will review historical kWh consumption for any consecutive 12-month period within the last 5 years and will allow a 5% variance before any allowances for electric vehicles and/or heat pumps.

30. Q: For the annual consumption calculation on a home having between 2-4 units, will the consumption calculation account for the sum of all onsite accounts, or only one?

A: For 1-4 family properties, a qualified system must be associated with a single utility billing account. However, system sizing (kWh) can account for full premise load being served by the solar PV. At the time of application, the applicant should provide the additional billing account numbers located on the premise that would be served by the solar. The total nameplate AC capacity for all qualified systems on a premise may not exceed 25kW. If there are two housing units on a single property, the system size for those two units cumulatively could not exceed 25kW AC total.

31. Q: Will there be an easy way to get the 60-month historic usage?

A: Developers are responsible for obtaining historic usage information for their customer. The utilities are not able to share customer consumption data with installers. Customers may request usage data by calling customer service for each utility.

32. Q: What platform will installers use to calculate solar production?

A: In Eversource territory installers may continue to use PowerClerk, the application portal, to calculate solar production. For UI, installers must utilize their own methods to calculate first year estimated solar production and enter it into the UI application. As UI transitions to the PowerClerk tool, UI will look to include this functionality into the design and implementation of the new system.

33. Q: If a home is being remodeled extensively, as in down to the foundation, could a builder's letter suffice instead of having HES or an Energy Model done?

A: For home renovations of that extent, we will be treating them as a new construction and therefore some kind of energy model would need to be provided. For a partial renovation, given that HES assessment tests would not be

possible, we would require another type of assessment to be done, such as, Department of Energy Home Energy Score (DOE HE Score).

34. Q: How is a premise defined within Residential Renewable Energy Solutions?

A: This refers to structures and land that make up a parcel of property. Premises with 4 or less units are eligible for Residential Renewable Energy Solutions.

Energy Assessment

35. Q: Can /HES-IE be done in person or virtually?

A: To be eligible for Residential Renewable Energy Solutions, the property must have had in-home HES or HES-IE energy assessment after 2011. This information can be found in the Program Manual section IV D.

36. Q: Will energy modeling software be accepted to meet the energy assessment requirement?

A: No. Guidance on meeting the energy assessment can be found in the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Program Manual.

37. Q: Does the Home Energy Audit have to be completed before PTO?

A: If the project is meeting the energy assessment requirement through Home Energy Solutions (HES) or Home Energy Solutions Income Eligible (HES-IE), either one of these must be completed or scheduled at the time of application.

Tariff Incentive Structures

38. Q: What is the energy compensation in the netting structure?

A: The Netting incentive structure compensates customers at the prevailing retail rate (inclusive of both supply and delivery charges) for net excess generation, which is the net of any energy produced less any energy consumed (i.e. energy put back on the grid) measured by a bi-directional meter. The additional \$.0318/kWh is the incentive rate for RECs in Eversource territory in 2022. The REC incentive is applied to Production Meter reads, which measures ALL the output from the solar PV system and not just the net excess on the bi-directional Netting meter.

39. Q: Are the Buy-all incentive rate and Netting REC incentive rate subject to review and adjustment each year?

A: Yes, the Buy-all incentive rate and Netting REC rate will be re-evaluated by PURA on an annual basis. For the Buy-All incentive, once a customer enrolls during a program year, their selected rate is locked in for 20 years. For Netting incentive customers, the compensation for net generation will be based on the customer's retail rate, which will change over time, while their REC incentive rate will be locked in for 20 years.

40. Q: Why would a customer chose Buy-all vs Netting?

A: Residential Renewable Energy Solutions was designed to be neutral on which option, Netting or Buy-all, a customer selects. The rate setting process aimed to set rates that provide approximately a 9%-11% return for customers regardless of which incentive structure they select.

41. Q: Can you explain what portion of the netted kWh production will receive the \$.0318/kWh REC payment?

A: All net kWh recorded by the Production meter (production less parasitic load) will receive the REC incentive of \$.0318/kWh in Eversource territory only. UI does not have a REC incentive for 2022. The rates, including REC rate, will be evaluated by PURA on an annual basis.

42. Q: Is inflation a consideration for the Buy-all rate? For example, in 10 years the retail rate could be up to \$0.30 and I'm still selling power at a fixed tariff rate locked in at \$0.20?

A: PURA leads the rate-setting process, which accounted for the following aspects:

- 1) Average upfront installed system cost.
- 2) The federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC).
- 3) Ongoing operations and maintenance (O&M) costs.
- 4) System performance (e.g., capacity factor).
- 5) Retail electricity rates, including an assumed escalation factor; and
- 6) The unlevered IRR for each tariff (i.e., the buy-all and netting tariffs).

More information on the rate-setting process can be found in Docket 21-08-02.

43. Q: Will there be a REC incentive for UI customers after 2022?

A: Rates are determined annually by PURA through their Renewable Energy Tariff Program Review and Rate Setting proceeding.

