

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD**IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT**

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION by **NOVA SCOTIA POWER INCORPORATED**
for an amendment to the Smart Grid Nova Scotia Solar Garden Pilot Rate Rider

BEFORE:




Stephen T. McGrath, K.C., Chair
Roland A. Deveau, K.C., Vice Chair

DECISION and ORDER

On November 25, 2021, the Board issued an Order approving a Solar Garden Pilot Rate Rider (Matter M10176) in connection with NS Power's Smart Grid Nova Scotia Project (Matter M09519).

On March 22, 2022, the Board issued a Decision and Order approving an amendment to the Rate Rider (Matter M10491) reducing the 1 kW increment required for subscription to the program to a 0.25 kW minimum increment to allow low electricity consumption customers to subscribe to the Rate Rider.

Due to the delayed timing of the asset disposition filing for the Smart Grid Nova Scotia (SGNS) Project (including the Solar Garden), NS Power applied on November 15, 2024, to amend the Rate Rider to add a 2% increase to the solar energy credit in 2025, bringing it to 5.946 cents per kWh. A further amendment was proposed to Solar Garden Rate Rider special provision 8 about evaluation of the Rider post-SGNS Project to reflect the delayed timing of the asset disposition filing. The Board is satisfied that these amendments to the Rate Rider Tariff are appropriate.

The Board orders the following:

1. The amendments to the Solar Garden Pilot Rate Rider are approved. The revised Tariff is attached as Appendix A.
2. In all other respects, the Board's Order issued November 21, 2021, as amended in 2022, remains in effect.

DATED at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 5th day of December 2024.



Clerk of the Board

 **APPENDIX A****PURPOSE**

The Solar Garden Pilot Rate Rider is an optional tariff that will provide eligible NSPI customers in good standing the opportunity to subscribe up to 100% of their annual energy consumption from the generation output of a 2,000 kW Solar Garden in the Town of Amherst, Nova Scotia as part of the scope of NS Power's Smart Grid Nova Scotia Project, which was approved by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board on May 7, 2020. Customers taking this service will be referred to as "community solar subscribers".

AVAILABILITY

The Solar Garden Pilot Rate Rider is available on a first-come, first-served basis to customers who have annual consumption of less than 10,000 MWh per year. Customers served in Amherst where the Solar Garden will be located will have subscription priority over other customers.

60 percent of the capacity of the Solar Garden will be reserved for domestic customers, and the remainder for other customer classes.

Subscription will be limited to the total nameplate capacity of the facility, to be confirmed upon completion of the construction of the facility.

Customers who take Net Metering Service are not eligible for the SGNS Solar Garden Pilot Rate Rider.

APPLICABILITY

A customer will receive generation output from the Solar Garden on the basis of their subscription to installed capacity of the Solar Garden in 0.25 kW increments. The maximum kW of the customer's subscription will be sized to meet their expected annual consumption or 100 kW, whichever is smaller. No individual customer will be allowed to subscribe to more than 100 kW of installed capacity of the Solar Garden.

MONTHLY SOLAR CAPACITY CHARGE

A customer may subscribe to capacity of the Solar Garden by paying a Monthly Solar Capacity Charge for each kW increment subscribed. The subscription fee is paid monthly that accounts for the costs to build, operate and maintain the Solar Garden, and the administration costs to operate the Community Solar Pilot.

The Customer shall continue to pay the fee, even if solar garden generation is temporarily interrupted for any reason. Subscribers will be notified by email of any interruptions lasting longer than three days and involving more than 25% of the solar garden capacity. Subscribers can cancel their subscription at any time.

Monthly Solar Capacity Charge

\$6.86 per kW subscribed.

The same charge will apply regardless of the customer's current rate class.

SOLAR ENERGY CREDIT

Customers under the Solar Garden Pilot Rate Rider will receive a credit on their NS Power bill for the amount of subscribed generated output from the Solar Garden as a "per kWh" line item on each participant's bill.

