

For Immediate Release May 25, 2022

YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL APPROVES \$80,000 GRACE SWEENEY SOLAR REBATE PROGRAM

YPSILANTI, Michigan – Last night, the Ypsilanti City Council voted unanimously to approve the \$80,000 Grace Sweeney Solar Rebate Program. Grace Sweeney and Pete Murdock were long-time Ypsilanti residents and very involved in the community. Pete passed away in 2019 followed by Grace in 2021. Grace was a fierce supporter of education, libraries, unions, solar power, and people. Grace Sweeney left a total of \$73,149.50 to SolarYpsi, which is passing it on to the City of Ypsilanti for this rebate program and 100% of her donation will go to residents to help lower the cost of installing solar. The City of Ypsilanti is contributing \$6,000 towards the project and plans to use Community Development Block Grant Funding (CDBG) of \$50,000 to further subsidize the cost of solar installations in the Heritage Park Neighborhood for ten homes. In total, 40 homes will receive \$2,000 rebates from the Grace Sweeney Solar Rebate Program and 10 of those will receive an additional \$5,000 from the CDBG program. The cost of each solar installation ranges from \$9,000 to \$15,000 depending on size and a 26% federal tax credit is available but each property owner will be responsible for a \$1,000 minimum contribution towards the project.

"Ypsilanti has been a leader in solar power for the past 16 years. Ypsilanti currently has over 1.5MW of solar power which equates to 85.6 watt per capita and ranks Ypsi at 22 in the nation, on par with San Francisco, Seattle, New York, and other big cities. This is the first city based solar rebate program in the State of Michigan and hopefully a model for other communities to follow."

There are several proposed requirements for solar rebate grant program including:

1. Rebate only available for property in the City of Ypsilanti.
2. CDBG Funding is only available to projects in the NEZ/Heritage Park Neighborhood based on eligibility requirements
3. The complete solar installation including all electrical work needs to be \$3.00 per watt or lower.
4. Minimum solar installation size is 2kW. No maximum size limit.
5. Contractor and homeowner installations are eligible.
6. One solar rebate per address. Available to homeowners, rentals, businesses, and non-profits.
7. Solar rebate reservations open June 1, 2022 and closes May 31, 2023.
8. Solar installation must be completed 6 months from initial permit.

How it works

1. Owner gets a written quote from one or more licensed solar contractors. A list of contractors can be found here: <https://www.2qlrea.org/business-directory>
2. Owner verifies that they have a quote that is \$3.00/watt or lower to qualify for rebate.
3. Owner sends the quote to City Hall (email or hardcopy) to reserve a rebate slot.
4. Owner is sent a notice by letter or email that the project is eligible for \$2,000 rebate. A rebate slot is not reserved until the owner/contractor pays for all required city building permits.
5. Owner tells the solar contractor to perform the work.
6. Owner/Contractor pulls and pays for all required City permits. Once permits are paid in full, the project will be notified by letter or email that a solar rebate slot has been reserved for the project.
7. Solar project is complete and passes all inspections within the 6-month time limit.
8. Rebate check for \$2,000 is sent to the named owner on the city permit.
9. Rebate award decisions are at the sole discretion of the City of Ypsilanti.
10. Owner will sign a hold harmless agreement with the City of Ypsilanti for protection against any liability arising from solar installation.

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