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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

These are the questions we get most often from customers, users, and visitors. We will update this FAQ list when we get more questions that are asked frequently.

When is SGCPC going to build their big solar field?

ANSWER The land acquisition is complete and the financing is approved. We have to finish the engineering and we anticipate starting construction in January 2026. The project should be completed by the summer of 2026.

There are many career opportunities in the solar energy industry. We will be inviting school groups to tour the project so they can learn about it and maybe decide they want to be in the solar business when they get older. These are jobs that cannot be outsourced and will grow over time.

How will solar energy make our electricity more affordable?

ANSWER SGCPC is restructuring the organization to separate the generation and sale of electricity from the sale and service of generators and sale of fuel. The company division that sells electricity, the energy side of SGCPC, will operate under a zero-profit model. Excess cash at the end of each year (year ending at the end of June) will be returned to Customers in the form of lower electricity rates.

The electricity rate will still be based on a fixed base cost (that covers overhead, operation, and maintenance) plus a fuel surcharge. These are similar to the way BPL operates. But we will adjust that rate based on how much excess cash we may be holding to return at the end of the year.

We are happy to discuss this in more detail with anyone that is interested. We hope to implement this plan early in 2026 after it is reviewed and approved by URCA.

Why does a Customer-owned PV System make electricity more expensive for other Customers in our community that cannot afford their own solar energy system?

ANSWER When Customers own a PV System they are reducing the electricity they buy from the grid. This results in the fixed expenses for each year to be spread across less electricity units. That results in the cost of each unit, each kWh, going up by some amount. The Customer(s) with the PV Systems pay less expense for energy but everyone else pays more.

Where can I find information about the interconnection and approval process, the fees, and the requirements for my PV System?

ANSWER All of this information is on the SGCPC website. Please refer to the "Resources and Blogs" page on the website. The process is detailed in the Grid Interconnection Requirements (GIR) document. You will need to submit a Grid Interconnection Application (GIA), a signed version of the GIA Terms and Conditions, and pay the fees posted in the Fee Structure Addendum. The GIA lists the information required with your application.

Your installer will have to be a licensed three-phase electrician with a valid business license.

We encourage you to talk with us before you sign a contract and pay a deposit for a privately owned PV System. You can email us at SGCPSolarEnergy@gmail.com or info@StGeorgesCayPower.com if you have specific questions.

How can I learn more about a solar-energy system before I buy it?

ANSWER It is a good idea to get educated about what you are buying. Think about how much time you invest in the decision to buy a new boat or remodel your kitchen. This is a major purchase and you should get as much knowledge as possible in advance. That will help ensure a successful outcome.

Will SGCPC pay me for electricity that I export to the grid from my PV System?

ANSWER Once the Renewable Energy Plan (REP) is approved and the Customer's system is fully approved to operate, then yes, SGCPC will credit the Customer for the energy exported each month. The rate being paid is the rate that SGCPC can make solar electricity from its own systems, which is required by the 2024 Electricity Act.

The export cannot be more than what the Customer consumes, because that would effectively make the Customer an Independent Power Producer, and SGCPC is not accepting applications of that nature. There is no "carry forward" of exported energy from one month to the next.

Who owns the electric utility meter at my home?

ANSWER SGCPC owns the meter. The Customer that has a PV System has to pay a recurring fee for that meter, but ownership will always remain with SGCPC. This is the same as every utility company and meter.

Can PV Systems that were installed without permits or authorization be "grandfathered" and allowed to operate without applications, permits, or complying with the Bahamas electrical code?

ANSWER No. What you are asking is that Customers that didn't comply with regulations and the laws requiring permits be rewarded for doing so.

All installations require SGCPC approval, a permit from Town Council, and a permit and inspection from Ministry of Works. This is to protect the homeowner, grid technicians, and neighbors. Allowing Customers that installed illegally to avoid this process as an incentive to the illegal installation would negate the protections to the community provided by these steps.

Bahamas Power and Light (BPL) also does not allow "grandfathering" of projects built without proper pre-approvals.

What happens if a Customer fails to get their existing PV System approved as required by SGCPC, Town Council, and Ministry of Works?

ANSWER The 2024 Electricity Act, Section 523(6), states that URCA may direct SGCPC to disconnect the Customer from the grid. A Customer violating Section 25 directly may be fined by URCA up to \$25,000 plus \$1,000 a day for a continuing offense. A Customer violating a regulation made pursuant to the EA2024 (such as SGCPC's regulations) may be by URCA up to \$5,000 plus \$750 a day for a continuing offense.

Can an off-grid Customer run an extension cord of some sort from the grid to their batteries to periodically charge their batteries?

ANSWER No. That would effectively make that Customer an on-grid Customer with a PV System, and that would require submittals and compliance as a PV System. The intention of this program is to provide electrical safety and stability of the grid, and That action would be contravening the regulations that are in place specifically to protect the safety and welfare of the community. Charging batteries from a neighbor's property is beyond the scope of these regulations.

How do I get approval to operate my system as an Off-Grid System?

ANSWER This approval comes directly from URCA. Please refer to the URCA website for more information.