



# Electric Companies That Buy Back Solar Power in Texas

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### Why Texas Leads in Solar Buyback Programs

Ever wondered why electric companies that buy back solar power thrive in Texas more than anywhere else in the U.S.? Well, it's sort of baked into the state's energy DNA. With 300+ days of sunshine annually and a deregulated electricity market, Texas homeowners can earn \$500-\$1,200 yearly through solar buyback programs. Compare that to cloudy Germany--where feed-in tariffs once ruled--and you'll see why the Lone Star State's approach feels revolutionary.

But here's the kicker: Texas' grid operator, ERCOT, reported solar capacity tripled since 2020. That's 15 gigawatts powering 3 million homes! Now imagine your rooftop panels not just cutting bills but actually becoming a mini revenue stream. Pretty neat, huh?

### How Solar Buyback Works in Texas' Deregulated Market

You know how Uber disrupted taxis? Texas' energy deregulation did the same for power companies. Unlike regulated states, here you can choose from 60+ retail electric providers (REPs) offering solar buyback plans. Most use net metering systems where excess solar energy earns bill credits at predetermined rates--usually 8-12¢ per kWh.

Take Green Mountain Energy's "Sun Club" plan. They'll pay 12¢/kWh for your surplus solar, nearly matching the 13.5¢/kWh average residential electricity rate. But wait, no--not all plans are created equal. Some companies apply monthly fees or cap credit earnings. Always read the fine print!

### Top Electric Companies Buying Back Solar Power in 2023

Let's cut through the marketing fluff. Based on July 2023 data, these REPs offer Texas' most competitive solar buyback programs:

TXU Energy's Free Nights + Solar Buyback: 10¢/kWh credit + free nighttime power



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Reliant's Truly Free Nights: 1:1 kWh matching + solar banking  
Chariot Energy's 100% Solar Match: No caps on monthly credits

A family in Austin generates 1,200 kWh monthly but only uses 900 kWh. With Chariot's plan, their 300 kWh surplus earns \$36 monthly--\$432 annually. That's a free Netflix subscription plus dinner out every month!

## How to Maximize Your Solar Credits

Want to game the system? Try these pro tips:

- Install batteries to store energy for peak rate hours
- Pair solar with time-of-use plans for evening credit boosts
- Monitor your REP's "banking period" (when credits expire)

But here's the rub--Texas doesn't mandate statewide net metering. What if your provider changes rates? That's happened to Houston homeowners twice since 2021. Always have an exit strategy!

## Solar Buyback Beyond Texas: A Global Snapshot

While Texas dominates U.S. solar buyback, Australia's "feed-in tariffs" average 5-12¢/kWh--similar but less flexible. Japan? They've moved to blockchain-powered peer-to-peer energy trading. Makes Texas' model look kind of retro, doesn't it?

## Q&A: Your Solar Buyback Questions Answered

Q: Do all Texas electric companies buy back solar power?

A: Nope--only about 40% of REPs offer solar buyback plans as of August 2023.

Q: Can I sell solar power back to the grid without batteries?

A: Absolutely! Most plans credit excess energy sent directly to the grid.

Q: How does Texas' solar buyback compare to California's?

A: California mandates net metering but has lower rates (6-8¢/kWh) and income-based fees.

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