

<https://archive.kpcc.org/blogs/environment/2013/06/10/13932/ratepayer-advocate-says-dwp-ove...>

Southern California Public Radio

4 min read

Is DWP's large-scale solar program working?

Six months in to the L.A. Department of Water and Power's "feed-in tariff" program, the jury's still out about whether the program's working. But it's clear the DWP's ratepayer advocate, Fred Pickel, hasn't exactly warmed up to the utility's efforts to put more solar panels on big rooftops in the L.A. basin.

First, a reminder about what "feed-in tariff" is. State law requires utilities to encourage larger projects, such as on commercial rooftops and parking lots, by purchasing power from the developers and companies that set them up. So under the "feed in tariff" program, these rooftop owners feed solar onto the grid and get paid for it by the DWP in long-term contracts. Environmentalists and business lobbies alike are bullish on the prospects for such a program. Check this Los Angeles Business Council video touting its awesomeness.

An average home's roof has about three kilowatts of energy producing capacity. This feed-in tariff program encourages projects at least 10 times larger. The total amount of energy the DWP says it will buy is 100 MW, broken up into 20 MW "tranches" to be distributed by lottery. The first lottery happened back in February; the DWP paid 17 cents a kilowatt hour for projects in that first batch.

In January, solar developers, lobbyists and companies that might take advantage of the program argued for higher prices and more room for smaller projects (on this scale, that means projects 30 kw to 150 kw). Was that necessary?

Ratepayer advocate Fred Pickel would say no. He concludes that DWP customers will pay significantly more than they need to for projects in the first batch: between \$61-\$68 million.

Pickel says the DWP should stop signing contracts with the companies that won the February

<https://archive.kpcc.org/blogs/environment/2013/06/10/13932/ratepayer-advocate-says-dwp-ove...>

Southern California Public Radio

4 min read

Is DWP's large-scale solar program working?

Six months in to the L.A. Department of Water and Power's "feed-in tariff" program, the jury's still out about whether the program's working. But it's clear the DWP's ratepayer advocate, Fred Pickel, hasn't exactly warmed up to the utility's efforts to put more solar panels on big rooftops in the L.A. basin.

First, a reminder about what "feed-in tariff" is. State law requires utilities to encourage larger projects, such as on commercial rooftops and parking lots, by purchasing power from the developers and companies that set them up. So under the "feed in tariff" program, these rooftop owners feed solar onto the grid and get paid for it by the DWP in long-term contracts. Environmentalists and business lobbies alike are bullish on the prospects for such a program. Check this Los Angeles Business Council video touting its awesomeness.

An average home's roof has about three kilowatts of energy producing capacity. This feed-in tariff program encourages projects at least 10 times larger. The total amount of energy the DWP says it will buy is 100 MW, broken up into 20 MW "tranches" to be distributed by lottery. The first lottery happened back in February; the DWP paid 17 cents a kilowatt hour for projects in that first batch.

In January, solar developers, lobbyists and companies that might take advantage of the program argued for higher prices and more room for smaller projects (on this scale, that means projects 30 kw to 150 kw). Was that necessary?

Ratepayer advocate Fred Pickel would say no. He concludes that DWP customers will pay significantly more than they need to for projects in the first batch: between \$61-\$68 million.

Pickel says the DWP should stop signing contracts with the companies that won the February

<https://archive.kpcc.org/blogs/environment/2013/06/10/13932/ratepayer-advocate-says-dwp-ove...>

Southern California Public Radio

4 min read

Is DWP's large-scale solar program working?

Six months in to the L.A. Department of Water and Power's "feed-in tariff" program, the jury's still out about whether the program's working. But it's clear the DWP's ratepayer advocate, Fred Pickel, hasn't exactly warmed up to the utility's efforts to put more solar panels on big rooftops in the L.A. basin.

First, a reminder about what "feed-in tariff" is. State law requires utilities to encourage larger projects, such as on commercial rooftops and parking lots, by purchasing power from the developers and companies that set them up. So under the "feed in tariff" program, these rooftop owners feed solar onto the grid and get paid for it by the DWP in long-term contracts. Environmentalists and business lobbies alike are bullish on the prospects for such a program. Check this Los Angeles Business Council video touting its awesomeness.

