



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY.

NY-Sun

Learn About Solar Electric

NEW YORK'S COMPREHENSIVE SUITE OF SOLAR OFFERINGS ARE NOW UNDER ONE UNIFIED BANNER - NY-SUN.

NY-SUN INCENTIVE PROGRAM

offers incentives to residents and businesses to install solar electric.

COMMUNITY SOLAR NY and K-SOLAR

bring together communities and schools to realize the benefits of group purchasing and education.

NEW YORK'S UNIFIED SOLAR PERMIT

streamlines the permitting and inspection processes.

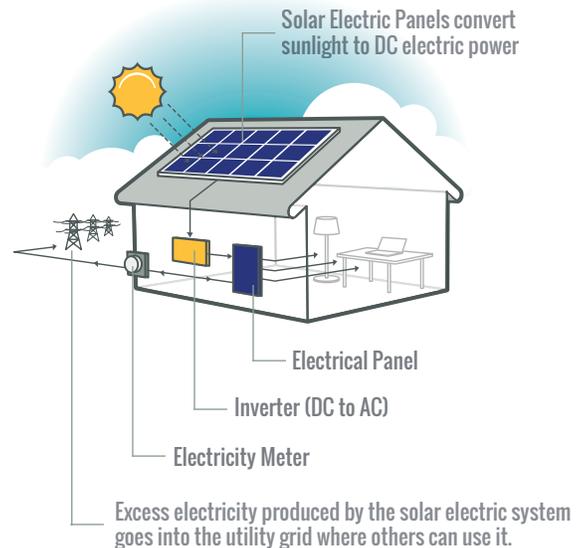
BALANCE-OF-SYSTEM research and

development projects reduce the overall cost of going solar.

NY-SUN.NY.GOV

1-866-NYSERDA

**Always consult your tax professional to determine your eligibility for tax credits.*



What is solar electric and how does it work?

Solar electric systems (also referred to as photovoltaic or PV) convert sunlight directly into electricity, which can then be used in your home or business. Solar panels can be mounted on a roof or the ground. A solar electric system is connected to your electrical service panel and the grid, and if located properly, produces electricity anytime the sun is shining. A properly sized and installed system can provide a significant percentage of your electric needs. Solar electric systems work best when facing south and must not be shaded by trees, nearby buildings, or other obstructions. If your system generates more electricity than you use, you will receive a credit from your utility provider. It is a process known as net metering, but you will come to think of it as simple savings.

Why choose solar electric?

- Solar electric technologies provide an environmentally friendly, renewable power source. In contrast with fossil fuels, solar electric systems create no air, noise, or water pollution while generating power.
- You can save money on your electric bills now and in the future.
- You may qualify for tax credits* to reduce your out-of-pocket installation costs: up to 30% of the system cost for federal and 25% of the system cost (up to \$5,000 for your primary residence) for New York State.

Is solar thermal the same as solar electric?

No. Solar thermal technology uses the sun's energy to heat hot water for domestic use, and can be installed along with a solar electric system. Visit nyserdera.ny.gov/solar-hot-water to learn more about solar thermal.

How much money will I save on electric bills?

A 7-kilowatt solar electric system located on a south-facing roof can typically offset 70-80% of a home's electricity needs. When combined with improving energy efficiency, the savings on your electric bill can be even more significant. Your savings will depend on how much electricity you use, the size of the solar electric system, how sunny the local area is, the orientation of the solar electric panels, and how much you pay for electricity.

I want to install solar electric on my home or business.

How do I start?

The first step is to contact a NY-Sun participating contractor. Visit ny-sun.ny.gov for a list of participating contractors and get more information about NY-Sun programs and how to get started.

New York State has solar, and solar has advantages for New Yorkers. Don't be fooled by the many myths out there.

Myth: A solar installation requires a lot of cash upfront.

FACT: Home and building owners have three options for acquiring a solar electric system.

Buying. If you choose to buy, you will indeed need cash up front. To make the buying process easier, NYSERDA offers two low interest-rate loan options for residential installations, as well as for small businesses and not-for-profit organizations.

Leasing. Many solar companies offer leases, which means essentially renting the system with the benefit of all the power it produces. Typically, with a solar lease, you will pay monthly with little to no money down at the start of your contract.

Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). A PPA is similar to a lease as requires little or no money down, and the system is not owned by the utility customer. Under a PPA the utility customer agrees to purchase the power that is generated by the system instead of purchasing power from the grid. The purchase price per kWh is detailed in the terms of the PPA.

Myth: The price of solar will go down, so it's better to wait.

FACT: Pricing for solar is currently very competitive, the result of a robust and fast-maturing market. It's true that both pricing and technology will continue to evolve. However, as the market continues to mature, and prices drop, there is less need for incentives. Under the NY-Sun Incentive Program, incentives will decrease on a prescribed basis over time.

Myth: Solar is ineffective in New York State's northern climate.

FACT: A solar electric system can work well in New York. In the summer, solar production will be its highest as there are more hours of daylight. Solar electric systems also work in the winter months as the panels are more efficient at lower temperatures. Snow storms may have a slight disruption in production, however the accumulated snow will soon melt and slide off quickly. A bright sunny day, with bitter cold temperatures, and snow on the ground to reflect the sun's rays can often be the most efficient time for your solar electric system.

Myth: I won't own my home long enough to make my investment back.

FACT: The return on investment on a solar installation is estimated to be less than 10 years on average, depending on several variables. If you're planning on owning your home for 10 years or longer, your home's value could increase 20 times the amount you save on your energy bill. According to a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimate, if you save \$1,000 a year on energy, you could add approximately \$20,000 to the overall value of your home (assuming you own your solar electric system).

Visit NY-SUN.NY.GOV or call [1-866-NYSERDA](tel:1-866-NYSERDA) to learn more about how NY-Sun is significantly expanding the growth of solar energy across all sectors in New York State.

NY-Sun, a dynamic public-private partnership, will drive growth in the solar industry and make solar technology more affordable for all New Yorkers. NY-Sun brings together and expands existing programs administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), PSEG Long Island, and the New York Power Authority (NYPA), to ensure a coordinated, well-supported solar energy expansion plan and a transition to a sustainable, self-sufficient solar industry.

