

FAQs

Home & Rooftop Solar Panels

How does rooftop solar save homeowners money?

Rooftop solar provides many opportunities for homeowners to save on their electricity bills. This is done through multiple different processes including net metering, battery storage and solar tax credits.

- **Reduced electricity costs:** Powering your home with solar can save money on your electric bill. The average price for electricity in June 2023 was **\$0.17 per kWh**. With solar, energy bills were reduced to **\$0.08 per kWh** – ultimately cutting electric bills in half.
- **Solar tax credit:** Those who install solar panels on their **residence** or **business** are provided a solar tax credit dependent on the year of installation. The federal government offers a 30% tax credit to install a solar system onto your home or business, and many states also have programs that can help homeowners save on installation costs. Additionally, there is no dollar or lifetime limit to the credit earned. You can claim your federal solar tax credit by following the instructions [here](#).

What happens to excess energy produced by rooftop solar panels?

The excess energy can either be returned to the grid or stored in battery technology to be used at a later time—allowing consumers to save money and have access to an efficient, reliable power source.

- **Returning to the grid:** Provides a way for consumers of solar energy to sell back the electricity they aren't using back into the grid. This is called **net metering**. Although this provides individuals with the opportunity to save on electricity and cut back on utility bill costs, this practice varies from state to state.
- **Battery storage:** Provides a **reliable, back-up** source of power in case of a grid outage, utility shut off, or extreme weather. Storage technology allows for **reduced utility rates** by allowing homeowners to decide where they want their power to be sourced from.



Can solar panels keep my lights on in instances where alternative fuel sources would be threatened?

If your home is equipped with solar battery storage, your power will not go out. Instead of returning excess solar production to the grid, battery storage allows electricity to be stored for later use. This excess electricity is pulled from the battery and can be used in instances where alternative power sources like coal and natural gas would be threatened: when the power goes out, during intensive weather conditions, or at night.

How can I find out how much electricity I can generate with solar energy?

Homeowners can use a tool by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory called PVWatts to estimate energy production and costs using any address. By entering in your PV system information, you can see just how much you would save by switching to solar energy.

Can solar panels be installed without impacting the design of my home?

A graphical layer can be placed on solar panels to ensure the aesthetics of your home or business are not altered. Solar panels can blend into roofing or side paneling to create a building-integrated design.