An average home's roof has about three kilowatts of energy producing capacity. This feed-in tariff program encourages projects at least 10 times larger. The total amount of energy the DWP says it will buy is 100 MW, broken up into 20 MW "tranches" to be distributed by lottery. The first lottery happened back in February; the DWP paid 17 cents a kilowatt hour for projects in that first batch.

In January, solar developers, lobbyists and companies that might take advantage of the program argued for higher prices and more room for smaller projects (on this scale, that means projects 30 kw to 150 kw). Was that necessary?

Ratepayer advocate Fred Pickel would say no. He concludes that DWP customers will pay significantly more than they need to for projects in the first batch: between \$61-\$68 million.

Pickel says the DWP should stop signing contracts with the companies that won the February

<https://archive.kpcc.org/blogs/environment/2013/06/10/13932/ratepayer-advocate-says-dwp-ove...>

Southern California Public Radio

4 min read

Is DWP's large-scale solar program working?

Six months in to the L.A. Department of Water and Power's "feed-in tariff" program, the jury's still out about whether the program's working. But it's clear the DWP's ratepayer advocate, Fred Pickel, hasn't exactly warmed up to the utility's efforts to put more solar panels on big rooftops in the L.A. basin.

First, a reminder about what "feed-in tariff" is. State law requires utilities to encourage larger projects, such as on commercial rooftops and parking lots, by purchasing power from the developers and companies that set them up. So under the "feed in tariff" program, these rooftop owners feed solar onto the grid and get paid for it by the DWP in long-term contracts. Environmentalists and business lobbies alike are bullish on the prospects for such a program. Check this Los Angeles Business Council video touting its awesomeness.

An average home's roof has about three kilowatts of energy producing capacity. This feed-in tariff program encourages projects at least 10 times larger. The total amount of energy the DWP says it will buy is 100 MW, broken up into 20 MW "tranches" to be distributed by lottery. The first lottery happened back in February; the DWP paid 17 cents a kilowatt hour for projects in that first batch.

In January, solar developers, lobbyists and companies that might take advantage of the program argued for higher prices and more room for smaller projects (on this scale, that means projects 30 kw to 150 kw). Was that necessary?

Ratepayer advocate Fred Pickel would say no. He concludes that DWP customers will pay significantly more than they need to for projects in the first batch: between \$61-\$68 million.

Pickel says the DWP should stop signing contracts with the companies that won the February

<https://archive.kpcc.org/blogs/environment/2013/06/10/13932/ratepayer-advocate-says-dwp-ove...>

Southern California Public Radio

4 min read

Is DWP's large-scale solar program working?

Six months in to the L.A. Department of Water and Power's "feed-in tariff" program, the jury's still out about whether the program's working. But it's clear the DWP's ratepayer advocate, Fred Pickel, hasn't exactly warmed up to the utility's efforts to put more solar panels on big rooftops in the L.A. basin.

First, a reminder about what "feed-in tariff" is. State law requires utilities to encourage larger projects, such as on commercial rooftops and parking lots, by purchasing power from the developers and companies that set them up. So under the "feed in tariff" program, these rooftop owners feed solar onto the grid and get paid for it by the DWP in long-term contracts. Environmentalists and business lobbies alike are bullish on the prospects for such a program. Check this Los Angeles Business Council video touting its awesomeness.

An average home's roof has about three kilowatts of energy producing capacity. This feed-in tariff program encourages projects at least 10 times larger. The total amount of energy the DWP says it will buy is 100 MW, broken up into 20 MW "tranches" to be distributed by lottery. The first lottery happened back in February; the DWP paid 17 cents a kilowatt hour for projects in that first batch.

In January, solar developers, lobbyists and companies that might take advantage of the program argued for higher prices and more room for smaller projects (on this scale, that means projects 30 kw to 150 kw). Was that necessary?

Ratepayer advocate Fred Pickel would say no. He concludes that DWP customers will pay significantly more than they need to for projects in the first batch: between \$61-\$68 million.

