

How Does Alberta's Solar Club Work?

Presented by EVOLVsolar

Solar Club is a unique program designed specifically to help small solar micro-generators such as homes, businesses and farms in Alberta earn a premium on their solar electricity. By joining a Solar Club retailer, members can expect a higher return on investment on their solar system.

How does it work?

Solar Club members are offered two rates that are interchangeable throughout the year:

High Solar Club export rate – Approximately \$0.30 per kWh (fluctuates over time)

Low Solar Club export rate – Approximately \$0.125 per kWh (fluctuates over time)

Members can take advantage of the high export rate during the sunny months to generate a larger amount of credits, allowing the member to offset other charges on their energy bill such as transmission, distribution, administration, etc. In some cases it's even possible to get your annual bills down to zero or even a credit balance over a full year.

It is important to note that the rate you select will be used to SELL and BUY power to/from the grid, so you'll only want the high rate in months where you are a net exporter – generally between the months of April and September for most customers when the days are the longest.

Would Solar Club be beneficial to me?

Not always. Solar Club would be beneficial for solar PV system owners if their solar PV system produces more than what your energy consumption is. If your solar only covers 50% of your expected electricity consumption, you would be better off choosing a utility retailer with the most competitive electricity rate.

When is the right time to switch between the high and low rates?

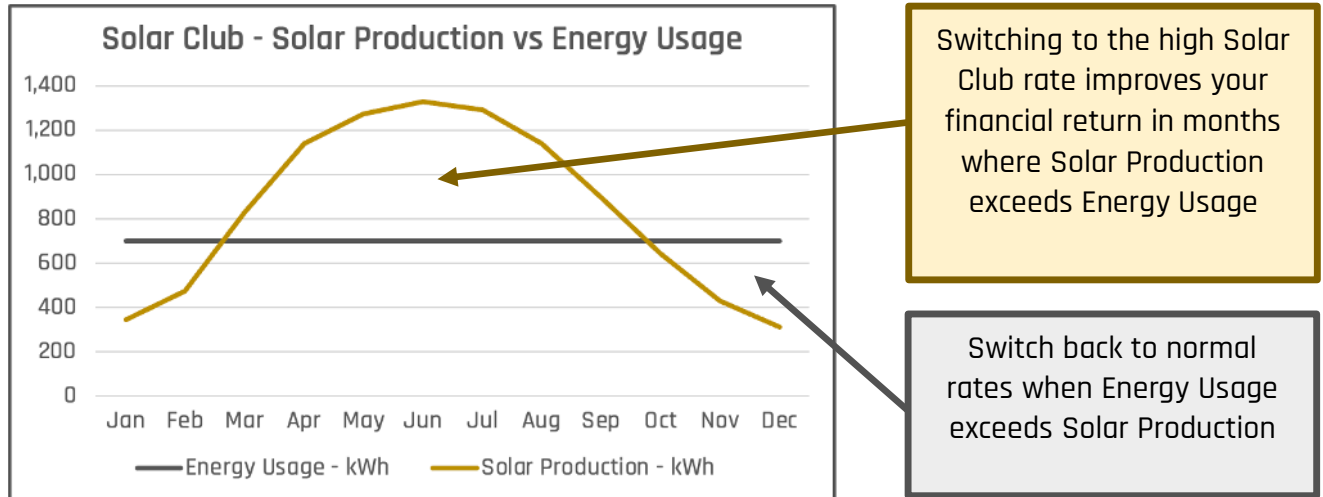
In the sunny months (late spring to early fall), members would switch to the high export rate to sell excess solar power to the grid. In the darker months, members would switch to the low export rate since they wouldn't have a surplus of solar power to sell back and would need to rely on grid power.

What can Solar Club do for the average home in Alberta?

The average home in Alberta uses approximately 700kWh per month, or 8,400kWh per year. Without Solar Club, you would get paid on average approximately \$0.10 per kWh for the energy you sell to the grid assuming your Electric Energy Charge is \$0.07 per kWh and you use 30% of the solar energy you produce in your home.



With Solar Club, you would switch your rate to \$0.29 in months where you're producing more energy than you consume, generally in the spring and summer month. Below is an example of a system that will produce 10,000kWh per year, or 120% more than the expected usage of 8,400kWh per year:



As you can see from the above, it would be beneficial to switch your rate to the higher Solar Club rate between April & September. By doing so, your average rate would increase from \$0.10 per kWh to \$0.16 per kWh on solar, which is 60% higher resulting in a much quicker payback on your investment.

How to sign up for Solar Club?

Simple! All you need to do is select a solar club retailer. EVOLVsolar has partnered with Spot Power to provide a seamless experience and recommends using their services for reliable support and competitive rates.



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