GOING SOLAR

The Ultimate Homeowner's Guide to Solar Energy

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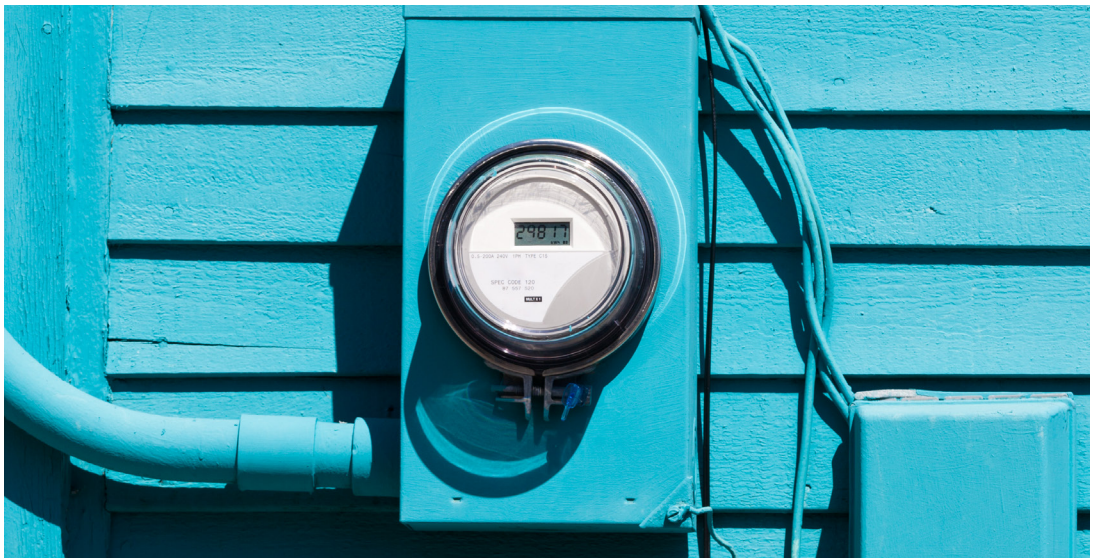
How does net metering work?

Energy production from home solar systems fluctuates throughout the day (think peak daylight hours) and often produces more energy than you can use or even store.

So what happens to all that extra energy? Through a program called net metering, your excess power is fed into your local power grid to offset the energy use from other homes. When this happens, your meter actually runs in reverse, creating a credit that you can use when your system isn't producing enough electricity. (FYI: When your system isn't producing enough electricity, you simply draw it from your utility company just as you did before you went solar.)

If you use more energy than you provide back to the grid, you only pay the "net" difference. If you contribute more to the grid than you withdraw, you end up with no power bill and credits can often be rolled into additional benefits.



02

Can I really sell my excess power back?

Through the net metering process outlined above, the excess electricity produced by your solar panels can be redeemed for utility bill credits that can be used during months your panels don't produce enough.

Unfortunately, there is no way for these credits to be redeemed into cash or other similar benefits, regardless of how much energy you produce.

With that said, SRECs (Solar Renewable Energy Certificates/Credits), which fundamentally differ from net-metering, can put cash back in your pocket. SRECs are one of the primary incentives creating growth

in the industry. In short, if you own your solar PV system outright, your utility provider may pay you for producing clean energy. Unfortunately, if you lease your solar panel system, you will not be the one to profit from SRECs.

To get a free customized solar energy quote for your home,

Call 833-610-1122

Solar power is the cleanest, most abundant renewable energy source available.

03

Do I still get an electric bill with solar panels?

Unless you disconnect from the grid entirely, you will continue receiving electric bills just as you do now. Installing solar panels will typically significantly reduce your power bill and it may eliminate any costs for power altogether. However, your utility provider will still send a statement indicating your usage and net metering offset.

04

What tax rebates do I qualify for?

As long as you own your solar energy system, you can save 26% on your solar installation through a federal tax credit. You may even be eligible for additional rebates or exemptions at the state or local level.

There are a lot of tips and tricks to maximize your rebates. For example, if you don't owe enough in taxes to claim the entire credit in one year, you can roll the credit over into future years as long as the tax credit is in effect.

The federal tax credit will be reduced to 22% at the end of 2020 and expires Dec. 31, 2021. If you're considering going solar, now may be the best time to find out how much you can save.

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05

Can solar power be stored?

Net metering gives you a consistent and reliable means of accessing the excess energy you produce. In most cases, it is the most effective means of “storing” your excess energy.

There are solar battery systems on the market today that can store excess energy as well. However, they are typically not large enough to offset energy use during low production times as effectively as net metering.

06

Will solar power save me money?

Solar panels can create significant savings—especially if you live in a state with higher utility rates. There are also both short and long-term financial benefits of going solar to consider.

It's no secret that solar panels cost money upfront. Still, the average home can save between $10,000 and $30,000 over the lifetime of their solar panel system. That is a considerable long term benefit.

Short term, you may be able to offset most or all of your current energy bill depending on your energy use, utility providers rates, and potential to capture solar energy.

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07

Will solar power work on cloudy days?

Yes, but they generate less power than they will on a bright and sunny day. The idea that solar panels cannot produce anything on a cloudy day is false, but the notion that the hotter it is, the better solar panels perform is also a myth. Solar panels actually typically perform their best in more moderate weather.

Regardless of how much coal, natural gas and petroleum you believe remains buried in the earth, those fossil fuels will run out far earlier (and faster) than the life of the sun. The energy usage potential of the sun is nearly unlimited.

