

Photovoltaic (PV) Sustainable Energy Project Information for HMC Residents



SHAW FAMILY HOUSING is continuing a long-term sustainable energy project through a partnership with South Coast Solar, a nationwide solar energy service provider. South Coast Solar is installing photovoltaic (PV) panels on rooftops in HMC's Air Force communities, which will help reduce our carbon footprint and ultimately lessen our usage of foreign fuels.

The project was approved by the Department of the Air Force and is consistent with the Department of Defense's energy conservation initiatives to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Please see below for answers to commonly asked questions.



Frequently Asked Questions



Q: Will PV panels be put on every home?

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 roofs orientation toward the sun, and electrical provider (Duke Energy as opposed to Black River Cooperative).

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

No, PV systems are connected to the electrical grid and not to your specific home. The project intends to source a large portion of its power from renewable energy in order to meet long term sustainment goals and help make our community as environmentally sound as possible.

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

The PV system will not directly impact your electricity bill.

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

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 South Coast Solar completes this long-term sustainable energy project. This project will have little or no impact on your family or residence.

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

Once South Coast Solar begins work on a home, the installation generally takes 3-5 days, weather permitting.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How will this installation work affect me?

If South Coast Solar 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. The power outage may impact you even if PV is not installed on your home; however, the power outage is expected to be brief.

If South Coast Solar is installing PV on your home, during work hours you'll need to keep your yard free from people, pets, and vehicles. South Coast Solar 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: Will I need to be home during the PV installation?

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 must be free from pets and there can be no vehicles parked in your driveway.

Q: Will South Coast Solar need to enter my home?

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

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

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 free from people and pets. Fenced-in yards should be left unlocked to allow South Coast Solar access. 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. South Coast Solar's work area will remain fenced off and 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 South Coast Solar workers are on the roof?

Yes, but for their safety, please remind children to remain a safe distance from South Coast Solar's workers, equipment, vehicles, and marked work areas. South Coast Solar's workers will also monitor the area during installation and stop work as necessary while people are entering and exiting your home or garage. South Coast Solar'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, SHAW FAMILY HOUSING will provide project oversight to ensure that South Coast Solar's employees abide by a safety plan.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When will all the PV systems be installed?

Once the PV project has started, South Coast Solar expects it to take less than six months to finish installing all the PV systems throughout the various SHAW FAMILY HOUSING neighborhoods.

Q: When will South Coast Solar be in my neighborhood?

If your home is selected for a PV system, you will be notified at least one week in advance.



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

A housing construction manager will oversee the project and periodically check work sites to monitor South Coast Solar safety practices and work quality. However, feel free to contact your Community Office if you have any questions related to the PV project.

Q: What if I notice a roof leak after South Coast Solar installs the PV system?

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 SHAW FAMILY HOUSING Maintenance at (803) 666-2211.

Q: What are South Coast Solar's work hours?

South Coast Solar's crews will be on site from 7 am - 6 pm. Installation will begin between 7:45 -8:15 am and finish between 5-6 pm, Monday through Friday.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this sustainability project. We hope the installation of these PV systems have minimal impact on our residents, and we apologize in advance for any inconvenience. If you have any additional questions, please contact your Resident Services Office at:

(803-499-3074)

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