

Madalyn Letellier

From: Nicholas Kelton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2025 10:12 AM
To: Madalyn Letellier
Subject: Re: General Comment: Support of Balcony Solar

Hi, thanks, I should correct that I currently live in Ward 2. (Used to be ward 7 so it popped in my head.)

Thanks,
Nick

From: Nicholas Kelton [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 4:43 PM
To: Public Comments [REDACTED]
Subject: General Comment: Support of Balcony Solar

Nicholas Kelton

Ward 7
[REDACTED]

Somerville, MA
[REDACTED]

General Comment: Support of Balcony Solar

Hello,

I wanted to submit a general comment advocating for support in Somerville of explicitly legalizing so-called “balcony solar” or “plug-and-play solar” or “microinverter solar.” I don’t know the nitty-gritty but it seems that Utah has already passed a state bill that could be used as a model for this. I think this is good for the planet, good for your constituents' wallets, and really doesn’t have negatives! I do foresee this could be a challenge in our litigious state, but I hope we can overcome that and help individuals to have the freedom to make a difference for their households and the planet!

I know that the Utah Bill is a state bill, but I think there is a lot of precedent for starting these things more locally and then hopefully the rest of the state follows suit.

I have attached a number of links below should they be helpful:

Here is one article about it: <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/12/climate/balcony-solar-united-states.html>

Here are two examples of companies selling such products:

<https://www.brightsaver.org/>

<https://www.ecoflow.com/us/stream-microinverter>

Here is a link to the Utah Bill: <https://le.utah.gov/~2025/bills/static/HB0340.html>

Thanks,

Nicholas Kelton
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

City of Somerville Public Records Notice

Please be advised that the Massachusetts Attorney General has determined that email is a public record unless the content of the email falls within one of the stated exemptions under the Massachusetts Public Records Laws.

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Nicholas Kelton

[REDACTED]

Solar Power Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Raymond P. Ward

Senate Sponsor: Wayne A. Harper

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies provisions related to residential solar energy generation by creating a new category for small portable solar generation devices.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- creates exemptions from interconnection requirements for portable solar generation devices;
- establishes basic safety requirements for portable solar generation devices; and
- provides liability protections for electrical corporations.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

54-15-102, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 53

ENACTS:

54-15-601, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **54-15-102** is amended to read:

54-15-102 . Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Annualized billing period" means:
- (a) a 12-month billing cycle beginning on April 1 of one year and ending on March 31 of the following year; or
 - (b) an additional 12-month billing cycle as defined by an electrical corporation's net metering tariff or rate schedule.
- (2) "Customer-generated electricity" means electricity that:
- (a) is generated by a customer generation system for a customer participating in a net metering program;
 - (b) exceeds the electricity the customer needs for the customer's own use; and
 - (c) is supplied to the electrical corporation administering the net metering program.
- (3) "Customer generation system":
- (a) means an eligible facility that is used to supply energy to or for a specific customer that:
 - (i) has a generating capacity of:
 - (A) more than 1,200 watts but not more than 25 kilowatts for a residential facility;
 - or
 - (B) not more than two megawatts for a non-residential facility, unless the governing authority approves a greater generation capacity;
 - (ii) is located on, or adjacent to, the premises of the electrical corporation's customer, subject to the electrical corporation's service requirements;
 - (iii) operates in parallel and is interconnected with the electrical corporation's distribution facilities;
 - (iv) is intended primarily to offset part or all of the customer's requirements for electricity; and
 - (v) is controlled by an inverter;~~[-and]~~
 - (b) includes an electric generator and its accompanying equipment package~~[-]~~ ; and
 - (c) does not include a portable solar generation device.
- (4) "Eligible facility" means a facility that uses energy derived from one of the following to generate electricity:
- (a) solar photovoltaic and solar thermal energy;
 - (b) wind energy;
 - (c) hydrogen;
 - (d) organic waste;
 - (e) hydroelectric energy;