08

Can solar power work at night?

Solar panels require sunlight to generate electricity, so they don't produce electricity at night when the sun isn't shining. Net metering or solar batteries are the best ways to use the excess electricity you produced during the day to power your home at night.

Thanks to these storage solutions, solar panels are a sustainable energy solution 24/7.

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09

Where should I install my panels?

For residential cases, the majority of solar panels are installed directly onto the roof of your home—ideally on a southern facing slope. Roof-mounted panels may also help reduce the impact of environmental factors such as the wind.
Installing panels on ground mounted frames is also a popular option when space is not an issue, or roof exposure is not ideal.

Our team designs thousands of solar systems annually and is sure to find the right solution for you.

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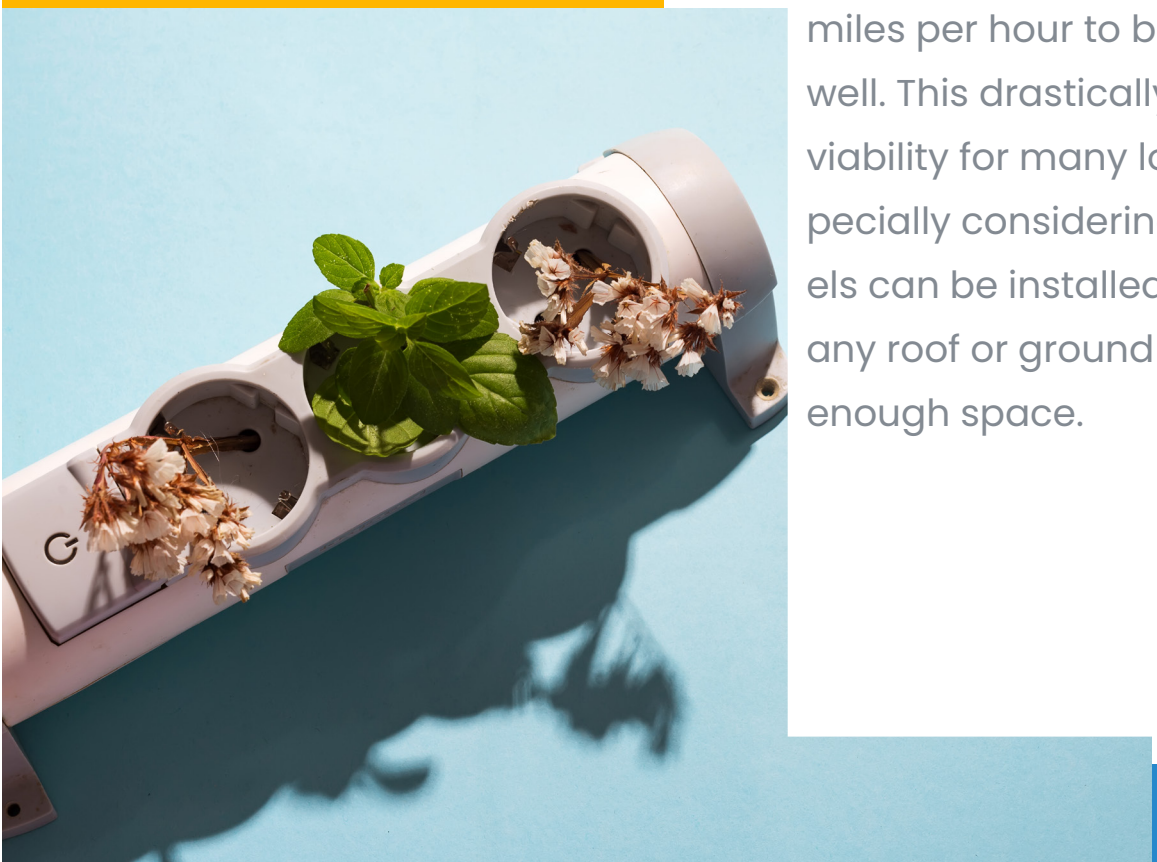
Is solar power better than wind?

Wind power is a popular option for utility providers; however, solar is generally a more practical option for residential electricity. One primary reason for this is wind turbines must be above any obstacles blocking the wind, making a typical wind turbine for residential use about 80 feet tall. This may not be a big issue for power companies with large wind farms, but that can be quite a challenge for homeowners and HOAs.



Some wind turbines need an average wind speed of at least 12 miles per hour to be effective as well. This drastically reduces the viability for many locations, especially considering solar panels can be installed on virtually any roof or ground location with enough space.

11

What size solar power system do I need?

The number of panels you need for your house depends on factors such as location, panel performance, and energy use. To put it simply, if you live in an area that gets less sun or you have significant energy needs, you'll want to have a larger system installed at your home.

Your power bill typically includes data around your average use. You can use the average solar system size in the U.S. (5kW or 5000 watts) to benchmark your needs.

We know that going solar is a big decision not to be made lightly. Hopefully, this homeowner's guide helped answer some basic questions for you.
To get more in-depth information specific to your home, contact our team at for a completely custom solar proposal, free!
Call today:

833-610-1122

Risk Free - No Commitment - Find out how much you can save in a matter of minutes.
For more general information about going solar, check out some of our most popular resources below:

- How to Claim the Federal Tax Credit
- Homeowner's Guide to Going Solar
- Eco-Friendly Heating and Cooling Tips
- The Benefits to Going Solar