

SolarEnergies.ca Warns BC Homeowners That Buying Solar Panels Before Securing a Qualified Installer Could Put 2026 Rebates at Risk

May 01, 2026

Halifax, Nova Scotia - May 01, 2026 -
SolarEnergies.ca is warning British Columbia homeowners that the province?s 2026 solar rebate rules make installer choice more important than panel shopping, especially as BC Hydro?s June 1 deadline for Home Performance Contractor Network involvement approaches.

The warning follows a new SolarEnergies.ca article by Vitaliy Lano, owner of SolarEnergies.ca and the publication behind Canada Goes Solar, which explains why buying solar panels online before securing a qualified installer can create permit, rebate, warranty, insurance and utility-connection problems.

BC Hydro?s current program guidance says that beginning June 1, 2026, solar and battery installations must be completed by a Home Performance Contractor Network member to be eligible for rebates. For residential solar projects, BC Hydro lists rebates of $1,000 per kilowatt of installed generator capacity, up to $5,000, subject to program caps and eligibility rules. Battery rebate rules changed on April 1, 2026, making it more

important for customers to check the current requirements before planning a solar and storage system.

?Panels are only one piece of a solar project,? Vitaliy Lano stated. ?The homeowner also needs permits, utility approval, inspection documents, warranty coverage and a qualified installer who is willing to stand behind the work. If those pieces are missing, a cheap panel order can become an expensive delay.?

The article points to a common mistake in the residential solar market: treating hardware as the project. SolarEnergies.ca says that mistake is becoming riskier in British Columbia because rebate eligibility, contractor certification and interconnection paperwork now carry more weight in the buying process.

Technical Safety BC lists installing solar equipment as electrical work that often requires a homeowner electrical permit. Municipal rules can add another layer. Surrey, for example, says a building permit is required for solar panel installation on existing buildings, an electrical permit is required for all solar panel installations, and components must be CSA approved. Vancouver?s solar photovoltaic bulletin says a system must not be energized until the city has accepted and approved the required verification and installation.

Lano commented that these details are not minor paperwork issues. They affect whether a system can be legally installed, connected to the grid and supported after installation.

?A solar system is connected to a roof, an electrical panel, a utility account and a long warranty chain,? Lano said. ?That is why responsibility matters. One unclear quote or one unsupported product choice can create trouble long after the panels arrive.?

SolarEnergies.ca?s article also cautions homeowners about customer-supplied equipment. Some installers may decline to install panels they did not source, verify or design into the project. That can leave homeowners searching for a contractor after money has already been spent. Even if an installer agrees to help, warranty terms, equipment approvals and design requirements may still create problems.

The publication says the better approach is to start with a complete project review. Homeowners should confirm who will design the system, who will pull permits, whether the contractor meets current rebate requirements, how BC Hydro interconnection will be handled, what equipment is being installed, and how warranty responsibility is documented.

The timing matters because demand can tighten before a deadline. As more homeowners try to qualify for rebates, certified installer schedules may fill, leaving late buyers with fewer options and less room to compare quotes.

Lano added that the message is not meant to discourage solar adoption. Instead, SolarEnergies.ca says the

goal is to help homeowners avoid preventable mistakes during a year when incentives and program rules are changing quickly.

?Solar can still make strong sense in British Columbia,? Lano expressed. ?The practical move is to build the project in the right order. Start with the installer, the permit path and the rebate rules. Then choose the equipment that fits the home and the program.?

SolarEnergies.ca will continue publishing plain-language updates on solar incentives, contractor requirements, financing, self-generation rules and installation risks for Canadian homeowners. Through Canada Goes Solar, Lano says the publication?s focus is simple: help readers compare real options, avoid weak claims and make cleaner energy decisions with fewer surprises.

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Solar Energies In Canada SEIC

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