

MOVING FORWARD

Q: I'm interested in moving forward. How do I get started?

A: If you're interested in rooftop solar, but unsure how to get started, the following is an overview of the process:

- a. Request quotes from several solar installers. Installers with experience in Wakefield are listed in the SREC database: <https://www.masscec.com/data-and-reports>. If you plan to apply for a loan you will want to use one of the pre-qualified installers listed here: <https://www.masssolarloan.com/>. You can also consult with individuals who have previously installed solar in Wakefield through Sustainable Wakefield's solar coach program at: swsolarcoach@gmail.com. When you speak with installers, make sure that the installer is aware that Wakefield has a municipal utility and provide them with the WMGLD documents at <http://wmgld.com/solar-rebate-program/> so you will get accurate information on available incentives and payback on your solar installation.
- b. When you begin the process, you must inform WMGLD of your plans by contacting the Engineering Dept at solar@wmgld.com. WMGLD will need to review and approve the interconnection plans for your system before you can begin construction. WMGLD will also need to upgrade your metering to allow the excess energy produced to flow back to the grid and update your billing to track the energy you generate.
- c. Once you determine your home is suitable for solar and select an installer, your contractor will need to contact the Wakefield building department for permitting.
- d. Once your system is connected, you will see the savings on your electric bill for the energy you produce. In addition, WMGLD will pay you for any excess solar energy you generate that is returned to the WMGLD system.

For all of WMGLD's solar information please visit <http://wmgld.com/solar-rebate-program/>. For additional questions email us at solar@wmgld.com.



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SOLAR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**WMGLD**
Wakefield Municipal Gas and Light Department
GO SOLAR WAKEFIELD

FEASIBILITY

COSTS AND INCENTIVES

Q: Can Wakefield residents purchase and install solar panels on their roofs?

A: Yes. Wakefield residents and businesses can buy their solar panels outright.

Q: Can Wakefield residents lease solar panels for their roofs?

A: Yes, but only equipment leases. Customers are not allowed to sign any form of Purchase Power Agreement (PPA) with a third party which links savings and output of solar systems.

Q: How do I know if my site is a good solar resource? In other words, will the sunlight conditions at my home be adequate?

A: Project Sunroof by Google can provide a solar potential estimate for your site at: www.google.com/get/sunroof

Q: What if my solar resource is poor?

A: You can proceed with installing solar, but you may not qualify for some of the incentives that are available.

Q: My roof is shaded by trees. Should I cut them down so that I can install solar panels?

A: We don't recommend that you cut down trees unless they are diseased or dead. Trees protect your home from the hot sun and provide shade that can reduce your electricity costs in the summer.

Q: What if my roof is old?

A: If you have an older roof and it needs to be replaced, you should consider replacing the roof first and then adding the solar panels. Make sure to tell your roof installer that you plan to add solar panels to ensure that the installation enables you to add the panels. If you have an older home, you may also want to contact a building contractor or home inspection specialist to check your roof to ensure it can hold solar panels.

Q: Do I need to interconnect my solar with the electricity grid?

A: Yes. Massachusetts state law requires customers to connect their solar with the electric grid.

WMGLD interconnection documents are found at:
<http://wmgld.com/solar-rebate-program/>

Q: What is the average cost of solar?

A: On average, residential solar installations cost ~\$4/watt in Massachusetts in 2017 and 2018.

Q: What incentives are available to customers to reduce solar installation costs?

A: There are currently three incentives, all of which are available to customers who install solar. Please note that incentives change over time. You should verify incentives when you are ready to begin the process, and always consult your financial advisor or tax professional to ensure your eligibility for any tax incentives.

a. Federal Energy Tax Credit:

- <https://www.seia.org/initiatives/solar-investment-tax-credit-itc>

b. Massachusetts Energy Credit Info:

- <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/830-CMR-6261-residential-energy-credit>
- <https://www.mass.gov/solar-information-programs>

c. Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department Solar Rebate Program:

- <http://wmgld.com/wmgld-offers-new-solar-rebates-to-customers/>

Q: At what rate do I get credited for the excess solar energy that I produce and don't use?

A: Under WMGLD's current solar rebate program, the Solar Energy Credit rate will be 85% of the Energy Charge rate. The Energy Charge rate is the rate at which the customer buys energy from WMGLD during the current billing cycle. The Solar Energy Credit rate is the rate at which the customer sells energy back to WMGLD.

Q: How do I know if solar is a good value for my money?

A: WMGLD has a solar calculator on its website that you can use when you receive quotes from solar installers. Just add the details into the Inputs page of the calculator and your results will be displayed on the Outputs page. The average payback for solar in Wakefield is ~10-12 years based on 2017 rates and solar installation costs. Your solar installer should provide a detailed Return on Investment (ROI) and Total Cost of Ownership (TCO).

Q: What do I do if I want to finance all or a portion of the remaining upfront cost that I need to pay?

A: Many people finance all or a portion of their solar installation. You can find lenders who finance solar in Massachusetts at low interest rates here: <https://www.masssolarloan.com/>.