



Before You Say Yes to Solar

If you are considering a photovoltaic “solar system” for your home, there is more to consider than promised monthly savings. Here are some of the many aspects to consider:

- Know all the costs, not just those for equipment and installation.
- In addition to equipment and labor, there are also pricey “soft costs” that can cost more than the system itself, according to Energy.gov.
- Soft costs include permit acquisition, financing charges and “pass-along” marketing, advertising and research costs.
- Thoroughly investigate the company: Is it backed by the Better Business Bureau? How long has it been in business? Is it contracted to do business in my state?
- Collect objective opinions about the pros and cons of solar versus electric.
- What happens when it’s cloudy? How does that impact energy supply?
- Are installers specially trained and certified to install solar?
- Is the work supervised by a master electrician?
- Who maintains the equipment and how much does that cost?
- Does the company carry major insurance for individuals working on my property?
- How does the system interface with my electric utility and its requirements?
- Should I buy or lease the system and what happens if I move?
- What are the safety issues surrounding solar?
- How is the power safely disconnected if needed?
- Does my utility require me to carry special insurance?

Please contact us with any questions about solar versus traditional electric energy transmission and delivery, as well as concerns about connection to the power grid.

