

Here Are San Diego's Solar Hotspots

Lisa Halverstadt

(<http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/author/lisahalverstadt/>)

| June 3, 2015



Steve Hon stands on the roof of his North Park home.

San Diego's one of the nation's solar boom towns

(<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2015/mar/30/top-solar-cities-survey-says/?#article-copy>). The boom's been most robust in northern communities away from the coast.

Data released by San Diego Gas & Electric shows the county's top rooftop solar meccas are east of Interstate 5 and mostly represent people who own their homes instead of renting. Homeowners further from the coast often have higher energy bills that can make solar panels a more attractive investment. Hotspots include Poway, Scripps Ranch, Rancho Bernardo, Ramona and Lakeside.

The SDG&E data is based on the number of solar net energy metering (<http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/topics/science-environment/the-sun-might-be-setting-on-solar-customers-billing-deal/>) connections – a state-mandated arrangement that allows solar customers to receive credit for energy their systems produce – per ZIP code.

This map shows net metering applications by ZIP code, plus the estimated kilowatts of power the area's solar panels could produce.