Pico Rivera to offer new solar and battery program for residents

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The city of Pico Rivera, after committing to sustainable energy practices and affordable power, recently announced it will be moving forward with a new solar and battery program for residents.

This initiative promises to make solar energy and battery backup systems accessible to all Pico Rivera residents, regardless of credit history and with zero upfront costs. The goal is to make the transition to solar power affordable for households, and reducing reliance on traditional energy sources.

The battery backup systems will also provide residents with a reliable energy reserve during power outages.

The City Council approved the program, called the Pico Rivera Innovative Municipal Energy (PRIME) Power Choice Solar and Battery Program. And it authorized the city manager to begin negotiating and executing an agreement for the new solar and battery program.

“This innovative power solar and battery program reaffirms Pico Rivera’s commitment to green initiatives, environmental stewardship, and the betterment of its community,” City Manager Steve Carmona said in a statement on Tuesday, Aug. 8.

“The program’s launch is a significant step towards a more sustainable and inclusive energy future,” he said, “bolstering Pico Rivera's position as a leader among environmentally progressive cities.”

The agreement will be through a partnership with Participate Energy, LLC – a company that provides services and financial assistance for renewable energy – and Tesla Energy Operations, Inc.

Similar programs have been established in other cities, such as Lancaster, San Jacinto and Rancho Mirage.

“Our partnership with our leading solar energy company partners has designed a unique power solution, breaking down the financial barriers that have previously prevented many households from accessing renewable energy resources,” Carmona said in a statement. “This pioneering program aims to ensure that every resident has the opportunity to take advantage of clean, renewable energy.”

The Power Choice Program allows all residents to qualify through a no-consumer credit check process, zero upfront cost, and low energy rates to ensure inclusivity and accessibility, city officials said.

Historically, these programs have been primarily accessible only to people with acceptable credit scores, limiting the benefits to those who can afford these systems. Pico Rivera’s program will allow all residents – through PRIME – access to energy savings and resiliency.
Additional program benefits, according to officials, include:

- Accessible solar equipment, design and installation by Tesla, and maintenance at $115 per month
- Comprehensive integration with PRIME's services
- Access to backup power during emergency power shutoffs or blackouts
- Competitive and stable energy rates at $0.145 kWh with a 1.9% annual escalator

To learn more about Pico Rivera Innovative Municipal Energy, visit [poweredbyprime.org](http://poweredbyprime.org).

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**Christina Merino | News Assistant/Reporter**

Christina Merino received her bachelors degree in journalism at California State University, Long Beach in May 2022. She worked as opinions editor and arts & life assistant at the Daily Forty-Niner, the campus newspaper. She also got an associate degree in communication studies at Antelope Valley College. She is an avid concert goer and likes to explore new places and eateries in the area.

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