

Photovoltaic (PV) Sustainable Energy Project

Information for OMC Residents

Ohana Military Communities (OMC) is continuing a long-term sustainable energy project through a partnership with SolarCity, a nationwide solar energy service provider. SolarCity is installing photovoltaic (PV) panels on rooftops in OMC's Hawaii Marine Corps and Navy communities.

The electricity generated by the PV systems reduces the amount of electricity purchased from other sources. This project was approved by MCBH and it is consistent with the Department of Defense and Department of Navy's energy conservation initiatives to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Please see below for answers to commonly asked questions.



FAQS

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will PV panels be put on every home?

A: No, PV panels will be installed only on selected homes. A limited number of PV systems can be connected to the electrical grid in a given area. This means the PV systems will be distributed across each neighborhood but not placed on every home. Homes will be selected for PV installation based on various factors including the amount of available roof space and the roof's orientation toward the sun.

Q: Will the PV system produce energy that will offset my electricity usage?

A: No, PV systems are connected to the electrical grid and not to your specific home.

Q: How will the PV system affect my electricity bills?

A: The PV system will not directly impact your electricity bill.

Q: What if I don't want PV panels on my roof?

A: The selection of which buildings are to receive PV systems is based on several factors, primarily roof space and roof orientation to the sun. We appreciate residents' patience while SolarCity completes this long-term sustainable energy project.

Q: How long does it take to install a PV system?

A: Once SolarCity begins work on a home, the installation generally takes 3-5 days, weather permitting.

Q: I already have panels on my roof. Aren't those PV?

A: No, all of our homes have solar water heater panels. These panels do not generate electricity like the PV systems. Installation of a PV system will not interfere with your solar water heater.

Q: How will this installation work affect me?

A: If SolarCity is installing PV systems on your home or on a home nearby, you may notice workers in the area, moderate levels of noise, and a small increase in traffic during the installation. Once PV systems have been installed in an area, there will be a temporary power outage on a future date while the PV systems are connected to the electrical grid. Residents will be notified in advance of any power outage and the power outage is expected to be brief.

If SolarCity is installing PV on your home, during work hours you'll need to keep your yard and lanai free from people and pets. No vehicles can be left in the driveway. SolarCity workers will monitor the area to make sure you and your family can safely enter and exit your home while crews are on the roof. Please remind children to stay a safe distance away from work crews, vehicles, equipment, and work areas.

Q: What are SolarCity's work hours?

A: SolarCity's crews will be on MCBH from 7 am - 6 pm. Installation will begin between 7:45 & 8:15 am and finish between 5 & 6 pm, Monday through Friday.



PV Project FAQs - Continued from Previous Page

Q: Will I need to be home during the PV installation?

A: No, residents will not need to be home during PV system installation. Installing the panels and connecting them to the grid does not require access to the interior of your home or garage. However, during installation your yard and lanai must be free from pets and there can be no vehicles left in your driveway.

Q: Will SolarCity need to enter my home?

A: No, installing PV systems doesn't require access to the interior of homes or garages.

Q: Will I have access to my driveway, lanai, and yard during PV installation?

A: You will have access to these areas on evenings and weekends. For your safety while installation is actively underway it will be necessary to keep your yard and lanai free from people and pets. No vehicles can be left in the driveway. At the end of each work day, the area will be secured so you can freely use your yard and driveway. SolarCity's work area will remain fenced off and will be marked with orange cones or construction fencing. Generally, these work areas will be located where they won't restrict access to your driveway or yard during the weekends or evenings.

Q: Will it be safe for my family to be in the house while SolarCity workers are on the roof?

A: Yes, but for their safety, please remind children to remain a safe distance from SolarCity's workers, equipment, vehicles, and marked work areas. SolarCity's workers will also monitor the area during installation and stop work as necessary while people are entering and exiting your home or garage. SolarCity's safety program makes resident and workplace safety their top priority and their work areas will be marked with orange cones or construction fencing. In addition, OMC will provide project oversight to ensure that SolarCity's employees abide by SolarCity's safety plan.

Q: When will all the PV systems be installed?

A: SolarCity expects it to take two or three years to finish installing all the PV systems throughout the various OMC neighborhoods.

Q: When will SolarCity be in my neighborhood?

A: If your home is selected for a PV system, you will be notified at least 2 weeks in advance. Each phase of this multi-year project will span one or more neighborhoods. Distributing each phase of PV system installations over a broader area is better for the electrical grid than doing the installations one street at a time.

Q: Will there be OMC representatives on site during the PV installation?

A: An OMC construction manager will oversee the project and periodically check worksites to monitor SolarCity's safety practices and work quality. However, feel free to contact our Makai Resident Services Office at (808) 839-8700 if you have any questions related to the PV installation project.

Q: What if I notice a roof leak after SolarCity installs the PV system?

A: Installation of PV panels should not cause any problems with your home. However, if you do notice any problems with your roof, regardless of the cause, please immediately contact OMC's Maintenance at (808) 833-HELP (4357).



Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this sustainability project. We hope the installation of these PV systems has minimal impact on our residents but we apologize in advanced for any inconvenience. If you have any additional questions, please contact our Makai Resident Services Office at (808) 839-8700.

