



October 2, 2018

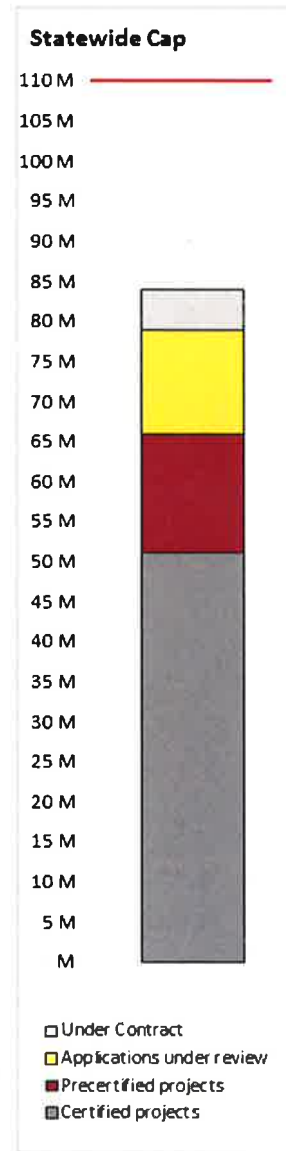
Dear Solar Installers,

Benton PUD feels it is important to provide updates to the State’s solar incentive program.

As you are aware, Benton PUD is subject to our specific credit limit cap of \$1.8 million or the statewide cap of \$110 million, *whichever occurs first*. Benton PUD’s credit limit cap is not yet fully allocated, however the statewide cap is fast approaching and could be fully allocated at any time. Once the state-funded incentives are fully allocated, WSU will immediately stop accepting applications to the program

We are moving toward the statewide \$110 million incentive limit (the "Statewide Cap") at a remarkable pace. Over the last month, additional new projects applied toward the cap increased by approximately \$10 million. Some utilities in the state have already reached their individual program caps and have completed projects that may not be eligible for participation under the Incentive Program. Given that other utilities are approving solar projects as fast as or faster than Benton PUD, and we do not know how many projects are pending, the Incentive Program may hit the Statewide Cap sooner than originally anticipated. In light of this possibility, we are recommending you provide the following information to your customers considering the installation of new solar systems:

1. In the near future, Benton PUD may be required to suspend or stop its participation in the state Incentive Program as the program gets closer to its \$110 million incentive limit. If this occurs, Benton PUD will attempt to notify all local solar installers. Customers and their installers should check [www.bentonpud.org](http://www.bentonpud.org), for the most up-to-date information regarding current participation in the Incentive Program.
2. When considering the installation of a new solar system, customers and their contractors should also monitor the current state Incentive Program limits by visiting WSU's "Program Summary" website at: <http://www.energy.wsu.edu/RenewableEnergySystemIncentiveProgram.aspx>
3. Given this funding uncertainty, Benton PUD cannot provide assurances that incentives will be available under the Incentive Program for any individual solar project. All new customer interconnection applications will now require a "Production Incentives Risk Acknowledgement Form" (attached) to be signed by the customer. This form outlines the risk surrounding Washington State Renewable Energy System Incentive Program funding availability. Please send future interconnection applications to [SolarConnections@BentonPUD.org](mailto:SolarConnections@BentonPUD.org)



We appreciate your assistance in keeping your customers informed of this development. You should also be aware that as we get closer to the Statewide Cap, Benton PUD may limit its participation in the Incentive Program to avoid the risk of exceeding available funding. Please feel free to contact us by phone at (509)582-1234 or by email at [solarconnections@bentonpud.org](mailto:solarconnections@bentonpud.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Johnson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Johnson

Manager of Conservation and Renewable Energy Programs

Graph Source

\* Image taken from the Washington State University-Energy Program's website

<http://www.energy.wsu.edu/RenewableEnergySystemIncentiveProgram.aspx>

Attachment: Production Incentives Risk Acknowledgement Form

## INTERCONNECTION APPLICATION - Level 1

**For Inverter-based Generating Systems-100 kilowatts or Less**

Complete, sign and submit to **BPUD PRIOR TO INSTALLATION OR MODIFICATION**

**Customer /Billing Information (Please Print)**

Account Name \_\_\_\_\_

Benton PUD Account# \_\_\_\_\_  Existing Service  New Service

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Evening/Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Service Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street/PO Box) (City) (State) (Zip)