44. Q: How often is the REC payment made?

A: Eversource and UI will make direct REC payments associated with the Netting incentive structure on a quarterly basis. Direct payments made as part of the Buy-all incentive structure will also be made quarterly by both Eversource and UI.

45. Q: Is the netting option the only way for someone other than utility (e.g., homeowner or 3rd party) to own the RECs?

A: By enrolling in either the Netting or Buy-all incentive options the system owner is assigning the RECs over to the utility. This is designated in the REC Assignment Form which is required with each Application.

46. Q: For the Buy-all incentive option, is the REC rate of \$.0318 added to the tariff of \$.2943 or included in it?

A: The Buy-all rate of \$.2943 in 2022 is inclusive of both energy and RECs.

47. Q: Can a customer assign the Netting incentive REC payments to themselves?

A: Yes, a Customer can assign themselves as the Tariff Payment Beneficiary to received REC payments under the Netting incentive structure.

48. Q: Does retail rate include standard Eversource/UI service supply rate or is it specific to each customer if they have a 3rd party supplier?

A: The retail rate is calculated based on standard offer service rates even if a customer utilizes a third-party generation supplier.

49. Q: Will the dollar denominated on-bill Netting incentive be applied against the customer service charges as well as kWh charges on customers bill?

A: Yes, on-bill credits apply to any charges on the bill.

50. Q: What are the retail rates for Eversource and UI?

A: The Residential Retail rate for Eversource varies depending whether customer is on Rate 1, 5 or 7, which are our residential rates and depends on what customer charges appear on their account/bill at that time, but generally, current retail rates range from \$.17-\$.19/kWh. Prevailing retail rates do change, of course. Rate 7 has on and off-peak rates, which is very rare. For UI residential customers can be either on Rate R or Rate RT. UI Rate information can be found [here](#).

51. Q: Who maintains access to the REC payouts if the system owner sells the home under the netting tariff? Does the original system owner maintain access, or does this transfer to the next homeowner/system owner?

A: For Buy-All projects that have not assigned a 3rd party Tariff Payment Beneficiary, all of the payment credits will be assigned to the new customer that moves into a dwelling/property which has an existing generation system operating under the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions. If a Buy-All project has assigned the payment to a 3rd party Tariff Payment Beneficiary, there will be no change to the 3rd Tariff Payment Beneficiary payment upon the change of the customer of record.

For Netting projects that have assigned a third-party Payment Beneficiary for the REC payments, there will be no change to the third-party Payment Beneficiary REC payments upon the change of customer of record.

For Netting incentive projects, if the system owner owns the home and sells it, REC payments will transfer to the new owner if a request to change the third-party Tariff Payment Beneficiary form is received by the utility. For Buy-All incentive projects, if a Customer moves into a dwelling/property which has a generation system that has been compensated at either the former net metering rate or at a new Renewable Energy Solutions incentive rate the new Customer will receive the prevailing rate, which is the same rate originally assigned to the Customer who enrolled the system in the tariff at the dwelling/property.

There is a third-party Beneficiary change fee, the specific amount is pending PURA approval.

52. Q: What is the retail rate structure for the netting incentive?

A: Under the Netting incentive structure the retail rate at which the customer is compensated includes \$/kWh for both supply and delivery. These are separate line items on your utility bill.

53. Q: Under the Netting Incentive option will any excess credits be carried over each month?

A: Yes.

54. Q: Can you assign Netting credits across multiple accounts?

A: No, Netting credits cannot be assigned across multiple accounts in Residential Renewable Energy Solutions.

55. Q: If homeowners/contractors have questions about either solution, will they call the general customer service line at UI and Eversource or is there a direct number/email address to reach out to?

A: Please utilize the following email addresses for questions:

Eversource:

Residential Renewable Energy Solutions: ctresirenewables@eversource.com

Interconnection Questions: ctgd@eversource.com

UI:

Residential Renewable Energy Solutions: res.renewableenergysolutions.@uinet.com

Interconnection Questions: Generator.connection@uinet.com

56. Q: Will Residential Renewable Energy Solutions program data be used for future incentive calculator adjustments?

A: UI and Eversource anticipate that program data will be used by both the utilities and PURA to inform future programmatic changes including potentially future incentive calculation adjustments.

Tariff Adders

57. Q: How are the Income-eligible (Low-income) and Environmental Justice/Distress Municipality adders applied in the Buy-all and Netting incentive structures?

A: The income-eligible adders apply to both the Buy-all and Netting incentive options. For Buy-all it is added to the total incentive rate. For Netting it is added to the REC incentive. This is also true in UI territory where the 2022 REC rate is \$0.00. For example, an income eligible customer who selects the Netting incentive structure would get \$0.025 / kWh as the REC+ adder incentive ($\$0 + \$0.025 = \$0.025$).

