

Solar Energy Policy-2015, Dated: 01.03.2016, Puducherry

Sl. No.	Description	Summary
1.	Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define clear and transparent policy governance. 2. Encourage public-private partnerships and joint ventures to mobilize investments in solar energy projects, manufacturing facilities, research and technology development. 3. Facilitate open access to the public electricity grid of the Puducherry Union Territory and thereby create opportunities for grid-connected distributed generation of solar power and smart grid solutions, such as the propagation of electric transport, in order to reduce the dependence on fossil fuels and urban air pollution 4. Encourage to set up solar energy plants in industrial, commercial and residential buildings. 5. Establish a 'Single Window System' for technical support, funding support and project clearance. 6. Create an investment-friendly environment that provides opportunities for private individuals, companies, local bodies. Government departments and others to contribute to and participate in the generation of solar energy, particularly for the electricity consumer to become a "prosumer" (a producer-consumer). 7. Initiate information, communication and education measures for promoting solar energy. 8. Encourage and promote solar energy research and development through technical institutions in the Puducherry Union Territory. 9. Establish linkages with National and International institutions for active collaboration in development, demonstration and commercialization of solar technologies and systems
2.	Solar Energy Gross Feed-in and Metering	The solar energy fed into the grid will be purchased by EDP or other distribution licensee at the prevailing solar energy tariff as determined by the JERC. Under the solar gross feed-in mechanism, solar energy may also be sold to another distribution licensee or to a third party under the open access mechanism.
3.	Solar Energy Net-Metering	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The solar energy is used for self consumption with the surplus. if any. being exported to the grid. A bidirectional service connection energy meter will be installed by EDP or other distribution licensee. 2. Solar net-metering will be available for all metered electricity consumers.
4.	Solar Energy Group Net-Metering	The purpose of this provision is to help maximize the utilization of rooftop space for solar energy generation for consumers with multiple buildings and service connections.
5.	Solar Energy Virtual Net-Metering	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In virtual net-metering consumers can be beneficial owners of a part of a collectively owned solar system. 2. Collective ownership of solar plants may be established through Societies, Trusts or section 25 Companies or any other legal entity that safeguards the interests of participating consumers, including rights which are at par with the rights enjoyed by consumers who have

		solar net-metering with a solar system installed on their own roof.
6.	Solar Energy Systems for Buildings	Solar PV systems may be installed on rooftops of all categories of existing and new buildings connected to the grid of EDP's or other distribution licensee Solar PV systems may also be installed on elevated structures and on ground mounted structures within the premise of a building.
7.	Solar Energy Systems on Rented Rooftops	Developers may rent roofs from building owners and install solar PV systems on these roofs with solar energy gross feed-in, net Teed-in or net-metering arrangement.
8.	Solar Energy Special Economic Zones and Solar Park	The Government will promote the development of Special Economic Zones for research, development and manufacture of solar energy products and systems. Suitable land will be identified for developing Solar Parks.
9.	Stand-alone and Solar-Wind Hybrid Systems	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In villages and habitats where grid connectivity is not feasible or not cost effective, off-grid solutions based on micro-grid and stand-alone solar PV, solar - wind hybrid solutions, solar street lights and lanterns will be taken up. 2. Other solar energy implementation initiatives will include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Solar thermal b) Solar water pumps, water purification systems and milk pasteurization plants c) Solar energy for cottage industries
10.	Sustainable Habitats and Buildings	All public buildings will be mandated to meet their energy requirements increasingly from solar energy.
11.	Land for Solar Energy Projects	The Government will either install solar power plants on all public buildings or rent, the roofs of these buildings to parties interested in investing in solar rooftop systems and selling solar electricity to the EDP or other distribution licensee.
12.	Nodal Agency	Renewable Energy Agency Puducherry
13.	Grid Connectivity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EDP or other distribution licensee will undertake the augmentation of distribution and transmission lines, cables and other infrastructure as required. The cost of any augmentation required after the interconnection point of the solar power system with the service connection (in the case of net-metering) or feed-in point with the grid of EDP or other distribution licensee shall be borne by EDP or the concerned distribution licensee. 2. The Government will undertake to develop and maintain sufficient grid capacity for the evacuation, distribution and consumption of solar energy and will ensure to be ahead of solar energy development in this regard. 3. Solar energy will be exempted from grid connectivity, open access, wheeling and banking, and cross-subsidy charges. 4. Solar energy can be wheeled and banked as per the JERC regulations. 5. All grid-connected solar PV systems shall be treated as "Must-Run" power plants and shall not be subjected to merit order despatch principles. 6. From April 2016 onwards, all new service connection meters in the Puducherry.

14.	Solar Energy Agreements	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prosumers who opt for the solar net-metering facility will enter into a Solar Energy (Group / Virtual) Net-Metering Agreement with EDP or other distribution licensee.2. Prosumers and solar energy producers who opt for the wheeling and banking facility will enter into a Solar Energy Wheeling and Banking Agreement with EDP or other distribution licensee.
15.	Monitoring and Coordination	An Inter-Departmental Monitoring and Coordination Committee for new and renewable energy sources, including solar energy (the "Renewable Energy Committee") shall be constituted by the Government for Monitoring the implementation of this policy and to ensure that policy objectives and targets are achieved.