



# MIDSTATE CONNECTION

Office Hours: 7:00 am-5:30 pm, Monday-Thursday  
Closed Fridays & Holidays

Business Hours: 541-536-2126  
After Hours Outages: 800-752-5935

## Factors to Consider Before Installing Solar

### ***"Free energy from the sun and lower electric bills...Where do I sign up?"***

The benefits of installing rooftop solar panels may seem like a no-brainer, but the reality is, not every home (and homeowner's situation) is always right for solar. There are several factors to consider before pulling the trigger on a rooftop solar system, like determining if your home will receive enough sun to achieve your goals, finding the right contractor, negotiating contracts and other important details. Investing in solar for your home is a major decision. If you're considering rooftop solar, Midstate Electric can help.

### **Eight questions to consider before installing rooftop solar panels:**

#### **1 - What are my goals?**

If your primary goal is to save money on electric bills, you may be able to achieve this through our free energy audit program, which can identify areas of the home for maximum energy savings, some of which may qualify for incentives from Midstate.

If your main goal is to use renewable energy and help the environment, you should know that Midstate's power mix is about 95% carbon free. If you're interested in offsetting the remaining 5%, Midstate's Green Power program allows you to buy blocks of guaranteed wind power.

#### **2 - Is my roof suitable for solar?**

Your roof should be in good condition before installing solar panels. If your roof is old and in poor shape, it may need to be replaced before panels can be mounted. Additionally, your roof should receive a lot of sun to make the most of a rooftop system.

Consider how much sun (and shade) the roof receives and if any trees will need to be removed. Solar panels perform best when facing south, so keep this in mind as you think about where the panels will be mounted.

#### **3 - How long will I own the home?**

If you're considering rooftop solar, you're likely planning to stay in the home for several years. But if you plan to sell the home at some point down the road, consider that not all potential buyers will want to maintain a rooftop solar system.

If you enter a contract to lease the system, carefully review the terms and what those mean if you decide to sell the property.

#### **4 - Lease or purchase?**

Purchasing a rooftop solar system outright is expensive, which is why many homeowners opt to lease their solar panels. However, federal tax credits can help cover some of the costs for a new system, up to 30%. Regardless of how you decide to finance the solar system, make sure you get several quotes from qualified contractors.

#### **5 - Can the contractor provide up-to-date documentation?**

It may seem obvious but be sure to request proof and documentation of the contractor's licensing, permitting and other credentials. Comb through company reviews, check the contractor's status with Better Business Bureau, etc.—do your homework on the front end before signing a contract.

#### **6 - Does the contract seem reasonable and fair?**

If you decide to hire a contractor to install rooftop solar, carefully read the fine print of the contract. Do the system performance calculations seem realistic? Does the project timeframe sound reasonable? Negotiate the contract terms to fit your goals and needs.

#### **7 - Who will maintain the solar panels?**

Determining who is responsible for maintaining the solar panels will depend on who owns the system. If you lease the system from a solar installer, it may be their responsibility. Periodically, solar panels need to be cleaned as dirt and debris can impact panel productivity. Parts may also need to be replaced, so it's important to know who will take on these responsibilities.

#### **8 - How will I work with Midstate Electric?**

You should contact Midstate Electric first if you decide to install solar. The system must be connected to the electric grid, so you'll need to sign an interconnection agreement. We can walk you through the steps, including how our solar rates and fees work. Visit <https://www.midstateelectric.coop/solar> for a general overview of how you can work with us on connecting your new rooftop solar system. For many homeowners, solar panels are a great way to help the environment and save on electric bills—but there are many factors to consider before diving in and installing a system.

As with any major home project, do plenty of research upfront, and contact Midstate Electric if you have questions or decide to move forward with installation. We're your local energy partner and can serve as a helpful resource throughout the process.

**Let's get connected on social media** so you'll never miss an update on MEC activities, programs, and contests.



# MEC Conservation Rebate Program

Rebates are available for our residential and commercial members to help save energy and money in your homes or businesses. You may be eligible to receive a rebate on the following measures:

- Air Source Heat Pump
- Ductless Heat Pump
- Heat Pump Water Heater
- Duct Sealing
- Attic, Wall & Floor Insulation
- Window Upgrades
- NEEM Certified Manufactured Homes
- ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer
- ENERGY STAR Clothes Dryer
- Smart Thermostat

Rebate amounts are set by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and are subject to change at any time by BPA.

Please note that there are some changes coming to the rebate program on October 1st:

- BPA will no longer require PTCS certification for any heat pump rebates.
- The rebate amount for heat pump conversion from electric furnace is changing from \$1,400 to \$1,000.
- There is a new measure: conversion from electric furnace to variable speed heat pump will have a rebate of \$1,200.
- A heat pump upgrade measure will only be available for variable speed heat pumps with a rebate of \$200.
- NEEM homes rebate change: NEEM 1.1 will have a \$1,200 rebate, and NEEM 2.0 will have a \$1,400 rebate.

Visit our website and click on the Energy Efficiency tab for further rebate information. Rebates are planned to remain at these levels through September 2025, but may change per BPA.

A home energy audit is required before insulation and window upgrades are made. All qualifying equipment and measure requirements must be met, installed and the paperwork submitted to MEC's Marketing Department to receive a rebate.

For rebate questions, please call (541) 536-2126 option 5.

# Celebrate National Drive Electric Week With Us

We are excited to invite you join us for Midstate's EV Tailgate Event at The Village at Sunriver on Friday, September 29th from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. The event is designed to help educate our members about electric vehicles and the features and benefits they offer. The showcase will feature a variety of electric vehicles from different manufacturers, allowing attendees to see and learn about the latest models on the market. We will also have Midstate employees available to answer questions about our Residential EV Charging Program and other beneficial member programs offered by Midstate.

There will be free refreshments and popcorn donated by Goody's. You may also play our Plinko game to win fun prizes including \$5.00 Goody's gift cards. Event attendees can enter our raffle for a \$50 gift card to a local restaurant. We are giving out three restaurant gift cards throughout the event. Personal EV owners are encouraged to attend and showcase their vehicles. EV owners may RSVP to our event page to let us know what type of vehicle you will bring. (RSVP is not required to attend). Hope to see you there!

Event Page: <https://driveelectricweek.org/event?eventid=3937>.

## MIDSTATE'S EV TAILGATE

A NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK EVENT

ELECTRIC VEHICLE SHOWCASE

EV CHARGING PROGRAM INFO

GIVEAWAYS & REFRESHMENTS

\$50 GIFT CARD RAFFLES

FREE  
EVENT!



**FRIDAY** | 4:00 p.m.-  
**9-29-23** | 7:00 p.m.

**DRIVE  
ELECTRIC**  
National Drive Electric Week™

**Location:**

**The Village at Sunriver**  
**57100 Beaver Drive**  
**Sunriver, OR 97707**  
(In parking lot off of Beaver Dr.)

NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK IS PRESENTED BY



SIERRA  
CLUB

EVHYBRIDNOIRE



DRIVE ELECTRIC  
USA



Nissan LEAF® & Nissan ARIYA® is the exclusive automotive sponsor of National Drive Electric Week™

[www.midstateelectric.coop](http://www.midstateelectric.coop)