



ALL THAT YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT

RAJASTHAN SOLAR ENERGY POLICY, 2014

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**RAJASTHAN
SOLAR ENERGY
POLICY, 2014**

GENERAL

Q Which is the Nodal Agency for development of solar energy in the State?

A Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation (RREC) is the nodal agency for the development of solar energy in the State.

Q What facilities does RREC provide to Solar Power developers / producers?

A RREC will act as nodal agency for clearance of solar projects. The Corporation will facilitate / assist solar power developers / producers with the following:

- a) Registration of projects
- b) Approval of projects
- c) Facilitating allotment of government land
- d) Facilitating water allocation for Solar Thermal Power Plants
- e) Facilitating approval of power evacuation plan, allocation of bays, etc.
- f) Facilitating execution of PPA / WBA with Discoms of Rajasthan / RVPN / NVVN (as may be applicable).
- g) Accreditation and recommending the solar power project for registration with Central Agency under REC mechanism.

RREC will also nominate a State Level Facilitator for all projects of capacity above 20 MW.

Q What are the schemes available for setting up a Solar Power Project?

- A A solar power producer can set up solar power plant under the following schemes:
1. Solar Power Plants under guidelines of MNRE / National Solar Mission (NSM)
 2. Solar Power Plants for sale to Discoms of Rajasthan
 3. Solar Power Projects for sale through RE (Solar) Certificate
 4. Solar Power Projects for Captive Use / Sale to 3rd Party within or outside the State

Q What is the Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) of solar power in Rajasthan?

- A Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC) has fixed RPO for Solar as follows:

Year	RPO
2014-15	1.5%
2015-16	2.0%
2016-17	2.5%

Q What are the highlights and salient features of the Policy?

- A The following are some of the salient features of the Policy:
- Easy processing and lower registration fee
 - Availability of government land at DLC rates
 - Provision for setting up solar power project on private land either through purchase of land or by executing lease with farmers
 - Provision for farmers to set up solar farms / power plants

- Setting up of projects without going through tedious process of land conversion
- Promotion of development of solar parks
- Fast track approval of Mega Solar Power Projects by SLEC
- Final approvals of Solar Power Projects of capacity upto 10 MW by SLSC
- Adequate power evacuation system
- REC allowed to Solar Power Projects under the scheme of open access / captive use as per CERC regulations
- Banking of solar power as per RERC regulations
- Solar Power Projects are included in "Green category" and the Pollution Control Board will dispose consent application within 15 days
- Besides these, generation of electricity from a solar power plant shall be treated as an eligible industry under the schemes administered by the Industries Department and incentives available under Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS) shall be available to the Solar Power Projects

Q How will the State promote setting up of Solar Parks?

- A The State will promote setting up of Solar Parks. Development of the Solar Park may be done in the following modes:
1. Solar Park on Government land by RREC:
RREC to sub-lease land to producers for solar projects.
 2. Solar Park by Private Sector Developers:
Solar Park on Private land and government land if such land falls within the park or in its vicinity may be allotted to the developers.
 3. Development of Solar Parks through JVCs:
State may invest equity up to 50% (including cost of land) in Solar Park of capacity 500 MW or more to be developed through JVC

Q What is the concept of Mega Solar Power Projects and how will the State promote setting up of these projects?

A Mega Solar Power Project means solar power project of 500 MW or more set up by a single developer at a single location with single or multiple metering arrangements but having common pooling Sub-station.

In order to expedite the process of approval of Mega Solar Power Projects, the project proposals along with detailed project reports will be placed by RREC directly before SLEC chaired by the Chief Secretary for its approval.

Mega Solar Power Projects will also be eligible for benefits/concessions available under the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme.

Q Is Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) to captive / open access projects allowed?

A Yes. REC is allowed as per the CERC Regulations.

Q Is Banking of power allowed for captive plants?

A Yes. Banking of power is allowed for captive plants as per RERC regulations.

Q Who is competent authority to finally approve small Solar Power Projects?

A Solar Power Projects of capacity up to 10 MW will be approved by SLSC chaired by Secretary Energy, Government of Rajasthan.

Q What is the Policy of the State Government for setting up of Roof-top PV Projects?

A The State will promote development of Roof Top PV Solar Power Plants connected to LT under Net-Metering Scheme as per guidelines of RERC. The State Government shall allow the Net-Metering mechanism for grid connected system to the consumer(s) of the Discoms installing such systems subject to technical consideration and execution of net-metering agreement between such consumers and Discoms. The Discoms will develop a suitable and comprehensive consumer-friendly IT application in this regard.

Q What is the policy to promote de-centralised and off-grid solar applications?

A The State will promote and incentivize decentralized and off-grid solar applications, including hybrid system as per guidelines issued by MNRE to meet various electrical and thermal energy requirements for domestic and commercial use.

The State will also promote setting up of local solar grid and stand-alone solar systems to provide electricity to remote villages / dhanis for which State Government has announced provisions of Rs 100 crore in the Budget 2014-15.

The State will promote the use of SPV technology as power source for irrigation uses by installation of SPV pumping systems for which State Government has announced provisions of Rs 119 crore in the Budget 2014-15.



REGISTRATION

Q What is the fee structure for registration of projects?

A Processing Fee (Registration Fee) for projects is as follows:

S No	Project Capacity	Fee
1.	≤ 10 MW	Rs 50,000 per MW
2.	> 10 MW; ≤ 50 MW	Rs 5 lakh per project
3.	> 50 MW; ≤ 100 MW	Rs 10 lakh per project
4.	> 100 MW	Rs 30 lakh per project

Q Is registration with RREC required for participation in the bidding process of NSM / SECI / NVVN, etc.?