Pickel says the DWP should stop signing contracts with the companies that won the February

<https://archive.kpcc.org/blogs/environment/2013/06/10/13932/ratepayer-advocate-says-dwp-ove...>

Southern California Public Radio

4 min read

Is DWP's large-scale solar program working?

Six months in to the L.A. Department of Water and Power's "feed-in tariff" program, the jury's still out about whether the program's working. But it's clear the DWP's ratepayer advocate, Fred Pickel, hasn't exactly warmed up to the utility's efforts to put more solar panels on big rooftops in the L.A. basin.

First, a reminder about what "feed-in tariff" is. State law requires utilities to encourage larger projects, such as on commercial rooftops and parking lots, by purchasing power from the developers and companies that set them up. So under the "feed in tariff" program, these rooftop owners feed solar onto the grid and get paid for it by the DWP in long-term contracts. Environmentalists and business lobbies alike are bullish on the prospects for such a program. Check this Los Angeles Business Council video touting its awesomeness.

An average home's roof has about three kilowatts of energy producing capacity. This feed-in tariff program encourages projects at least 10 times larger. The total amount of energy the DWP says it will buy is 100 MW, broken up into 20 MW "tranches" to be distributed by lottery. The first lottery happened back in February; the DWP paid 17 cents a kilowatt hour for projects in that first batch.

In January, solar developers, lobbyists and companies that might take advantage of the program argued for higher prices and more room for smaller projects (on this scale, that means projects 30 kw to 150 kw). Was that necessary?

Ratepayer advocate Fred Pickel would say no. He concludes that DWP customers will pay significantly more than they need to for projects in the first batch: between \$61-\$68 million.

Pickel says the DWP should stop signing contracts with the companies that won the February

<https://archive.kpcc.org/blogs/environment/2013/06/10/13932/ratepayer-advocate-says-dwp-ove...>

Southern California Public Radio

4 min read

Is DWP's large-scale solar program working?

Six months in to the L.A. Department of Water and Power's "feed-in tariff" program, the jury's still out about whether the program's working. But it's clear the DWP's ratepayer advocate, Fred Pickel, hasn't exactly warmed up to the utility's efforts to put more solar panels on big rooftops in the L.A. basin.

First, a reminder about what "feed-in tariff" is. State law requires utilities to encourage larger projects, such as on commercial rooftops and parking lots, by purchasing power from the developers and companies that set them up. So under the "feed in tariff" program, these rooftop owners feed solar onto the grid and get paid for it by the DWP in long-term contracts. Environmentalists and business lobbies alike are bullish on the prospects for such a program. Check this Los Angeles Business Council video touting its awesomeness.

An average home's roof has about three kilowatts of energy producing capacity. This feed-in tariff program encourages projects at least 10 times larger. The total amount of energy the DWP says it will buy is 100 MW, broken up into 20 MW "tranches" to be distributed by lottery. The first lottery happened back in February; the DWP paid 17 cents a kilowatt hour for projects in that first batch.

In January, solar developers, lobbyists and companies that might take advantage of the program argued for higher prices and more room for smaller projects (on this scale, that means projects 30 kw to 150 kw). Was that necessary?

Ratepayer advocate Fred Pickel would say no. He concludes that DWP customers will pay significantly more than they need to for projects in the first batch: between \$61-\$68 million.

Pickel says the DWP should stop signing contracts with the companies that won the February

<https://archive.kpcc.org/blogs/environment/2013/06/10/13932/ratepayer-advocate-says-dwp-ove...>

Southern California Public Radio

4 min read

Is DWP's large-scale solar program working?

Six months in to the L.A. Department of Water and Power's "feed-in tariff" program, the jury's still out about whether the program's working. But it's clear the DWP's ratepayer advocate, Fred Pickel, hasn't exactly warmed up to the utility's efforts to put more solar panels on big rooftops in the L.A. basin.

First, a reminder about what "feed-in tariff" is. State law requires utilities to encourage larger projects, such as on commercial rooftops and parking lots, by purchasing power from the developers and companies that set them up. So under the "feed in tariff" program, these rooftop owners feed solar onto the grid and get paid for it by the DWP in long-term contracts. Environmentalists and business lobbies alike are bullish on the prospects for such a program. Check this Los Angeles Business Council video touting its awesomeness.

