



A  Sempra Energy utility®

# Considering Solar?

HERE'S HELPFUL INFORMATION

*We're committed to clean energy. We support local solar generation and can help by giving you the information you need before going solar.*

Sunny San Diego is the perfect place for solar. Our region is a leader in installing rooftop solar panels and has one of the highest adoption rates of solar installation in the country.



*We can help by giving you the information you need to know before installing solar energy.*

## Did You Know

- There are many options including solar leasing, purchasing and financing.
- Location matters. Solar panels on south-facing roofs will generate the most power and west-facing panels best support the grid.
- Even with solar, you have to be connected to the grid. We'll be here for you when the sun isn't shining or when you need more power than your system provides.

## What we're doing Making it easy

Our online application process makes choosing solar easy. It takes less than one week to have your solar energy system authorized to operate following the receipt of the city/county inspection.

## Making the grid smarter

In much the same way that the Internet transformed how the world communicates, new technologies are transforming the nation's electricity "highway" so it runs more efficiently. This modernization of the network that delivers electricity to customers is called the "smart grid". We're investing in technologies that allow us to manage the growing influx of renewable sources that are more environmentally friendly. Having your solar system connected to our "smart grid" will give you reliable electric service all year long.

## Net energy metering

If you have an electricity generation system that uses renewables and your system produces more energy than you use, you can earn bill credits for excess power that flows from your system to the grid.

At times, renewable energy is unavailable or limited, like when the sun isn't shining or on cloudy days; and your system isn't producing enough electricity to meet your needs. On these days, you'll likely need to use SDG&E® as a source of back-up power or rely on the credits that you may have generated at an earlier time.

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## » Solar for everyone

There are more options for going green. Our EcoChoice<sup>SM</sup> and EcoShare<sup>SM</sup> programs allow you to purchase renewable power for your home or business. For more information, visit [sdge.com/ecochoice](http://sdge.com/ecochoice).

## Getting started in three easy steps

### Step 1: Take our Home Energy Survey

Making your home as energy efficient as possible is the first step before installing a solar energy system. Log in to My Account ([sdge.com/myaccount](http://sdge.com/myaccount)), click on the "My Energy" tab, then click on "My Energy Survey". Taking our survey and providing details about your home's energy use can help you estimate how your home uses energy and where you can reduce to become more energy efficient. Once your home is as energy efficient as possible, you won't need as many solar panels installed, which could help save you money.

### Step 2: Use the Solar Calculator to get an idea of the potential costs and savings

Log in to My Account ([sdge.com/myaccount](http://sdge.com/myaccount)), click on the My Energy Tab, then click on "Saving with Solar Energy".

### Step 3: Find a solar contractor and learn about financing and warranty options

Selecting a qualified contractor and knowing your financial options are key to a successful project. Search the web for a solar installer or equipment provider using the search term "Solar Energy Equipment and Systems Dealers". Ask about the company's experience as well as how much their services and products cost.

It's also important to discuss equipment warranties. A solar power system is a valuable addition to your home which makes it important to ask about equipment warranties and maintenance plans. Finally, we recommend that you obtain at least three bids in writing from different solar companies and ask for references from other clients.

Interested in learning more about solar contractors? Consider social media resources such as Angie's List and Yelp. You can also contact the Better Business Bureau or the California Contractors State License Board.

### Get some help

There are many ways to save if you're interested in solar. Visit [sdge.com/environment/solar-savings](http://sdge.com/environment/solar-savings) to see if you can take advantage of any federal or state incentives. You can also learn more about specific electricity rates for solar on our website.

Here are a few other sources:

[gosolarcalifornia.org](http://gosolarcalifornia.org)

[energycenter.org](http://energycenter.org)

## For more information

Watch our video, "Solar and the Electric Grid" at [sdge.com/solar](http://sdge.com/solar).