**Contractor Information**

Contractor Name \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Generating Facility Information**

New Installation  Modification  New Owner of existing facility

Generation Facility Nominal Output Rating (DC): \_\_\_\_kilowatts (if applicable) Nominal Output Rating(AC): \_\_\_\_kilowatts

Type of Generator  Solar  Wind  Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated In-Service Date: \_\_\_\_\_  Request Meter Aggregation

Washington State Labor and Industries Electrical Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Inverter Information**

Manufacturer: \_\_\_\_\_ Model Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Underwriter's Laboratory UL1741 Listed?  Yes  No (Attach manufacturer's specifications in either case)

**Note:** Inverters with UL1741 listing do not require an AC external disconnect switch (See Benton PUD Standard Q-8A)

If the Generating Facility is designed to provide a backup power source to an electrical panel to which your Benton PUD service is directly or indirectly connected?  Yes  No

*If yes, attach manufacturer's specifications for the transfer switch that will be installed to provide isolation from the Benton PUD electrical service. Include a schematic representation of the transfer switch and electrical service panel circuit breakers in the Generating Facility one-line diagram attached to this application.*

**APPLICATION SUBMITTALS CHECKLIST:**

- Attach a copy of the generator manufacturer's specification sheet.
- Attach a copy of the inverter manufacturer's specification sheet.
- Attach a Facility and proposed Interconnection electrical One-Line Diagram. (See Net Metering Standard Q-8A)
- Sign and Date your Application and Agreement.

Mail or deliver all documentation to : Benton PUD

or email to: [SolarConnections@BentonPUD.org](mailto:SolarConnections@BentonPUD.org)

Attn: Engineering  
2721 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, P.O. Box 6270  
Kennewick, WA 99336-0270

**INTERCONNECTION APPLICANT SIGNATURE**

*I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge the information provided in this application is true. I agree to abide by the terms and conditions for interconnecting a generating facility no larger the 100 kilowatts and return the certificate of completion when the small generating facility has been installed.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Are you planning to apply for the WA Renewable Energy Production Incentive?  Yes  No

**If yes, please complete Exhibit A.** Also, your generating facility must be certified by the Washington State University Energy Office. For more information please visit <https://www.bentonpud.org/Energy-Programs/Solar-Connections/Rooftop-Solar>.

**PRODUCTION INCENTIVES RISK ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM**

Customer Name:	Benton PUD Account Number:
Home Address:	Installer:

Please be aware that by accepting your interconnection application, **BENTON PUD CANNOT GUARANTEE Washington State Renewable Energy System Incentive Program funds (also known as “production incentives”) will be available for your project.** Eligibility in the state incentive program is determined by Washington State University Energy Program (WSU). As required by state law, WSU can only approve up to \$110 million dollars in state-funded incentive payments to participants across Washington State. Benton PUD is subject to our specific credit limit cap of \$1.8 million or the statewide cap of \$110 million, *whichever is achieved first*. Benton PUD’s credit limit cap is not yet fully allocated, however the statewide cap is fast approaching and could be fully allocated at any time. Once the state-funded incentives are fully allocated, WSU will immediately stop accepting applications to the program. You should also be aware that WSU will only accept applications for the program after a renewable energy system (such as solar) has been installed and passed its final L&I electrical inspection.

If receiving the state incentive payments is a crucial part in your decision to invest in solar energy, we encourage you to learn more about the availability of these funds by visiting WSU’s website at <http://www.energy.wsu.edu/RenewableEnergySystemIncentiveProgram.aspx> and discussing the risks and project timeline with your installer. Keep in mind the chart on WSUs website shows a “Statewide Cap” that only reflects certified and completed systems and there are many other solar installations under construction that have not yet applied for WSU certification.

By signing below you acknowledge the risk that state incentives may not be available.

Customer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

We are committed to helping you with this process. Please feel free to contact us by phone at (509)582-1234 or by email at [solarconnections@bentonpud.org](mailto:solarconnections@bentonpud.org)