

Exploring Distributed Generation

What Questions Should You Ask?

Distributed Generation is a solar system, either on a roof or mounted on the ground, that generates electricity that's used directly on site. Systems can range from small arrays to serve the electric load of a home or business or large arrays to serve the electric load of an industrial site, factory, or other large electricity user. There's a lot to think about, so you should examine your specific goals and considerations, find a vendor you're comfortable working with, and carefully consider project and financial details. More information is available at illinoisshines.com.

Here are some questions you should ask prospective solar vendors about your project:



Your Offer

REC Incentive Passthroughs to Customers

Does your offer include REC incentives that my project is producing, such as lowered purchase or installation costs, leases costs, or monthly power purchase costs energy? If so, please review that with me from my Disclosure Form.

- Note: Illinois Shines uses an "Approved Vendor" model, where Approved Vendors contract with utilities and receive REC incentive payments, not customers. Approved Vendors may pass incentives on to customers in the form of reduced equipment, installation, lease or power purchase costs for distributed generation projects, or reduced community solar subscription costs.

Budget and Contract Terms

What is the total project budget, including all costs, incentives, contractual commitments, and payment terms?



About Your Vendor

Experience and References

What similar projects and customers has your company installed?



Your System

Products Used

What solar panels and inverters does your company use?

Permitting and Applications

Who will secure the necessary permits and submit the net-metering and Program applications?

Panel Installation

Who performs the installation? How long will it take? What parts of my home will installers need access to?

Energy Storage

Will the system use a battery storage component? If so, are there added costs?



Post-Installation

System Performance

What performance warranties and system insurance are included?

Support and Maintenance

What support, maintenance, and repair services are offered by the provider? Is removal or reinstallation provided if the roof needs replacement? Is your system under warranty?

Building Transfer

What happens to the system if you move?

Contract Assignment

Can the company sell your contract? What if the solar provider goes out of business?

