Before You Go Solar at Home
June 28, 2023

Hosted by Teri Strother
Team Lead, Make Your Own Impact
Today's Game Plan

What to Know Before You Go Solar at Home

The Basics of Residential Solar
Jeff Hegeman, Tiger Solar

Expert Panel
Katie VanLangren, LEAP
Aaron Sutch, Solar United Neighbors
Happy Solar Homeowner
What to Know Before You Go Solar

What's Your Why
Questions to ask your installer
Net metering 101
Comparing quotes
Incentives

Jeff Hegeman
Tiger Solar
Am I a candidate for Solar?

- Own your home?
- Ample Roof space/Ground space?
- Free from significant shading?
Before You Go Solar

- What stage are you in?
- What is your decision timeline?
- What is your budget?
- How do you plan on funding the project?
- Be sure to get 2-3 quotes
What's Your Why?

Environmental
- Make an impact
- Reduce your footprint

Financial
- Rate of Return – 6+
- Payback period – 8-14 years
- Levelize cost for energy

Leave a Legacy
- For the future
- For your kids
Questions to ask your installer

- Where are you based?
- Do you subcontract?
- What warranties/guarantees do you offer?
- How long have you been installing?
- Can you provide references?
- How and why do you choose the materials you use?
- What does future maintenance look like?
What is Net Metering?

How net metering works

1. Sunlight hits the solar panels and generates DC current.
2. The inverter converts DC electricity to AC.
3. The AC electricity is supplied to the building.
4. Excess of electricity flows into the grid.
5. Electricity is drawn from the grid when supply from solar panels is not sufficient.

- Excess power is credited by the power company at 1:1 by law (retail rate)
- Credits have a 12-month rolling lifespan; First in, First out
- Credits are used in times of no or low production (night, rain, snow, etc.)
- Does not pay to produce more than you consume; Use it or lose it
Comparing Quotes

Materials
- What panels/inverters are used
  - Size of panel, Warranty, etc.
  - Micro-Inverter versus String

Overall Size and Placement
- Roof Planes Utilized
- Total amount of panels

Guarantees/Warranties
- Production Guarantee
- Workmanship Warranty

Price Per Watt (PPW)

Production Estimate
- Where does that number come from
- Why is it different from others (if applicable)
Typical Solar Timeline (once you're under contract)

- Design and Engineering - 2 to 5 days
- Installer submits for permits - 7 to 10 business days to approve (varies)
- Installation Day! - 1 to 5 days (varies by complexity)
- Final Inspection - 2 to 5 days
- Permission to Operate (PTO) - 30 days after inspection
Incentives

30% Federal Investment Tax Credit (FITC)

- Dependent upon tax liability
- 30% of the total system cost, including batteries
- Look for other incentives: https://www.dsireusa.org/
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