



Commission on Electric Utility Regulation

Small Portable Solar/Balcony Solar

Background

- An average-sized rooftop solar system costs \$25,000-\$40,000 without incentives depending on location and battery storage capacity.
- Plug-in systems are currently 80-97% cheaper than rooftop arrays (\$600- \$5,000, depending on size and battery storage capacity).
- Renters, apartment dwellers, and homeowners with unsuitable roofs can produce their own clean energy through this portable solar system.

Policy proposal:

Facilitating adoption of portable small solar systems (“balcony solar”)

Description:

Additional language since Subcommittee #3 meeting on December 2nd, 2025

- Prohibits localities from banning portable solar systems if such systems are in compliance with any height and setback requirements in the zoning district where such property is located; (ii) are in compliance with any provisions pertaining to any local historic, architectural preservation, or corridor protection district

Recommendations for 2026

- Defines a new class of small portable solar systems, under 1,200 watts
- Connects directly to a standard home outlet
- Meets the standards of the most recent version of the National Electric Code and is certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory
- Exempts these systems from interconnection requirements and net metering agreements
- Provides liability protections for utilities