- 62 (f) waste gas and waste heat capture or recovery;
- 63 (g) biomass and biomass byproducts, except for the combustion of:
- 64 (i) wood that has been treated with chemical preservatives such as creosote,
- 65 pentachlorophenol, or chromated copper arsenate; or
- 66 (ii) municipal waste in a solid form;
- 67 (h) forest or rangeland woody debris from harvesting or thinning conducted to improve
- 68 forest or rangeland ecological health and to reduce wildfire risk;
- 69 (i) agricultural residues;
- 70 (j) dedicated energy crops;
- 71 (k) landfill gas or biogas produced from organic matter, wastewater, anaerobic digesters,
- 72 or municipal solid waste; or
- 73 (l) geothermal energy.
- 74 (5) "Equipment package" means a group of components connecting an electric generator to
- 75 an electric distribution system, including all interface equipment and the interface
- 76 equipment's controls, switchgear, inverter, and other interface devices.
- 77 (6) "Excess customer-generated electricity" means the amount of customer-generated
- 78 electricity in excess of the customer's consumption from the customer generation system
- 79 during a monthly billing period, as measured at the electrical corporation's meter.
- 80 (7) "Fuel cell" means a device in which the energy of a reaction between a fuel and an
- 81 oxidant is converted directly and continuously into electrical energy.
- 82 (8) "Governing authority" means:
- 83 (a) for a distribution electrical cooperative, its board of directors; and
- 84 (b) for each other electrical corporation, the Public Service Commission.
- 85 (9) "Inverter" means a device that:
- 86 (a) converts direct current power into alternating current power that is compatible with
- 87 power generated by an electrical corporation; and
- 88 (b) has been designed, tested, and certified to UL1741 and installed and operated in
- 89 accordance with the latest revision of IEEE1547, as amended.
- 90 (10) "Net electricity" means the difference, as measured at the meter owned by the
- 91 electrical corporation between:
- 92 (a) the amount of electricity that an electrical corporation supplies to a customer
- 93 participating in a net metering program; and
- 94 (b) the amount of customer-generated electricity delivered to the electrical corporation.
- 95 (11) "Net metering" means measuring the amount of net electricity for the applicable billing

period.

(12) "Net metering program" means a program administered by an electrical corporation

whereby a customer with a customer generation system may:

(a) generate electricity primarily for the customer's own use;

(b) supply customer-generated electricity to the electrical corporation; and

(c) if net metering results in excess customer-generated electricity during a billing period, receive a credit as provided in Section 54-15-104.

(13) "Portable solar generation device" means a moveable photovoltaic generation device that:

(a) has a maximum power output of not more than 1,200 watts;

(b) is designed to be connected to a building's electrical system through a standard 120-volt alternating current outlet;

(c) is intended primarily to offset part of the customer's electricity consumption;

(d) meets the standards of the most recent version of the National Electrical Code; and

(e) is certified by Underwriters Laboratories or an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory.

~~[(13)]~~ (14) "Switchgear" means the combination of electrical disconnects, fuses, or circuit breakers:

(a) used to:

(i) isolate electrical equipment; and

(ii) de-energize equipment to allow work to be performed or faults downstream to be cleared; and

(b) that is:

(i) designed, tested, and certified to UL1741; and

(ii) installed and operated in accordance with the latest revision of IEEE1547, as amended.

Section 2. Section **54-15-601** is enacted to read:

Part 6. Portable Solar Generation Device

54-15-601 . Portable solar generation device -- Exemptions -- Requirements.

(1) A portable solar generation device that meets the requirements of this part:

(a) is exempt from:

(i) the interconnection requirements described in Section 54-15-106; and

(ii) requirements to enter into an interconnection agreement under Section 54-15-103; and

130 (b) is not subject to the net metering program requirements under this chapter.

131 (2) A portable solar generation device shall include a device or feature that prevents the
132 system from energizing the building's electrical system during a power outage.

133 (3) An electrical corporation:

134 (a) may not require a customer using a portable solar generation device to:

135 (i) obtain the electrical corporation's approval before installing or using the system;

136 (ii) pay any fee or charge related to the system; or

137 (iii) install any additional controls or equipment beyond what is integrated into the
138 system; and

139 (b) is not liable for any damage or injury caused by a portable solar generation device.

140 **Section 3. Effective Date.**

141 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.