A No. Prior registration is not required for participation in bidding process of NSM / SECI / NVVN / RREC / Discom.

Q Is registration with RREC required for setting up a Roof-top Solar PV System?

A No. Registration is not required with RREC.

Q Can an individual apply for project registration?

A Yes, an individual can apply for registration of a project.

Q What is the Net-Worth requirement for registration of a project?

A Net-Worth required for the registration of the project is Rs 1 crore / MW.

Q What is the process of registration of private Solar Park with RREC?

A A private sector Solar Park developer needs to submit the application to RREC along with a processing fee @ Rs 5000 per hectare (+ service tax) subject to maximum of Rs 10 lakh (+ service tax) for each Solar Park. The plan of Solar Park will be approved by RREC within a period of 30 days of submission of application.

LAND

Q Can government land be allotted for Solar Power Projects?

A Yes. Government land is allotted for Solar Power Projects as per the provisions of Rajasthan Land Revenue (Allotment of land for setting up of Power Plant based on Renewable Energy Sources), Rules 2007.

Q What is the maximum land that can be allotted for Solar Power Projects under different technologies?

A Maximum government land that can be allotted for solar power projects under different technology is as under:

1. Crystalline Technology:	2.5 Ha/MW
2. Crystalline Technology with tracker	3.5 Ha/MW
3. Thin film / Amorphous Technology	3.5 Ha/MW
4. Solar Thermal (CSP) Tower / Trough or other technology:	
a. Up to PLF of 21%	3.5 Ha/MW
b. For every 1% increase in PLF	0.15 Ha/MW additional land will be allotted

Q What will be the rate for allotment of Government land?

A Government land will be allotted at the DLC rate.

Q What is the security deposit for recommendation of government land?

A Security deposit for recommendation for allotment of government land is Rs 5 lakh / MW which is refundable after execution of lease deed.

Q For setting up a Solar Power Project on private agriculture land, does one need to get land-use conversion done?

A No. Conversion of agriculture land for setting up Solar Power Project will not be required in accordance with the provisions of Rajasthan Tenancy Act 1955 and Rajasthan Land Revenue Act 1956.

Q Can a Khatedar set up a Solar Power Projects on his land?

A Yes, a Khatedar can set up a Solar Power Project on his holding or sub-let his holding for setting up of Solar Power Projects without the requirement of land conversion in accordance with the provisions of Rajasthan Tenancy Act 1955 and Rajasthan Land Revenue Act 1956.

Q Is a Solar Power producer allowed to purchase private land in excess of the ceiling limit?

A Yes, for setting up of a Solar Power plant, the producer is allowed to purchase private land from a Khatedar in excess of the ceiling limit in accordance with the provisions of Ceiling Act 1973.

TIMELINES

Q What is the timeline to issue CTO & CTE for setting up of Solar Power Projects by Rajasthan Pollution Control Board?

A The State Pollution Control Board will ensure expeditious disposal of consent applications within 15 days.

Q What is the timeline for submission of application for in-principle clearance for Solar Power Projects on government land?

A Solar power producer to whom government land is allotted will have to apply for in-principle clearance of the project within three months from the date of allotment of government land.

Q What is the timeline for submission of application for final approval of a project on government land?

A A solar power producer to whom government land is allotted will have to apply for final approval of the project within three months from the date of in-principle clearance by SLSC.

Q What are the timelines for commissioning of Solar Power Projects?

Following is the schedule of timelines for commissioning of projects under REC / open access / captive use:

Type of Projects	Completion Time schedule
SPV:	
≤ 20 MW capacity	Within 15 months from the date of SLEC approval.
> 20 MW and ≤ 50 MW capacity	Within 18 months from the date of SLEC approval.
> 50 MW	Within 24 months from the date of SLEC approval.
CSP:	
≤ 25 MW capacity	Within 24 months from the date of SLEC approval.
> 25 MW and ≤ 100 MW capacity	Within 36 months from the date of SLEC approval.
> 100 MW and ≤ 200 MW capacity	Within 42 months from the date of SLEC approval.
> 200 MW capacity	Within 48 months from the date of SLEC approval.

FEE & CHARGES



Q What is the provision for contribution to Rajasthan Renewable Energy Development Fund?

A Solar Power producers selling power to parties other than State Discoms will have to contribute Rs 1 lakh / MW every year to Rajasthan Renewable Energy Development Fund for the entire life-cycle of the project.

Q What are the transmission charges and losses for transmitting power through open access?

A The transmission charges and losses for transmitting power through open access will be as per RERC Regulations.

Q What is the security deposit for commissioning of a Project?

A Security Deposit for commissioning of a project is Rs 10 lakh / MW (BG).

Q What is the penalty provision if Solar Power Plant is not commissioned within the scheduled time?

A Penalty provision for delay in commissioning is as under:

Delay	Penalty
Up to 1 month	Rs 25,000 / MW
Up to 3 months	Rs 50,000 / MW
Up to 6 months	Rs 1,00,000 / MW
Up to 9 months	Rs 1,50,000 / MW
Up to 15 months	Rs 2,00,000 / MW

SLEC may consider extension beyond 15 months where there is a reasonable certainty of commissioning of the project. In such cases, extended completion schedule & penalties shall be decided by SLEC on case-to-case basis.

Note:

This document is just a general guide. Please refer to the Policy for specific details.

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