

## FAQs

# Home & Rooftop Solar Panels

### How does rooftop solar save homeowners money?

Rooftop solar helps Wisconsin homeowners to save on their electricity bills. This is done through multiple different processes including net metering, battery storage and solar tax credits.

- **Reduced electricity costs:** Powering your home with solar can save money on your electric bill. The average price for electricity in Wisconsin in October 2023 was **\$187 per month** – around \$2,244 per year. By switching to solar energy in Wisconsin, you could save hundreds on energy bills and increase your home's value.
- **Solar tax credit:** Wisconsinites who install solar panels on their **residence** or **business** are provided a federal solar tax credit dependent on the year of installation. The federal government offers a 30% tax credit to install a solar system onto your home or business. There are a few solar incentives offered at the city and county level that can help further cut the cost of solar. With the **increased savings** from lowered electricity bills and additional **incentives** such as payment plans, local stipends, net metering, and solar energy system property tax exemptions, systems installed in Wisconsin homes can be paid back in as little as **eight years**.

### What happens to excess energy produced by rooftop solar panels?

The excess energy can either be returned to the grid or stored in battery technology to be used at a later time—allowing consumers to save money and have access to an efficient, reliable power source.

- **Returning to the grid:** Provides a way for consumers of solar energy to sell back the electricity they aren't using back into the grid. This is called **net metering**. Net metering is **offered** in Wisconsin and allows homes and businesses to roll over excess credits at the end of the monthly billing period to future bills.
- **Battery storage:** Provides a **reliable, back-up** source of power in case of a grid outage, utility shut off, or extreme weather. Storage technology allows for **reduced utility rates** by allowing Wisconsin homeowners to decide where they want their power to be sourced from.

Rooftop Solar at Wisconsin Energy Institute  
Madison, Wisconsin | Photo captured in 2013  
Source: Wisconsin Energy Institute Flickr



### Can solar panels keep my lights on in instances when other power sources go out?

If your home is equipped with solar battery storage, your power will not go out. Instead of returning excess solar production to the grid, battery storage allows [electricity to be stored](#) for later use. This excess electricity is pulled from the battery and can be used in instances where other power sources like coal and natural gas would be threatened: when the power goes out, during intensive weather conditions, or at night.

### How can I find out how much electricity I can generate with solar energy?

Homeowners can use a tool by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory called [PVWatts](#) to estimate energy production and costs using any Wisconsin address. By entering in your PV system information, you can see just how much you would save by switching to solar energy.

### Can solar panels be installed without impacting the design of my home?

A graphical layer can be placed on solar panels to ensure the aesthetics of your home or business are not altered. Solar panels can blend into roofing or side paneling to create a [building-integrated](#) design allowing homes in Wisconsin their initial integrity.



Kilgour Hall Solar Panel Installation  
Waukesha, Wisconsin | Photo captured in 2018  
Source: Carroll University Flickr