



# Idaho Solar Power Tax Credit

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### Table of Contents

- What Makes This Tax Credit a Game-Changer?
- Crunching the Numbers: How Much Can You Save?
- Idaho vs. Texas: A Solar Policy Showdown
- The Battery Bonus You Didn't See Coming
- "But My Roof Faces North!" - Debunking Myths

### What Makes This Tax Credit a Game-Changer?

Let's cut to the chase - the Idaho solar power tax credit isn't just another rebate program. While states like California get all the solar glory, Idaho's quietly been building momentum. Here's the kicker: you can claim 40% of your system costs up to \$5,000 through 2026. That's enough to cover half the average residential installation!

But wait, there's a twist many miss. Combine this with the federal ITC (which drops to 22% in 2024), and suddenly your \$15,000 system costs \$7,700 after incentives. Not bad for a state better known for potatoes than photovoltaics, right?

### Crunching the Numbers: How Much Can You Save?

Take the Johnson family in Boise. They installed a 6kW system last month:

- System cost: \$18,000
- Federal credit: \$3,960 (22%)
- Idaho credit: \$5,000 (max)
- Net cost: \$9,040

At current electricity rates, they'll break even in 6.5 years. That's faster than the 8-year national average. Now imagine pairing this with Idaho's net metering policy - utilities must buy back excess power at retail rates. Cha-ching!

### Idaho vs. Texas: A Solar Policy Showdown

Here's where it gets juicy. While Texas leads in raw solar capacity, Idaho's incentives make more financial sense for homeowners. Let's break it down:

Texas offers \$2,500 for solar installations - period. Idaho's solar tax credit scales with system size. A \$30,000 commercial installation in Twin Falls gets \$5,000 back, while the same system in Dallas gets zilch beyond federal credits.



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## The Battery Bonus You Didn't See Coming

Ever heard of the duck curve? It's why utilities love battery storage. Idaho's program gives extra points (literally) for systems with storage. The Baxter family in Coeur d'Alene added a Powerwall:

"Our power bill went negative in May - the utility paid US \$38!"

With Idaho's frequent grid stability issues (remember the 2023 winter outages?), battery-backed systems aren't just eco-friendly - they're becoming survival gear.

## "But My Roof Faces North!" - Debunking Myths

Here's the truth bomb: modern panels work fine on east-west roofs. Solar installers in Meridian report 85% efficiency even on non-south-facing homes. The real limitation? Shading from those famous Idaho pines.

And about snow - panels actually melt light accumulations. The heavy stuff? Just brush it off. Your solar power tax credit still applies whether you're in snowy Driggs or sunny Lewiston.

## Q&A: Quick Fire Round

Q: Can renters claim the Idaho solar credit?

A: Nope - you need to own the property. But landlords can claim it for rental units!

Q: Does it cover DIY installations?

A: Only if you're a licensed electrician. Otherwise, stick with certified installers.

Q: What's the program end date?

A: Currently set for December 31, 2026. But with the 2024 elections coming, that could change.

Q: Can I combine this with utility rebates?

A: You bet! Idaho Power offers an extra \$500 for systems using their approved partners.

Q: What about commercial properties?

A: Same 40% rate, but the cap jumps to \$20,000. Perfect for that Boise warehouse retrofit!

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