An average home's roof has about three kilowatts of energy producing capacity. This feed-in tariff program encourages projects at least 10 times larger. The total amount of energy the DWP says it will buy is 100 MW, broken up into 20 MW "tranches" to be distributed by lottery. The first lottery happened back in February; the DWP paid 17 cents a kilowatt hour for projects in that first batch.

In January, solar developers, lobbyists and companies that might take advantage of the program argued for higher prices and more room for smaller projects (on this scale, that means projects 30 kw to 150 kw). Was that necessary?

Ratepayer advocate Fred Pickel would say no. He concludes that DWP customers will pay significantly more than they need to for projects in the first batch: between \$61-\$68 million.

Pickel says the DWP should stop signing contracts with the companies that won the February

<https://archive.kpcc.org/blogs/environment/2013/06/10/13932/ratepayer-advocate-says-dwp-ove...>

Southern California Public Radio

4 min read

Is DWP's large-scale solar program working?

Six months in to the L.A. Department of Water and Power's "feed-in tariff" program, the jury's still out about whether the program's working. But it's clear the DWP's ratepayer advocate, Fred Pickel, hasn't exactly warmed up to the utility's efforts to put more solar panels on big rooftops in the L.A. basin.

First, a reminder about what "feed-in tariff" is. State law requires utilities to encourage larger projects, such as on commercial rooftops and parking lots, by purchasing power from the developers and companies that set them up. So under the "feed in tariff" program, these rooftop owners feed solar onto the grid and get paid for it by the DWP in long-term contracts. Environmentalists and business lobbies alike are bullish on the prospects for such a program. Check this Los Angeles Business Council video touting its awesomeness.

An average home's roof has about three kilowatts of energy producing capacity. This feed-in tariff program encourages projects at least 10 times larger. [The total amount of energy the DWP says it will buy is 100 MW](#), broken up into 20 MW "tranches" to be distributed by lottery. The first lottery happened back in February; the DWP paid 17 cents a kilowatt hour for projects in that first batch.

In January, solar developers, lobbyists and companies that might take advantage of the program [argued for higher prices and more room for smaller projects](#) (on this scale, that means projects 30 kw to 150 kw). Was that necessary?

Ratepayer advocate Fred Pickel would say no. He concludes that DWP customers will pay significantly more than they need to for projects in the first batch: between \$61-\$68 million.

Pickel says the DWP should stop signing contracts with the companies that won the February

<https://archive.kpcc.org/blogs/environment/2013/06/10/13932/ratepayer-advocate-says-dwp-ove...>

Southern California Public Radio

4 min read

Is DWP's large-scale solar program working?

Six months in to the L.A. Department of Water and Power's "feed-in tariff" program, the jury's still out about whether the program's working. But it's clear the DWP's ratepayer advocate, Fred Pickel, hasn't exactly warmed up to the utility's efforts to put more solar panels on big rooftops in the L.A. basin.

First, a reminder about what "feed-in tariff" is. State law requires utilities to encourage larger projects, such as on commercial rooftops and parking lots, by purchasing power from the developers and companies that set them up. So under the "feed in tariff" program, these rooftop owners feed solar onto the grid and get paid for it by the DWP in long-term contracts. Environmentalists and business lobbies alike are bullish on the prospects for such a program. Check this Los Angeles Business Council video touting its awesomeness.

An average home's roof has about three kilowatts of energy producing capacity. This feed-in tariff program encourages projects at least 10 times larger. The total amount of energy the DWP says it will buy is 100 MW, broken up into 20 MW "tranches" to be distributed by lottery. The first lottery happened back in February; the DWP paid 17 cents a kilowatt hour for projects in that first batch.

In January, solar developers, lobbyists and companies that might take advantage of the program argued for higher prices and more room for smaller projects (on this scale, that means projects 30 kw to 150 kw). Was that necessary?

Ratepayer advocate Fred Pickel would say no. He concludes that DWP customers will pay significantly more than they need to for projects in the first batch: between \$61-\$68 million.

Pickel says the DWP should stop signing contracts with the companies that won the February