

Solar & Energy Efficiency Funding Resources in the San Joaquin Valley

San Joaquin Valley is located in an excellent area for solar generation with ample opportunities for enhancing energy efficiency. Transitioning to a more sustainable energy supply not only provides environmental benefits like enhanced air quality, but it also delivers a host of economic benefits from green job creation to market development.



Below, you'll find the latest resources and information available for financing solar and energy efficiency market expansion through the San Joaquin Valley, whether you're a resident, business, installer or local government agency. This webpage provides essential resources for residential and commercial property owners that are considering an investment in solar and energy efficiency, as well as specific requirements and resources for municipalities and other industry professionals.

Please explore this webpage to find funding sources for a variety of initiatives in your region. Let us know if you're applying to any of the following funding opportunities. We may be able to partner/offer assistance.

FUNDING SOLAR & ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADES

Below are a few selected resources available for residential, commercial, and local government property owners that are considering an investment in solar and energy efficiency. Access a more extensive resource library, searchable by topic and keyword, at <http://www.cleanenergyroadmap.com/resources/>.

- **Regional Funding Resources for Residents & Businesses:**
 - **Energy Upgrade California** – A state initiative to help Californians find regional energy efficiency [programs](https://energyupgradeca.org/en/), [financing](#), and [incentives](#). <https://energyupgradeca.org/en/>
 - **Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE)** – PACE programs allow local governments to offer solar and energy efficiency loans for eligible residential and commercial property owners, along with the ability to repay the loan on their property tax bill over an extended term. PACE financing is currently offered via [CaliforniaFirst](#), [Hero](#), and [Fig Tree](#) programs throughout many SJV communities.
 - **GRID Alternatives** – A non-profit organization that sponsors solar PV installations and job training for qualifying low-income single-family and multifamily residences. <http://www.gridalternatives.org/>
 - **Federal Housing Administration (FHA) PowerSaver Loans** – The PowerSaver Loan Program offers eligible homeowners competitive interest rate loans for up to 20 years for renewable energy projects. <http://programs.dsireusa.org/system/program/detail/5631>
 - **Educational Employees Credit Union (EECU) Energy Efficiency Loan** – Members of the EECU can take out a competitive energy efficiency loan between \$100 and \$40,000 to install solar systems and increase energy efficiency. <http://www.myeecu.org/home/products/loans-credit-cards/personal>
 - **GSFA Residential Energy Retrofit Program** – Low interest rate financing of energy efficiency home improvements. <http://www.gsfahome.org/programs/energy/overview.shtml>

- **Regional Utility Customer Resources**
 - **Pacific Gas & Electric's [Energy Saving Resources for Homes and Businesses](#)** – Clean energy incentives and resources.
 - **Southern California Edison's [Energy Saving Resources for Homes and Businesses](#)** – Clean energy incentives and resources.
 - **[Central Valley Energy Tune-Up](#)** – Free home and business energy assessment program for Central Valley residents.
 - **[Madera Energy Watch](#)** – PG&E energy efficiency partnership providing technical assistance to Madera County.
 - **[Fresno Energy Watch](#)** – PG&E energy efficiency partnership that provides technical assistance to Fresno County.
 - **[Kern Energy Watch](#)** – PG&E energy efficiency partnership that provides technical assistance to Kern County.
 - **[Valley Innovative Energy Watch](#)** – Energy savings program for Tulare and Kings County residents and businesses

- **SJV Local Government Funding Resources**
 - **California Energy Commission (CEC) Energy Conservation Assistance Act Low Interest Loans.** The CEC developed a 1% interest loan program for public entities in California to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. <http://www.energy.ca.gov/efficiency/financing/>
 - **Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs).** CREBs are federally subsidized bonds that can offer attractive project financing compared to traditional tax-exempt municipal bonds. They can be issued to fund and support renewable energy projects and can have an effective interest rate below 2-3%, and sometimes below 1%, depending on market conditions. <http://energy.gov/savings/clean-renewable-energy-bonds-crebs>
 - **Tax-Exempt Lease Purchase (TELP).** Municipalities seeking to avoid issuing bonds can consider entering into TELP programs, similar to those used by many cities to fund other types of construction projects. TELPs allow municipalities to buy a solar installation over time through lease payments, while also saving on current and future utility bills. <http://energy.gov/eere/slsc/leasing-arrangements>

The [Sustainable Energy Roadmap \(SER\)](#) is an 18-month effort focused on providing free resources and technical assistance to San Joaquin Valley jurisdictions to improve their sustainability and social equity goals. The initiative, sponsored by California's Strategic Growth Council, uses an innovative online roadmap platform and hands-on engagement to assist jurisdictions where sustainable energy potential is abundant, but resources and information are scarce. With help from the SER team, participating jurisdictions develop a customized policy roadmap containing guidance to set and pursue goals related to smart growth, transportation, land use, climate and energy.



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