58. Q: Where can I find the current Environmental Justice/Distressed Municipality list?

A: The current Distressed Municipality list can be accessed here:
https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/About_DECD/Research-and-Publications/02_Review_Publications/Distressed-Municipalities

Metering

59. Q: What will the meter fees be?

A: Eversource and UI will collect a fee to cover costs of the production meter only. This is part of the application/interconnection process and it will have to be paid before we will issue Permission to Operate. Meter costs range depending which meter fits the need of the project, final meter fees can be found on each utility's website.

Eversource: [Renewable Energy Solutions](#)

UI: [Renewable Energy Solutions](#)

60. Q: In the two home, two meters on one property scenario, would combining the meters and applying for the commercial incentive be a possibility?

A: Systems over 25 kW in size will be eligible to participate in the Non-Residential competitive procurement if all other eligibility criteria are met.

61. Q: Who will install the production meter?

A: The utility will install a utility-owned production meter. The contractor is responsible for everything else. For self-contained circuits (which all should be) contractor purchases socket listed in I&R book. Top side utility, bottom side inverter for Eversource territory, the opposite for UI.

https://www.eversource.com/content/docs/default-source/ct---pdfs/ct-yellowbook.pdf?sfvrsn=ff0eed62_16

62. Q: Can the solar disconnect and production meter be installed in a separate, accessible location, remotely from the Main meter location?

A: The meters and disconnect must be grouped. The disconnect should have always been within 10 feet of the meter and with Residential Renewable Energy Solutions (RRES). Each respective utility will own and install the production meter; thus grouping will be required.

63. Q: For netting, what is the configuration for the production meter location?

A: Any Netting configuration the production meter must be located in between the inverter and the AC disconnect switch, as seen on our metering diagrams. All netting or buy-all must have an AC disconnect switch.

Additional Generation and Battery Storage

64. Q: Is there any information on what battery programs will be available to compliment this?

A: There is a Battery Storage incentive program being co-administered by the Connecticut Green Bank and the utilities beginning January 1, 2022. Information about this program can be found currently within the PURA Docket website under Docket 17-12-03 RE03, and on each utility's website:

Eversource: [Energy Storage Solutions](#)

UI: [Energy Storage Solutions](#)

65. Q: Can "add-on" system only select Buy-all incentive?

A: If a customer is adding generation on to an existing system, the new system must select the Buy-all incentive and will be separately metered. The existing system will continue to be compensated utilizing the tariff and rate(s) in effect based on their original Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) and the new system will be compensated in accordance with the Buy-All rate in effect at the time of application

66. Q: What is the procedure to retrofit an existing net metered system with storage? i.e., Does the battery-only installation have to apply for interconnection through this tariff, or can the battery apply for interconnection as part of the previously installed system?

A: Batteries must go through the interconnection process but would apply only as storage for interconnection only and not apply for Renewable Energy Solutions if no additional solar generation is being added. The storage must be located behind the existing Inverter and/or may not increase the effective system AC size.

67. Q: What if you size the system with modeling software and the homeowner wants to go with the Netting option then after the 1st year, they use more than what we predicted? The only way to add more modules to accommodate them and receive an incentive would be to switch over to the buy-all?

A: Once a system is qualified under a rider, whether net metering, netting, or buy-all, the tariff for that system cannot be changed. In the case of a customer installing an initial system under netting and wanting to add generation later, they may be eligible to do so via the buy-all.

68. Q: Will battery storage be able to discharge to the grid?

A: Residential Renewable Energy Solutions does not preclude a system from discharging to the grid.

Program Transition

69. Q: What will be the role of the Connecticut Green Bank in the new Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Program?

A: The new Residential Renewable Energy Solutions Program is administered by Eversource and UI. Connecticut Green Bank may serve as a consultant to assist PURA's Office of Education, Outreach and Enforcement ("EOE") with various duties related to contractor education and enforcement.

70. Q: What is happening to current solar net metering customers? Will they be transferred over into the new program?

A: Customers participating in the current net metering rate will remain on that rate until their solar PV system is removed.

71. Q: What happens if I previously received an incentive through RSIP? And what if I am adding more generation at my residence?

A: If a solar project has already received or been approved for an incentive under the Connecticut Green Bank's RSIP, the project is not eligible to participate in Residential Renewable Energy Solutions for the same solar PV project.

72. Q: If a contractor has already submitted an interconnection application in 2021, could they opt into the new tariff program post-2022?

A: The applicant may cancel/withdraw their previous interconnection application if they have not already received Permission to Operate or had meters installed. Once that previous application is cancelled, the applicant may apply to Residential Renewable Energy Solutions on or after January 1, 2022.

However, if a customer is adding generation to a property with an existing system, the new system must be separately metered. The existing system will continue to be compensated utilizing the former net metering or Residential Renewable Energy Solutions rate and the new system will be compensated in accordance with the Buy-All incentive rate in effect at the time of submission of a complete Application.