


# BC Hydro?s Net Metering Change Makes Self-Consumption the New Solar ROI Rule

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BC Hydro?s upcoming net metering change is set to reshape how British Columbia homeowners calculate the value of rooftop solar, according to SolarEnergies.ca, the publication behind Canada Goes Solar.

Starting July 1, 2026, new BC Hydro self-generation customers will move under Rate Schedule 2289, which pays 10 cents per kilowatt-hour for excess electricity sent back to the grid. The current net metering service rate, Rate Schedule 1289, closes to new customers when the new rate begins. Existing net metering customers generally remain on the old structure until 10 years from their original net metering start date, while solar rebate recipients face specific transition rules tied to BC Hydro?s updated program.

The change matters because exported solar power will no longer work the same way for new customers. Under the current net metering structure, excess generation can be banked as kilowatt-hour credits and used against future bills. Under the new self-generation rate, exported electricity earns a fixed purchase price. For homeowners, that makes direct household use of solar energy a bigger part of the return-on-investment

calculation.

?This does not mean home solar in B.C. stops making sense,? stated Vitaliy Lano, owner of SolarEnergies.ca. ?It means the old shortcut of assuming every exported kilowatt-hour carries the same value as electricity used inside the home is gone for new customers. The math has to be cleaner now.?

BC Hydro?s posted residential electricity rates currently list 11.87 cents per kilowatt-hour for Tier 1 use, 14.08 cents for Tier 2 use, and 12.70 cents under the residential flat rate. Against those figures, a 10-cent export rate puts more pressure on system design, daily energy use, battery decisions, and whether a proposed solar array is sized for real household demand or oversized for surplus export.

SolarEnergies.ca says the practical lesson for homeowners is simple: solar quotes in British Columbia should now show separate assumptions for electricity used on site and electricity exported to the grid. A proposal that looked attractive under old net metering assumptions may need a second look if much of the production would be sold back at 10 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Lano commented that the most useful question is no longer just how many panels fit on a roof. It is how much of that production the home can actually use.

?Self-consumption is becoming the new ROI rule,? Lano said. ?A good solar design should match the home?s load, daytime use, heating choices, EV charging plans, and future electricity needs. Bigger is not always better if the extra power is mostly leaving the property at a lower credit.?

The change also affects how homeowners think about BC Hydro?s solar and battery rebates. BC Hydro continues to offer residential solar rebates of up to $5,000, based on $1,000 per kilowatt and capped at 50 percent of installed product cost, with separate battery support available for eligible customers. But BC Hydro states that accepting solar and battery rebates confirms acceptance of the new self-generation rate as of July 1, 2026, with limited repayment options for certain earlier rebate participants.

SolarEnergies.ca says homeowners should ask installers to show payback with and without rebates, under the new 10-cent export rate, and with realistic assumptions about annual household usage. Battery storage may help some households use more of their own solar power, but it should be evaluated against cost, outage needs, usage patterns, and actual savings rather than treated as an automatic add-on.

Lano added that the change is also a communications issue for the solar industry. If homeowners hear that net metering is changing but do not understand what stays the same, they may either rush into a poor design or walk away from a project that could still work.

?B.C. homeowners deserve plain numbers,? Lano expressed. ?The fair conversation is not scare people away from solar. The fair conversation is show them the export rate, show them the household-use value, show them the rebate tradeoff, and let the design follow the facts.?

SolarEnergies.ca recommends that British Columbia homeowners considering solar ask for a written estimate that separates self-used solar from exported solar, confirms which BC Hydro rate schedule applies, explains rebate conditions, and models payback under conservative assumptions. For existing net metering customers, the key question is when the 10-year transition window ends and whether any rebate-related rule changes apply.

For Lower Mainland homeowners who want to see how the new BC Hydro export rules affect a real local quote, SolarEnergies.ca has published a Burnaby solar guide covering 2026 costs, rebates, shade risk, roof condition, installer questions, and Rate Schedule 2289 planning. The guide gives Burnaby homeowners a practical checklist for comparing proposals under the new 10-cent export-rate structure:

SolarEnergies.ca publishes homeowner-focused solar guides, company reviews, incentive explainers, and practical energy advice for Canadians comparing solar options. Through Canada Goes Solar, Lano?s goal is to make green living easier to understand, with clear explanations of costs, incentives, installation quality, and long-term value.

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## Solar Energies In Canada SEIC

*SEIC is Canada?s platform for solar energy insights, dedicated to making green living accessible and practical. From detailed guides to savings calculators, SolarEnergies.ca empowers Canadians to make informed decisions for a sustainable future.*

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