

Attention: Mid VI Residents and Businesses

**Announcement: *Exciting Solar PV Opportunity!***

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For contact or more information, check out our website at: [www.islandsolarcoop.ca](http://www.islandsolarcoop.ca)

## **Solar PV Made Easy!**

ICSC is coordinating a mid-Vancouver Island community grid-tie **solar PV bulk buy program**, with scope covering design, supply, permitting, install and commission. This would be similar but not identical to the very successful bulk buy completed in the Gulf Islands by the Salish Sea Renewable Energy Coop in 2018. Our intention is to help people get the best value in solar PV while increasing our membership and developing the capacity to grow our budding co-op social enterprise.

### **How It Works**

- Residential and business members of ICSC in the mid-Vancouver Island region are eligible to participate (\$50 "lifetime" membership share cost);
- Owner cost savings of at least 15% over published market pricing [www.energyhub.org/cost-solar-power-canada/](http://www.energyhub.org/cost-solar-power-canada/) can be expected. Considering most homeowners can expect to pay \$10,000 to \$20,000 for a grid-tie solar PV system, this is substantial savings. *Example: For a 6 kW system and assuming average Energyhub pricing, the savings will be at least \$2,400!*
- The program requires a minimum total of 200 kW of committed solar installs (about 30 homes) before August 31, 2019 to proceed – but we are aiming for 250 kW or more!
- ICSC has negotiated a bulk buy-install program agreement with [Viridian Energy Co-operative](#), a leading solar PV vendor/electrical contractor, which provides best overall value for participants, including not only price but quality and warranty. In this ICSC is acting as a third party introduction service and participants electing to proceed with an installation will contract directly with Viridian;
- Those interested in the bulk buy-install program may request a complimentary cost estimate with no obligation or commitment;
- Those prospective participants who are serious about committing to the bulk buy-install program will pay a \$150 fee to ICSC to cover a detailed solar PV site assessment, a firm price quotation from Viridian and ICSC advertising, administrative and development costs. Payment of this fee does not confirm that a prospective participant will proceed with an order;
- Viridian will complete detailed solar PV system sizing, financial analysis and fixed price quotes for all seriously committed participants. A fixed price option cost for a structural engineering assessment will also be provided if requested;
- If requested by a prospective participant, Viridian will also provide separate price quotes for service panel upgrades, electric vehicle charging stations or other electrical work that may be convenient to complete at the same time as the solar PV system installation;
- Procurement of equipment and materials can begin as soon as Viridian receives confirmed participant deposits (50% of total order cost) on a minimum total of 200 kW of solar installs;
- Installations will begin as soon as the equipment arrives, between late 2019 and early 2020, before the 2020 peak solar months. Equipment shipping time is currently around 6 weeks;
- Anyone signing up as interested in the bulk buy-install program will be updated on the program status via email every month. **Register your interest now at [info@islandsolarcoop.ca](mailto:info@islandsolarcoop.ca)!**

### **Limitation**

- Viridian has the right to refuse any solar PV jobs that are not suitable because of excessive shading, old age of building or roof, poor state of existing electrical equipment or other reasons that preclude a successful solar PV install;

## ICSC Bulk Buy-Install Program FAQ (frequently asked questions)

Q1. I am a do-it-yourselfer. Can I just purchase the equipment instead of a fully installed system?

A1. *Requests for solar PV equipment supply only will be considered at the discretion of Viridian Energy Co-operative. These requests are likely to be addressed once the ICSC bulk buy-install program has reached its goal of 200 kW of committed installed solar PV systems. Those wishing equipment only should indicate this in their note of interest to [info@islandsolarcoop.ca](mailto:info@islandsolarcoop.ca). Please note that all solar PV system building/grid electrical wiring terminations must be completed according to the Canadian Electrical Code, under an electrical permit issued by Technical Safety BC.*

Q2. Do I have to get permission from BC Hydro to install solar PV on my home or business?

A2. *Yes, if you are a BC Hydro customer. You must sign up for the "Net Metering" program [www.bchydro.com/netmetering](http://www.bchydro.com/netmetering) to "grid tie" your system. Viridian (the vendor) will apply on your behalf.*

Q3. How do I know I will get a quality solar PV installation?

A3. *Viridian will provide solar modules from the [PVEL 2019 Top Performers](#) list and adhere to non-profit Energy Solutions for Vancouver Island's Small Solar PV System Installation Specification [www.esvi.ca/solar-pv-specification/](http://www.esvi.ca/solar-pv-specification/). Viridian will also provide an industry leading 5 year workmanship warranty on all systems.*

Q4. Do I really have to get a structural engineering assessment before getting a solar PV system installed on my roof?

A4. *No; however, ICSC recommends you do. The added cost of around \$1,200 is worth the peace of mind.*

Q5. How long does it take to install a solar PV system on a typical home?

A5. *Many home systems can be installed in just one day – others can take two or more days depending on job scope.*

Q6. How long does a solar PV system last?

A6. *Solar PV module performance warranties are normally 25 years; however, the modules are expected to last 30 years or more. This is why it is best to install a solar PV system on a newer roof.*

Q7. Isn't the payback on solar PV still very long? What if I won't be in my house that long?

A7. *While the payback on solar PV is still longer than ten years, the investment in your home is like adding a rental suite, because it essentially adds a revenue source. This means the market value of your home will increase, so you (or your estate) can recapture that investment whenever the property is sold.*

Q8. Didn't the government just announce controls on BC Hydro price increases for the next few years?

A8. *Yes; however, this has occurred in the past and history shows us that, over the long term, BC Hydro rate increases are likely to be between 2.5%/year and 6%/year. See [www.esvi.ca/reasons-to-generate-your-own-clean-electricity/](http://www.esvi.ca/reasons-to-generate-your-own-clean-electricity/)*

Q9. Are batteries required to benefit from solar PV generated power?

A9. *Not if you are connected to the BC Hydro grid – then a "grid-tie" (no batteries) system can be installed.*

Q10. Can I get batteries installed with my grid-tie solar PV system?

A10. *Yes. Viridian can install a "grid-tie with battery backup" type system. Ask for this before you get your quotation.*

Q11. I have a 200 Amp electrical service in my home. How big of a solar PV system can I install?

A11. *Normally there is enough spare room in a 200 Amp residential service to allow for up to a 10 kW solar PV system (32 solar PV modules rated at 310 watts each).*

Q12. Is ICSC planning on running another bulk buy-install program in the future?

A12. *ICSC may or may not run another bulk buy-install program; it depends on community demand at the time.*

Q13. Your proposed schedule indicates installations will occur between late 2019 and early 2020. How can I ensure I get my solar PV system in 2019?

A13. *Pass the word and help get as many folks signed up as quickly as possible – procurement can begin as soon as we reach the minimum 200 kW total of confirmed participants!*

Q14. Can I get an electric vehicle charging station installed at the same time as my solar PV system?

A14. *Yes, Viridian has the required expertise and you may arrange this directly with them.*

Q15. Where can I learn more about the basics of solar PV energy?

A15. *We recommend you check out the free and unbiased resources at <https://esvi.ca/learn-about-solar-energy/>*