

Solar Power for Your Home

Why we care

About one-half the electrical energy supplied to homes in Oregon currently comes from coal and natural gas plants. Thanks to government incentives, now is an opportune time to replace some of that fossil-fuel energy with solar power. Oregon's Residential Energy Tax Credit will sunset on December 31, 2017. To obtain this credit, you must have a signed contract with an approved solar contractor and an application received by the Oregon Department of Energy by the end of the year. The tax credit offers up to \$6,000 (taken over four years), and that's on top of the 30 percent federal tax credit and an Energy Trust of Oregon incentive.

A 4-kilowatt solar electric system can provide about one-third of your household's annual electricity use. Also, any excess electricity goes into the existing grid so you are billed only for your net electricity use. Financial payback is generally about five to ten years, and the system adds to your home's value.

Simple, positive change

- Don't rely on solar only. Conserve energy by installing more insulation, sealing air leaks, and by changing energy consuming habits. See the Eco/Tip on [Home Energy Assessments](#).
- Confirm that your roof faces south or southwest and is exposed to full sun most of the day.
- Consider cost savings. After current incentives, a \$14,800 4-kilowatt installed solar electric system should cost you about \$4,460. A \$22,200 6-kilowatt system should cost you about \$8,490.
- To find a solar contractor, contact the Energy Trust at 1-866-368-7878 or <https://www.energytrust.org/solar-request-analysis-bid/>.

Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at jeanne@earthleaders.org.