

# Solar energy rebates available

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Starting this week, the town will offer residents who install photovoltaic solar-energy systems in their houses rebates of up to \$2,500. The initiative is the first of its kind in the state and is intended to encourage islanders to power their homes – at least in part – with solar energy.

Solar cells, also called photovoltaic or PV cells, convert sunlight directly into electricity.

By increasing the amount of local renewable energy, the solar rebate program's benefits are intended to be three-fold: to make the island's electricity supply more sustainable, reduce summer peak demand and lower electricity supply and distribution costs for Nantucket ratepayers.

The current U.S. average cost for the installation of a 5,000-watt residential solar system is between \$25,000 and \$35,000, prior to incentives and tax credits.

Increasing the amount of local renewable energy will particularly benefit those participating in Nantucket PowerChoice, the island's bulk-purchasing municipal aggregation program launched in March, town officials said.

"We are excited to soon offer a local solar-rebate program to Nantucket residents, which will provide a number of key benefits to both individual homeowners and the Nantucket community," town energy coordinator Lauren Sinatra said. with those achieved off-island. It is our hope this incentive will encourage more local residents to invest in renewable energy.

For more information regarding the solar rebate program, visit [www.Nantucket-ma.gov/Solar-Rebate](http://www.Nantucket-ma.gov/Solar-Rebate).

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