



Central Lincoln customer John M. has a large solar panel array on the roof of his home near the Pacific. How much power does his solar system generate? See article below.

Sun Powered

The reasons some consider solar power vary

John M. is an internationally-recognized brewmaster, and his innovative, flavorful beers have won more than 2000 awards in national and international competition. Craft beers like John's are made from hop plant flowers, and grains, such as barley. Both depend on sunshine for quality and flavor. So when John's homebuilder asked him if he'd be interested in putting a solar-powered electricity system on his house, his decision wasn't hard. He had a six kilowatt system installed in 2015, and received federal and state rebates, plus a rebate from Central Lincoln. His cost breakdown:

- \$ 25,940 solar power system
- 6,930 federal rebate
- 6,000 state rebate
- 2,000 Central Lincoln rebate
- \$ 11,010

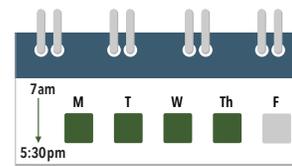
"It's great; even though we have a chest freezer, two fridges, and a beverage cooler, among other appliances, we pay just a minimum for electricity," John says enthusiastically.

Solar equations can be quite different for every owner. John's home is very energy-efficient, and he has a wood stove warming his home. The average Central Lincoln customer uses 1,070 kilowatt hours (kWh) at home, but John's average use is just 550 kWh a month.

His home is close to the Pacific Ocean, meaning fog and clouds are more likely. But, "there's quite a bit of sun here, and even on a gray winter day, my system generates some watts," he says. If John's system generates more than he uses in a calendar year, Central Lincoln will credit him in January for that excess power. That happened in 2015 and 2016, but hasn't for the past three years, probably due to varied weather.

continued on back

To better serve you, our extended hours will begin Monday, March 30!



**Mondays - Thursdays,
7 am to 5:30 pm**
(Closed Fridays)



Coming March 30: Extended Hours!

For years, our office hours have been Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Some customers asked for longer hours, hoping to stop in or call before 8 a.m., or after 5 p.m. So, soon, we'll be open **Mondays through Thursdays, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.** (closed on Fridays).

"We're always looking for ways to better serve our customers, and we think extended hours will be helpful," says Mark Freeman, who manages our customer service division. "In Reedsport, we've been closed for the lunch hour. Starting Monday, March 30, that office will be closed for just a half-hour Mondays through Thursdays, thanks to the new schedule (the Florence and Newport offices don't close for lunch). Also, we've been less available to answer phone calls during lunchtime, and with our new extended hours, our customer service representatives will take just half-hour lunch breaks, making them more available for answering customers' calls." The new hours won't mean less service—if power goes out on a Friday, we'll still have dispatchers and crews who will respond.

Central Lincoln exists for just one reason: to serve you. We hope our new schedule starting March 30 will better serve you.

Sun Powered continued

John's solar panel system is generating about \$350 worth of electricity a year. "People say I'm a downer about solar," says Central Lincoln's Energy Services Manager Wade Carey. "But I do my best to inform customers about realistic outcomes from having solar on their homes or businesses. I find there are three key factors motivating customers to install solar: financial, technology, and/or environmental. Our climate and our low electricity rates can mean a lengthy payback. Since our power is already 97% carbon-free, one of the highest percentages of clean power in the U.S., environmental is less of an issue than in communities getting their electricity from coal. Others just really like using the latest technology, and that makes the decision for them."

Regardless, John is really pleased with his solar panel system. "Payback? I don't care," he says. "I feel really good about what we've done, putting in this system, and love how low my monthly electricity bills are. I just bought an all-electric homebrew system for making beer – now I can say it's solar brewed!"

Oregon just launched a new rebate program for solar installations and battery storage. Details: go to clpud.org and scroll down to "Central Lincoln News"



John and his new home beer-brewing system.



Energy-Efficiency Programs Save Customers' Money

Every two years, we receive funds from the Bonneville Power Administration to help customers save on their electricity bills. We just completed a two-year funding cycle.

How did we do? In all, customers using one or more of our programs saved more than 18 million kilowatt hours collectively worth \$1,248,000 – just in the past two years!

Commercial and industrial customers, who use the largest amount of the electricity we provide, accounted for 50% of savings supported by our rebate programs.

The remaining 9 million kilowatt hours were saved by residential customers. Which home programs were most popular, saving the most?

Percentage of electricity saved for 2017-2019 (home programs)

Installation of light bulbs, showerheads, and/or power strips in customers' homes:	23%
Heating/ventilation/air conditioning	13%
Energy-efficient lighting	7%
Energy-efficient appliances	3%
Weatherization (insulation, windows, doors)	2%
Energy-efficient water heaters and showerheads	1%
Energy-Star rated manufactured homes	1%
Weatherization for low-income customers	1%

Our energy-saving programs can change every two years. To find out which programs your home might qualify for, go to clpud.org and click on "Energy Efficiency." Because Central Lincoln is not for profit, and is owned by the customers and communities we serve, we want to help you save!

Questions? Call our energy experts at 888-883-9879, or email us at info@clpud.org

Call us toll free at **1-877-265-3211** to report an outage, pay your bill, speak to a customer service representative and more. *Your call will be answered by the first customer service representative available in Florence, Newport or Reedsport.*

Pay By Phone: 1-844-239-0076

Report an Outage: 1-877-265-3211

Energy Efficiency Programs: 1-888-883-9879

Office Hours: Mondays-Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. **but...**

Coming Soon! Starting March 30, we'll have extended hours:

Mondays-Thursdays 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (closed Fridays)

Florence: 966 Highway 101

Newport: 2129 N. Coast Highway

Reedsport: 440 Fir Avenue (Reedsport is closed 12-1 p.m.)

After March 30, the Reedsport office will be closed 12:30-1 p.m.

Mondays-Thursdays. (closed Fridays)

Website: clpud.org

Email: info@clpud.org

Outage info, energy-saving tips, and latest news:

 www.twitter.com/CLPUD

 [Central Lincoln PUD](https://www.facebook.com/CentralLincolnPUD)



Our mission is to ensure our communities have access to reliable and affordable energy products and services.