

Save Residential Solar Systems in Eversource territory

We need 100% renewable energy by 2050. One necessary step to get there is with distributed solar PV generation on every viable rooftop, house and business. The Dept of Public Utilities (DPU) and utilities think otherwise.

The DPU (in Docket 17-05) ruled that the Eversource's rate case can add Minimum Monthly Reliability Charges (**MMRC**) consisting of 1) **Increased Fixed monthly charge**, 2) **Demand charges**, and 3) **Reduced net metering credits** (NMC) for all new residential solar installations starting in Jan 2019.

ALL new residential solar PV systems placed in operation in JAN 2019 in Eversource territory will be subjected to arbitrary and capricious **Residential Demand charges which have never before been enacted anywhere in the nation** by a state regulatory body. These demand charges are impossible to predict or understand as the ratepayers have no access or ability to decipher usage data. Nor do they have any ability to modulate or overcome the demand charges.

In addition, demand charges are completely unrelated to pv solar generation and counter to energy efficiency principles. A typical household could have high demand at nighttime hours when the electricity costs are at their lowest whereas the solar PV generation is during the highest cost portions of the day. Also, these demand charges are likely to go up over time. **These Demand charges are not applied to Residential ratepayers without Solar.** Also any solar system installed prior to Jan 2019 is grandfathered with current rates.

ALL new solar PV systems will also be subjected to a **40% higher fixed monthly charge** which is also likely to increase with every rate case.

ALL new solar PV systems will also have a lower Net Metering Credit than non solar ratepayers on R1 accounts. This **11% reduction in NMC** flies in the face of Legislation to ensure that residential systems will be compensated at full retail NMC. And again once applied, likely to reduce NMC over time.

The MMRC adds complexity, uncertainty, and greater financial risk to the residential ratepayer who is trying to ensure stable future energy costs, reduce their carbon footprint, and contribute to grid reliability. Depending on system size, the MMRC could double or triple the cost to install solar effectively killing residential adoption of solar PV and thousands of jobs in that market sector.

No other energy efficiency measures which reduce ratepayers electrical demand have been targeted like solar PV generation. The utilities argument of cross subsidy by non-solar ratepayers is fallacious and undocumented. We need to conduct a **Value of Solar Study** to evaluate ALL the costs and benefits of solar PV generation in the Commonwealth. And those results need to be incorporated in all decisions by the DPU and Legislature.

The Commonwealth has embarked on electrifying transportation, heating and cooling which move us away from fossil fuel consumption. Efforts by residents to reduce their carbon footprint and install solar will be disadvantaged as their financial investment will have little to no value due to MMRC.

Vote Solar and Sunrun will appeal the ruling to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. This will be a long process.

Various groups are working with the legislature to find a workable solution.

The Legislature needs to hear from you. Today and next week and the week after. Call at midnight and say you can't sleep because of....

You can help by contacting with the following message:

I oppose the DPU docket 17-05 ruling to allow MMRC, demand charges on Eversource residential solar ratepayers. This charge is arbitrary and completely without merit. Prohibit non-coincident peak demand charges for residential ratepayers.

We need a value of solar study to evaluate both the costs and benefits of solar pv generation in the residential sector. The study results need to be applied to any actions by the DPU concerning solar ratepayers including actions based on April 2016 solar bill.

We need Opt in Time of Use Rates to encourage Distributed Generation, Energy efficiency and electric vehicles.

We need to restore Full Net Metering compensation for low income and Community shared solar participants to include the 75% of the Commonwealth unable to directly own and install solar PV generation.

We need to Lift the Net Metering Caps by at least 5% in public and private sectors to enable solar PV projects to be installed in 230 cities and towns which have been on hold since May 2016.

We need to promote the adoption of solar by as many residential ratepayers as possible to reduce carbon footprints and increase reliability and stability of the grid.

We need to move much more quickly to 100% renewable energy to lessen the effects of climate change.

Sincerely, NAME, ADDRESS, TOWN

Call and speak with your legislator. Find yours at
- <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>

Governor Charlie Baker – (617) 725-4005 or (413) 784-1200

Speaker of the House – Rep Robert Deleo - 617-722-2500

For more information about this decision check out

solarisworking.org blog posts (coming soon)

<https://votesolar.org/usa/massachusetts/updates/vote-solar-appeals-eversource-rate-hike/>