



Fact Sheet TVA Solar Growth

TVA, working with local power companies, offers sustainable programs that encourage renewable energy development, including solar, across the Tennessee Valley while maintaining affordable electric rates for 9 million power consumers.

TVA Solar Growth

- TVA has **124 megawatts of solar capacity in operation or committed for construction** as of July 31, 2013 – nearly the hydroelectric capacity of TVA's iconic Norris Dam.
- Since 2000, the number of **operating solar installations** in the Tennessee Valley has grown from 3 to 1,695, including installations at 91 schools.
- **TVA approved more than 250 new solar installations** at residential and commercial sites across the Tennessee Valley in FY 2013. More than 1,900 operating or approved solar installations are now in TVA programs.
- TVA and Pickwick Electric Cooperative are working with Strata Solar to develop **the two largest solar projects in the Tennessee Valley** – two 20-megawatt solar farms near Selmer, Tenn. They could provide enough electricity for 4,000 Valley homes for a year.
- TVA would pay Strata Solar market rates for energy from the Selmer solar farms through TVA's **Renewable Standard Offer** program – about half as much as under other TVA solar subsidy programs.
- TVA continues to offer available capacity that can **increase the amount of solar projects installed in the Tennessee Valley by about 40 percent**, when fully subscribed.
- In 2013, **Tennessee ranked seventh in the nation in total solar capacity** and ninth for non-residential capacity by the Solar Energy Industries Association.

TVA Solar Programs

- **Renewable Standard Offer.** In 2013, TVA made 100 megawatts of renewable capacity available through this program, with up to 50 megawatts for solar projects. Projects are greater than 50 kilowatts. TVA will buy this power at market rates, making this TVA's least-expensive solar power.
- **Solar Solution.** In 2013, TVA offered and approved 10 megawatts of new solar projects under this pilot program. Projects must be 1 megawatt to 50 kilowatts, and use certified Tennessee Valley installers. TVA will buy this power for an 8-cent premium per kWh above the market rate.
- **Green Power Providers.** Since October 2012, TVA has offered and approved 10 megawatts of new solar projects under this program. Projects are 50 kilowatts and less. TVA pays a 9-cent premium per kWh above retail rates in 2013. TVA put 2.5 megawatts of uninstalled capacity for 2013 back into the marketplace on Aug. 1, and the capacity quickly filled.



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TVA Solar Investment

- **TVA must balance** the need for incentives to support new sources of clean, renewable energy and the impact of these subsidies on consumer power bills. TVA's mission is to keep electric rates as low as feasible.
- **TVA will invest about \$25 million to buy solar energy in FY 2013** – part of about \$398 million TVA will spend on renewable energy and wind contracts this year.
- **TVA's average cost for all energy generation and delivery is 6.5 cents** per kilowatt-hour. Under its current renewable programs terms, TVA pays:
 - **Green Power Providers** – An average contracted price of 17 cents per kWh over 20 years for solar; 14 cents over 10 years for wind, biomass and small-scale hydro.
 - **Renewable Standard Offer** – An average market price of 7 cents per kWh for solar; 6 cents per kWh for other renewables over 20 years.

2013 SOLAR COSTS PER KWH

