

Solar Energy

Below is a list of frequently asked questions about solar energy systems for your home or business.

[Click here to contact us and make an appointment with one of our solar advisors](#)

1. How Do I Save By Going Solar?

By installing solar panels on your property, you can save considerably on your electricity bill while protecting yourself against yearly rising electricity rates. The amount savings you will realize will pay for the new solar panels with some money left to spare month after month. Once the system is paid off your monthly savings will increase even more. Going solar is a smart investment!

2. How Do I Help the Earth by Going Solar?

Solar power has many environmental and social benefits. By adopting solar panels for your home or business, you will be reducing your carbon footprint which in turns contributes to reducing global warming.

You will also be contributing to our decreasing our pendency on fossil fuels which will lessen political and social turmoil around the globe associated with oil.

Natural energy sources like solar panels help reduce air pollutants that are major causes of health problems.

3. How Do I Find Out How Much I Pay for Electricity?

The best way is to go online to your FPL portal and get a twelve-month average of your electricity consumption and payments. You will find this information on the FPL dashboard. This information will aid in properly designing a solar system that will replace your electricity bill.

4. What Is Net Metering?

Net metering is a process through which your electricity company credits you on the electricity that your solar panels produce. A special meter is installed at your property as part of the solar energy system project. When your solar panels produce more electricity that you consume, the electrical meter turns backwards. When your panels produce less than what you are consuming, at night for example, your meter turns forward.



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The difference between what your panels produce and what you consume is calculated monthly and the proper bill is sent to you for payment. At the end of the year your electric company will conduct a true up of the energy produced and the energy consumed and if a credit is owed because your solar system produced more than what you consumed, a credit in the form of a check will be issued.

It is important to note that FPL does not allow solar panel systems to be designed where they will over produce based on your consumption history. Getting approval from FPL to install a solar panels system on your property is a definite requirement for your solar energy project to take place.

5. How Does Solar Impact My Property Value?

For tax assessment purposes, your property value will not increase therefore your real state taxes will not increase because you installed solar panels on your roof.

Property market value however will increase Studies conducted by Zillow found that houses with solar panels sell faster and on average by 5% higher than houses without solar panels.

6. How Do Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Panels Work?

Solar energy panels absorb the sun's energy and convert it into direct current or electricity. Most of the homes and businesses run on alternating electricity, so the DC electricity generated by your solar panels is first passed through an inverter to convert it into usable AC electricity that can be used to power your home or business.

7. Will My Solar Panels Produce Power When the Sun Isn't Shining?

The amount of power your solar panels can generate depends on the sunlight. Consequently, solar panels produce less energy when the sky is cloudy and no energy at night.

8. Do I Still Need FPL If I Go Solar?

In Florida Solar panels are connected to the electrical grid. This helps you to draw electricity from the grid when your panels are not producing any power or not enough for what you are consuming. Also, any extra power produced by the panels can go back to the grid. Your panels can work without the grid if the system was designed with a battery. Battery technology for solar however is still expensive to the point where it does not make financial sense to use batteries and is much more cost effective to connect your system to the power grid.

9. Will I Still Receive Any Electric Bill?

That all depends on how much power your solar panels produce, how much power you consume and what your financial goals are with a new solar energy system.

A system can be designed to offset all your electricity bill however you would still be receiving a bill for the interconnection to the grid. This bill can range between \$10-15 on average.

10. Do Solar Panels Work During an Outage?

In Florida, if your solar panel energy system is connected to the grid, it will immediately shut-off if there is a blackout. This will prevent emergency responders and electricity repair personnel from receiving any accidental shocks by the electricity being feedback on the electrical lines from your solar panels.

You can, however, design the system to have batteries that when charged will provide back-up power when the grid is out. This design will consider isolating the electrical grid from the battery backed up solar energy system.

11. How Much Maintenance Do Solar Panels Require?

Solar energy systems are made up of durable tempered glass and are essentially maintenance free for 25 to 35 years on average. You don't even need to clean your panels regularly. In case anything happens, most equipment manufacturers provide warranties. Warranty terms will vary from company to company so make sure to find out what maintenance is offered by the company you are considering having your solar panels installed.

12. Can I Afford to Go Solar?

If you have a monthly electricity bill, then you can easily afford to go solar. The savings you realize on your electricity bill will pay for a solar energy system with additional money to spare.

With the overwhelming adoption of renewable energies, many companies are now providing financing schemes to promote the use of natural and sustainable sources of energy.

Significant federal tax incentives are also in place to reduce the cost of going solar.

13. How Do I Know If My Roof Is Suitable for Solar Panels?

The great majority of roofs are fit to install a solar panel system. A roof survey must be conducted prior to a final design to ensure that the space and orientation in your roof are adequate for installing a system that is designed for performance and longevity.

14. What Is the Ideal Solar Energy System for My Home?

The ideal size of your solar energy system will largely depend on how much electricity you consume on a monthly basis, how much of that consumption you want to offset and what your financial goals are. Your past electricity bills can easily equip you with enough knowledge about your daily electricity consumption. You should compare offers from licensed and pre-screened companies to find out the best system and best value offered to meet your needs.

15. How Long Will My Solar Power System Last?

Solar panels are highly durable and can withstand snow, hail, and wind. The solar inverter in your system will need to be replaced within 7-10 years on average but your solar panels should produce 80-90% of their rated production capacity for 25 to 35 years.

16. How Can I Choose the Best Solar Company for My Project?

You should consider some important criteria before choosing a solar company for your project.

Some important criteria are:

- Is the company State Certified for Solar? Their license should reflect their company name and not some other company which they use to conduct their installations. Ask for proof
- Ensure they have liability and works compensation insurance
- How long has the company been in business?
- What warranties do they offer?
- How are they arriving to the energy production of the system they are proposing?