

All Solar Electric

Yuba City, CA 95993

530-671-6702

How much does a solar system cost?

Most of the system cost is in the main equipment, the panels and inverters, and is based on the following:

- your current annual kilowatt usage (rather than the square footage of your house).
- your energy objective: whether you want to zero out your bill or bring it down to the lowest tier.

The initial upfront cost of a solar system can now be recouped in 5-9 years, after which the energy it produces is free. With solar, the cost of your electricity is fixed and will not suffer rate increases that have averaged 6.7% annually over the last 35 years. Imagine if you had fixed the cost of electricity at the rate charged 30 years ago (about 6 cent per kilowatt hour) how many thousands of dollars you would have saved.

Solar generated electricity is cheaper than purchasing the same power from your utility provider. As utility rates continue to rise, your savings become greater by owning your own power generating system.

In today's market, solar is a better investment than most stock options.

What are the rebates and incentives?

Utility provider rebates exist throughout the state of California and in other states as well. The rebate is a cash payment back to the system owner or can be taken as partial payment by us.

A federal tax credit of 30% of the net system cost, after rebate, is also available. On commercial or business accounts, this tax credit may be paid as a one time cash grant in the year 2010.

Accelerated depreciation is another tax advantage for businesses, dramatically reducing the recovery time on a solar investment.

Can solar provide all the electricity I need?

Yes! We can design a system that will provide the power you need at your current usage. If you anticipate adding a spa or pool, or increasing your usage, that can be factored in as well. Some of our customers have converted their appliances and water heaters to electric, best utilizing their solar power.

Can I run my pool, spa, AC with solar? Yes, your home will operate just as it does now because the power your system generates flows into your electric meter. Your electrical appliances are not affected by the source from which the energy is generated.

How do I sell my electricity back to the utility company? As the owner of an on-grid solar system, you are continually 'banking' the power it generates all day long. On-grid systems have a Net Metering agreement with their utility provider so whatever power credits you build up are applied towards your overall annual total. At the end of a 12 month period you receive a 'true-up' bill that balances your power credits against your power usage.

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It is entirely possible for you to have a zero bill or very small bill at the end of your twelve month Net Metering period.

Is financing available? There are a number of options available. Please feel free to discuss these with one of our representatives.

Design questions

What size system do I need? System size is determined by your overall annual usage, measured in kilowatt hours, not by building square footage or other factors.

Where should I put it? Is my roof large enough? When we make a Site Visit, we will determine the best possible placement for your system. We can also discuss whether a ground mount system might work for you as well.

What kind of roof can I put a system on? There are mounting designs for almost any type of roof including concrete tile, steel panel and asphalt shingle. It is advisable to consider replacing an old roof before installing solar over it, or doing repairs that may be necessary.

Does my house have to face south? A south facing system has optimal production; however, southeast and west facing systems can also produce excellent results. Other factors, such as array tilt, exposure and location affect the final results.

Do I need batteries? Grid interconnected solar systems do not require any storage batteries. Excess energy produced flows back into the power grid giving the customer a credit towards future use. In essence, the grid is the storage facility. Battery back up systems for emergency power failures are available, but are usually not cost effective unless the customer experiences long periods of power outage.

Is a building permit required? Yes, all solar systems must be inspected by the local jurisdiction, city or county building departments and must conform to current code requirements. All Solar Electric has a B license, (General Contractor) and C-10 license (Electrical Contractor). We will submit and be responsible for obtaining all permits for your project.

Operating and using solar

What happens on a cloudy day? A solar system will still produce some electricity on cloudy days, but the output will be reduced. At these times or at night, you will draw on your 'credit bank' of kilowatt hours created on high output days.

What kind of maintenance does a solar system require? The system works best with a simple washing of panels, especially during our dry California summer months.

How do I know if it's working? The inverter has operational mode, indicator lights and a digital display.

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What is the lifespan of a solar system? Solar modules carry a 20-25 year power output warranty which means that the manufacture guarantees the panel will still have 80-85% of its original output capacity after 20-25 years. However, their lifespan may be actually be double the warranty period.

Inverters typically have a ten year warranty. Our installer warranty is ten years as well. These are state mandated terms and are the same for every contractor.

All Solar Electric uses the highest quality equipment with proven track records so your system is built to last.

Hiring a Contractor

Why should I hire a solar contractor?

To have adequate warranty coverage, using a qualified professional is advisable. Grid connected solar systems operate at a high DC voltage (400-550 volts). This can be very dangerous if not properly installed. Most building departments require a properly licensed and insured contractor to be involved in the project before issuing permits.

Why should I hire All Solar Electric?

- We are local. We have lived in Yuba City for since 1990 and established with our Electrical Contracting business in 1993. We become involved in the solar energy business in the late 90's and have a strong ten year history in solar energy.
- We provide personal attention to every project and are quick to respond to customer questions and needs. Our list of referrals come from our many satisfied customers.
- We manage your project from start to finish.
- We provide an easy-to-read Cost and Analysis.
- We use only quality CEC approved materials including Kyocera, Sharp, BP Solar, Schott and Sanyo panels; SMA and Fronius inverters.
- Our highly trained installation team is known for its thoroughness and professionalism.
- Our systems consistently produce more than the expected outcome.
- Our rates are highly competitive with larger companies, but we are small enough to give you friendly and professional service.
- We handle all Rebate and Net Metering documentation.