

## Yorba Linda Resident Goes Solar for Financial and Environmental Benefits

### Use of Power Purchase Agreement Financing Cuts Summer Electricity Bills Up to Half

When Orange County homeowner C. Thomas Musson said he started noticing his summer electricity bills topping \$300 per month, he decided he needed to make some changes.



He had already installed double-paned windows and wall insulation, plus upgraded to a more efficient air conditioner and water heater. But after hearing about solar systems, he looked into them and liked what he saw. Making the decision to tap into the power of the sun to generate electricity helped him cut his bills during the hot summer months up to half.

Tom selected an installer who presented him with the option to lease the solar system from a third party under a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Through a PPA, a customer pays monthly for the electricity generated by the solar generating system,



SCE customer C. Thomas Musson

without the higher up-front costs sometimes associated with a solar generating system purchase. In exchange, the PPA provider owns, operates and maintains the system, plus receives the California Solar Initiative (CSI) rebate and Federal Investment Tax Credit for the system installation.

While Tom, who runs his own business, understands the benefits of purchasing and owning a system, "the cost can be prohibitive," he says. He recognizes that "you may have better uses of cash in the interim."

Tom had his 24 roof-mounted panels installed in early 2011. Under his 20-year PPA agreement, he paid \$500 upfront, with an approximately \$150 fixed monthly payment using his provider's "balanced billing plan," in addition to an annual reconciliation when the actual output differs from the estimated output.

### Savings by Managing Electricity

**Location:** Yorba Linda, Orange County, California

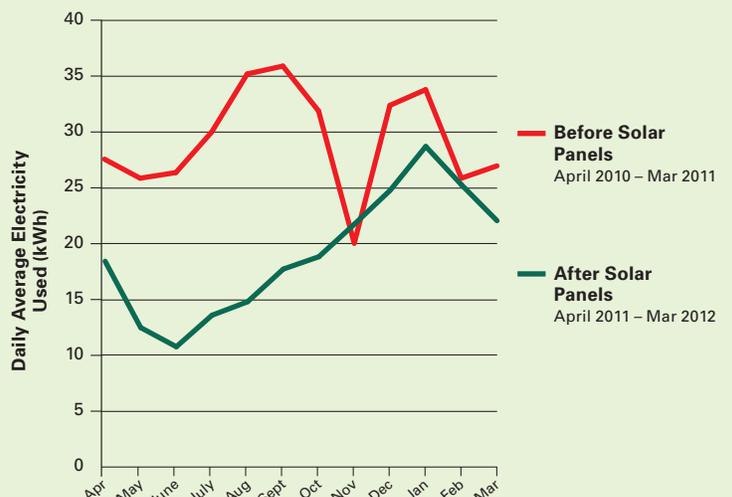
**Home size:** 2,000 square feet; 3 BR, 2 BA

**System size:** 4.8 kW; 24 roof-mounted fixed panels

**Programs utilized:** California Solar Initiative (CSI)

**Results:** Lower electricity bills and greenhouse gas emissions

Average Power Usage Before & After Installation of Solar Panels



**"I like everything about [the solar system]."  
As for the decision to lease his solar panels  
under a Power Purchase Agreement instead  
of purchasing them up front, "You may have  
better uses of cash in the interim."**

— Homeowner and Solar Electricity User  
C. Thomas Musson



"I like everything about it," he says of the system, noting that his motivation included both financial and environmental considerations. "We've got to do something" to help the Earth, he explains, adding that in his own way he's contributing to increased use of renewable energy in the state by "giving his business to the sun."

Now, Tom spreads the word about solar. An antique car enthusiast, he refers his solar contractor to fellow members of a car club. "Even though the average age of members is in their 50s and 60s, and they're aficionados of old gas cars that pollute, when it comes to their homes they're going green," Tom says, demonstrating that those who appreciate the technology of the past can embrace today's and tomorrow's advances to benefit themselves and generations to come.

## **The California Solar Initiative (CSI) Helps Homeowners Harvest the Sun**

**Go Solar California!** Energy customers like you are part of California's campaign to create 3,000 megawatts of renewable solar-produced electricity — the equivalent to taking six natural gas-fired power plants offline — and moving the state toward a cleaner energy future.

The CSI program provides up-front or performance-based incentives for residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural properties. In addition, a 30 percent Federal Investment Tax Credit (U.S. Federal ITC) is available on the net cost of the system after the CSI rebate. The combination of the CSI rebate and the Federal ITC can cover as much as 40 percent of the average installed cost of a solar system for the system owner. In addition, with so much solar energy coming online, systems have become much more affordable for consumers. Residents also have the option of

leasing a solar system (including through a Power Purchase Agreement), which involves lower up-front capital costs and either fixed monthly payments no matter how much electricity is produced or monthly payments based on the amount of electricity generated by the system.

By choosing to "Go Solar," customers can reduce annual operating costs and potentially increase the resale value of their property. Some real estate appraisers have estimated that every \$1,000 of electricity savings per year that is offset by a solar system can increase a home's average resale value by as much as \$20,000.

**Learn more about turning sunshine into energy —  
visit the following Web sites:**

- SCE's **Home Energy Survey** at [www.sce.com](http://www.sce.com) takes just 15 minutes and can help you find opportunities to save and lower your up-front investment in a solar system.
- SCE offers customers a series of free **CSI Homeowner Solar Classes and Solar Connection Events**. You can learn how to take advantage of the financial incentives available through the California Solar Initiative by calling (866) 970-9221 or visiting [www.sce.com/solartraining](http://www.sce.com/solartraining).
- To find a list of licensed solar contractors, visit [www.californiasolarstatistics.com/search/contractor/](http://www.californiasolarstatistics.com/search/contractor/)
- To find out about available tax credits, visit the **Tax Incentives Assistance Project** at [www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr\\_tax\\_credit](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_tax_credit)
- For solar industry information, visit the **Solar Energy Industries Association** at [www.calseia.org](http://www.calseia.org)
- For information on new solar home construction, visit [www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov/about/nshp.php](http://www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov/about/nshp.php)

### **Start Saving Now**

**California Solar Initiative**  
[www.sce.com/gosolar](http://www.sce.com/gosolar)  
[www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov](http://www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov)

**General Questions**  
**(800) 799-4177**

**Program Administration**  
**(866) 584-7436**



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