The monthly Solar Energy Credit will be equal to the product of:

- The Solar Energy Credit rate as set forth below and
- The proportional share measured in kWh of the total monthly generation output from the Solar Garden for that month to which the Solar Energy Credit is applicable is determined on the basis of the number of subscribed kW. The month in which the Solar Energy Credit is applied to the customer's bill may not match the month in which the energy was generated due to the timing of the billing cycle.

The Solar Energy Credit will be applied to the customer's bill. The Solar Energy Credit will reflect the value of the energy provided by the Smart Grid Nova Scotia Solar Garden. Credits will be paid out every billing period. For accounts billed under domestic time-of-day services, the value of the Solar Energy Credit does not change per distinct time-of-use period.

The Solar Energy Credit is calculated and applied based on the actual generation of the Solar Garden.

The solar energy credit will be 5.493 c/kWh in 2021, and will be automatically adjusted with a two percent increase on an annual basis per the schedule below.

Year	Cents per kilowatt hour (c/kWh)
2021	5.493
2022	5.603
2023	5.715
2024	5.829
2025	5.946

The same credit will apply regardless of the customer's current rate class.

BILLING & METERING

Customers under the Solar Garden Pilot Rate Rider will also be billed the otherwise applicable Tariffs.

Solar Energy Credits will be measured based on the total metered production of the Solar Garden to the grid, as measured by the billing meter on the Smart Grid Nova Scotia Solar Garden site. This will be the generation net of any consumption for operation of the Solar Garden.

Customers will receive information on the performance of the Solar Garden via email each month, in addition to their utility bill.

NS Power reserves the right to modify the Customer's current billing cycle if it contributes to operating the Solar Garden and Solar Garden Pilot Rate Rider more efficiently. In such a circumstance, NS Power would notify the Customer at the time of subscription or, where the modification occurs following subscription, with 30 days notice.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

- 1) NS Power reserves the right to deny or terminate subscriptions under this tariff to customers in arrears with the Company. Customers who are denied or terminated may subscribe for service to the Solar Garden Pilot Rate Rider upon their reinstatement of good standing with the Company and will be accommodated on a first come, first serve basis. For clarity, reinstated customers will not resume their original subscription in the Solar Garden Pilot Rate Rider, but will be treated as a new subscriber and may be placed on a waitlist if applicable.
- 2) Service under the Solar Garden Pilot Rate Rider may be limited at the discretion of the Company.
- 3) NS Power has the right to complete regular maintenance at its sole discretion, and may repair or replace any equipment as necessary without notice to the Customer of such changes(s). NS Power will endeavor to do so in a manner that minimizes impact to subscribing customers.
- 4) Customers who move and maintain utility service with NS Power may maintain their subscription.
- 5) Customers may cancel their subscription at any time and can apply to resubscribe at any time. Customers resubscribing will be placed on a waiting list as any new subscriber in the event capacity to the solar garden is fully subscribed.
- 6) Customers who subscribe once the Solar Garden and Solar Garden Pilot Rate Rider are operational will begin incurring charges and accruing credits upon confirmation of their subscription capacity. All charges and credits will be pro-rated to the date of confirmation.
- 7) NS Power will be held harmless for the failure to realize energy credits should the Solar Garden Pilot Rate Rider close for any reason.

- 8) The Solar Garden Pilot Rate Rider will be reevaluated at the end of NS Power's Smart Grid Nova Scotia Project Pilot as part of its asset disposition application, and adjustments to the tariff may be made at that time, subject to NSUARB approval.
- 9) Adjustments to the monthly solar capacity charge and solar energy credit may be made at any time, but must, on a net basis, be economically favourable to subscribers until 2031. After 2031, or an earlier point in time if changes to the charge and credit are made that result in positive cumulative benefit before then, the one-way ratchet should be eliminated and the tariff shall be open for review.