



## Residential Solar Pre-Installation Information

In keeping with United's mission of providing exceptional service and value to its membership, United has worked to establish a framework by which its members may purchase from, and have installed by, a third-party contractor/installer, residential solar systems at a competitive price. United's goal is to help educate its members regarding residential solar, so members are more knowledgeable prior to purchasing a system, and assist members in navigating the solar system purchase and installation process.

1. United has entered into an arrangement whereby its members may contract with a third-party contractor/installer to install residential solar systems. The solar contractor/installer will be responsible for, among other things, surveying the project site, validating and/or re-designing of plans, procuring equipment and materials, submitting and receiving approval from applicable municipalities and HOAs/POAs, and completing the solar installation. The third-party solar contractor/installer will also provide a workmanship and roof penetration warranty.
2. Prior to going solar, United recommends a member first complete the energy-efficiency projects proposed by United during the energy audit of the member's property. These projects typically have a short return on investment, and by decreasing a home's electric usage, a smaller and therefore less expensive solar system can be considered.
3. The member will pay United for the residential solar system and installation, and United will release payment installments to the contractor/installer as certain installation benchmarks are met. As compensation to United for preliminary services provided to the member, facilitating the arrangement between the member and the contractor/installer, and for serving as a disbursing agent with respect to funds relating to the purchase and installation of the solar system, United will retain a portion of the contract price, after paying contractor/installer.
4. Each residential solar system installation is individually evaluated during the application review process to determine if United's infrastructure will accommodate the specific solar system. If required, United will invoice the member for necessary infrastructure upgrades to accommodate the member's solar system.
5. United is not a tax advisor and cannot give tax advice. Members should consult with tax and/or legal professionals about the potential for qualifying for any federal, state, or local energy rebate or tax credit, e.g., a Federal Income Tax Credit (FITC), as well as potential tax liability associated with the installation of a residential solar system. Purchasing a residential solar system becomes more attractive if a member qualifies for certain tax incentives.
6. United is not an insurance advisor and cannot give insurance advice. Members should speak with their homeowner's insurance carrier and/or an insurance advisor to determine if policy adjustments are needed to cover a residential solar system. Further, members should consider speaking with their roof manufacturer and/or roof installer regarding potential roof penetrations voiding any existing warranties.
7. Members should consider consulting with a realtor or other real estate professional to gain insight into potential changes to market value and desirability of homes equipped with residential solar systems.
8. Members should speak with their mortgage lender, and review relevant loan documentation, to determine what requirements, if any, their mortgage lender may have concerning the member's purchase and installation of a residential solar system.
9. To receive maximum production from a residential solar system, United recommends that any objects shading the solar panels should be trimmed, removed, or considered when choosing the location of the system. Any shading during solar production hours will significantly limit production.

10. United does not offer any production guarantees or billing percentage offsets for installed solar systems. While United assists in sizing the system according to site specific usage history, member goals, and site layout, monthly solar energy production and energy usage can ultimately fluctuate due to a variety of factors including, but not limited to, weather.
11. Unless a member's home has backup battery storage and/or a generator, the home will lose power during a grid outage. In the event of a grid outage, a grid-tied solar system is designed to shut down for safety.
12. United does not currently offer routine maintenance services for residential solar systems.
13. Accounts with 50 kW DC and below are net metered, which means the member is billed monthly on the *difference* between the energy delivered to the member's home or business and the energy received by United during the member's billing cycle. United's Tariff for Electric Services will control net-metering processes and procedures; however, generally, those processes and procedures are as follows.
  - **Solar Under Production (Net Consumer)** - If United delivers more kWh than what is received from a solar system, the received kWh are credited back at retail cost and the net energy is billed to the member. Beginning in 2023, all members will be billed a securitization charge due to Winter Storm Uri based on the total energy delivered. For example, if United delivers 1,000 kWh and receives 800 kWh from the solar in a month, the member will receive a bill for the 200 kWh net difference, plus securitization charges on the 1,000 kWh delivered.
  - **Solar Over Production (Net Producer)** - When the energy supplied by the member exceeds the energy supplied by United during a monthly billing period, the member will be responsible for a minimum bill (\$32.50 for residential accounts) plus securitization charges on the total kWh delivered. Any excess kWh will be purchased back at that month's avoided wholesale power supply costs and deposited into a banked balance on the account. The accrued bank balance will be automatically applied to that month's minimum bill, securitization charges, and other electric charges, such as area lights. Any remaining banked balance will be applied to future energy charges.
  - If the member has an unused banked balance left over at the end of a calendar year, United will issue a check for balances greater than \$20 and credit the member's account for balances equal to \$20 or less. The banked balance is reset in January of each calendar year.
  - Each metering point is billed independent of one another therefore, any over-generation on one meter will not be used to offset the usage of another meter. If solar is purchased for multiple meters, there will need to be individual, properly sized systems interconnected to each metering point.
  - United only receives the excess solar energy that the home does not consume behind the meter, not total production from the system. As solar is being produced throughout the day, the home actively pulls from the solar production first. At any moment, if there is more energy being produced than demand in the home, United will receive the excess solar energy through the meter.
14. Members should review United's Distributed Generation Procedures and Guidelines Manual for Members.
15. United is not responsible for loss of production during a period when a solar system is not operational.
16. Once United, the member, and the contractor/installer enter into a Solar Power System Purchase and Installation Agreement, the terms of said agreement will control the purchase and installation of the member's residential solar system.