



# Solar panels pros and cons

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That depends on your circumstances.

Interested in understanding the impact solar can have on your home? Enter some basic information below, and we'll instantly provide a free estimate of your energy savings.

"It depends on what is motivating the household to make the decision to [install] solar," Becca Jones-Albertus, director of the US Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office, told CNET.

If you're looking to be 100% energy independent or live off the grid, solar could be a good way to reach those goals. If your state has robust net metering or you have high energy costs, your solar panels could start saving you money in (relatively) short order. If you aren't planning on moving for many years or have reason to believe the short-term energy savings and the boost to your home's value will recoup your investment, solar could pay off.

If you don't have high energy costs or your state makes it harder to go solar, it might not be worth it financially. Even after weighing all the pros and cons, the decision to go solar is a highly personal one. Examine how your situation fits with solar panels before moving ahead and compare quotes from multiple solar companies and installers before making a decision.

Solar panels use photovoltaic cells to harness radiation from the sun and convert it into electricity. They're an emissions-free energy source that reduces your carbon footprint. But the environmental benefit is just one of many.

By going solar, residential energy consumers can see significant savings in their home energy bills. Electricity prices were up 5.9% for the 12-month period ending in May, according to the Consumer Price Index. Depending on its size and your energy needs, a solar panel system can reduce or eliminate your electric bill.

Residential solar panels allow you to pull less energy from the grid. With the addition of solar batteries, solar panels could make your home self-reliant and independent from the electric grid. Solar batteries store energy created during sunny hours, allowing it to be used at night or on cloudy days. Choosing between an off-grid or grid-tied system will depend on your personal energy goals.

A solar system with a battery can help you power your home during an outage or blackout. Overall, solar panels add stability and flexibility to the electricity you get from the grid.



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By installing solar panels on your home, you're increasing the amount of clean, carbon-free energy generation available. (Manufacturing solar panels typically produces some greenhouse gas emissions, but far fewer over their lifetime than fossil fuel alternatives, like coal.) The electric power sector contributes up to 25% of all greenhouse gas emissions nationwide, according to the EPA. Using renewable energy helps reduce the use of fossil fuels and their harmful emissions.

Installing solar panels typically increases the overall value of your home. Solar panels can add around \$15,000 of value to your home and help your house sell quicker than houses without solar, according to the US Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Solar panels can add to your home's value.

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