

SOLAR ESTIMATOR

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Would you like to find out how much you could potentially reduce your utility-supplied power by investing in a rooftop solar photovoltaic system? If you are considering going solar, our solar estimator is a great first step. Answer the three questions below and click "Calculate" to find out how much you could potentially reduce your utility-supplied power.

1 What is your monthly average kilowatt-hour consumption? • 500 kWh (\$60 - \$70) • 1,000 kWh (\$116 - \$125) • 1,500 kWh (\$170 - \$200) • 2,000 kWh (\$225 - \$250) ? What's a kWh?	2 What size system are you considering installing? • 5 kW • 7.5 kW • 10 kW • 15 kW ? What's a kW?	3 What direction will the panels face? • South • East • West • North ? Why not North?
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Calculate

Use the online Solar Estimator to find out how much you can potentially reduce your utility-supplied power by investing in a rooftop solar system.

SECOEnergy.com>[Solar-Estimator](#).



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PANELS

Collect energy from the sun and send to an inverter to be converted to usable AC power. Three main panel types:

- **Monocrystalline Panels:** PROS – highest efficiency, require the least space, longest lifespan and perform in low-light conditions. CONS - most expensive and performance suffers as temps rise, but less so than the poly panels.
- **Polycrystalline Panels:** PROS – cost less than most others. CONS – lower heat tolerance. Require larger space to produce same output as monocrystalline.
- **Thin-film Panels:** PROS – easier and cheaper to produce, flexible and more aesthetically appealing. CONS – require extra installation space that prohibits residential use. Less expensive but not as efficient as traditional panels.

INVERTERS

Convert the DC power from the solar panels to AC power to be used in your home or pushed back on the grid. Three types of inverters:

- **String or central inverters** are the most common and cost-effective. Panels are arranged in a group called a "string" which is attached to a single inverter.
- **Micro-inverters** are installed on each panel to convert DC to AC power, and they are able to monitor the production of each panel.
- **Power optimizers** are installed at each panel and are less expensive than micro-inverters. For higher efficiency, DC power travels to a single string inverter.

TOP 3 QUESTIONS

ABOUT SOLAR ENERGY

CAN I ELIMINATE MY ELECTRIC BILL?

Not likely. If you install a large solar array with a robust battery storage system so you can go completely off the grid, that might be possible, but is dependent on City/County regulations. Interconnected solar systems do not function during utility power outages.

WILL I SAVE MONEY BY INVESTING IN SOLAR?

The cost of solar panels has decreased, but the amount invested per kilowatt hour for solar generation is more than power generation from traditional sources such as coal and natural gas. The solar industry is also heavily subsidized through tax breaks and incentives.

WHAT IS NET METERING?

Net metering captures the "net" energy used monthly by members with interconnected systems. "Net" is the difference between energy purchased from SECO and excess energy produced by the solar system that is not consumed by the home or business.

Members whose systems produce more energy than their home or business consumes in real time generate power back through SECO's electric distribution system. These members who generate excess power are small-scale wholesale power providers. Thus, they are credited by SECO for the **excess** power their solar systems produce at SECO's wholesale rate.

MORE QUESTIONS? Visit SECOEnergy.com or email Solar@secoenergy.com.



THINKING ABOUT **SOLAR?**

SECO Energy will conduct a free solar assessment and home energy audit to help you make an informed decision. Request an appointment with an Energy Services Specialist by emailing Solar@SECOEnergy.com.

Take the first step by visiting SECOEnergy.com/solar-home/. Research panel types, inverter options, insurance requirements and more.

SECO Energy's 10-Step Interconnection Process helps you navigate the activities required to install solar at your home or business.

10-STEP INTERCONNECTION PROCESS

1 RESEARCH: Read about solar systems and investigate potential contractors. Take the time to be an educated solar consumer and plan the journey.

2 SOLAR ASSESSMENT: Decide if solar is right for you by requesting a free solar assessment from SECO Energy.

3 SELECT A CONTRACTOR: Obtain quotes from three licensed, insured contractors. Check FLASEIA, Google reviews, Better Business Bureau, NextDoor.

4 INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT: Initiate the interconnection Agreement process. Members or contractors can complete this first step.

5 OBTAIN PERMIT(S): Permitting is normally the responsibility of the contractor. Each county or city determines the requirements.

6 INSTALLATION: Dependent upon contractor availability. Solar systems equal to or less than 15 kW should take no longer than a week.

8 DOCUMENT AND PHOTO UPLOAD/ APPROVAL: Contractor or member uploads required documents and system photos to be approved by SECO. Insurance required on systems >10kW.

7 CITY/COUNTY INSPECTION: Local county/city officials require a final inspection after installation.

9 METER INSTALLATION: Before energizing your system, SECO must install a bi-directional/net meter to measure the excess energy produced by the system for member credit.

10 READY. SET. GO!: Energize your new solar system!

