



IS SOLAR RIGHT FOR YOU?

INVESTING IN SOLAR

While most people know what solar panels are, many aren't aware of the complexity of setting up a complete solar power system or understanding the actual return on investment. In reality, there's no one-size-fits-all approach when determining the value of installing solar. Varying laws, regulations and different property conditions require a unique approach to each project. These tips can help you make a good decision when evaluating your solar options.

» Partnering with your public power electric utility

Discuss your energy history, how rates are structured, available grants/rebates/tax credits and how installing rooftop solar may impact your bill. Your utility's energy specialists will go over all the details you need to know to make an informed decision.

» Energy usage and efficiency

Evaluate how your home uses energy and determine if there are ways to reduce your usage. Because solar is typically sized to generate all or a portion of your home's energy use, a good first step is to ensure your home is well sealed and insulated.

» Location, location, location

Before purchasing solar panels, determine if your home is positioned for optimal solar performance. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 22% to 27% of residential rooftop space is suitable for PV solar — with an unobstructed southern view. Visit pvwatts.nrel.gov to start this estimate. In addition, the roof of your home may require repairs, modifications or replacement before it can support solar panels.

» Vendor due diligence

Solar panels are a long-term investment, which is why it's important to thoroughly vet vendors to find the right one that fits your needs. Spending time NOW can save you a lot of stress and money LATER. Check credentials, local offerings and be sure to gather multiple bids. Don't fall prey to slick sales pitches — know your facts!

OTHER OPTIONS TO CONSIDER



There are many solar options offered by Nebraska's public power utilities. Give your local utility a call to see which one best fits you.

BUYER BEWARE

Question misleading claims about cost savings and benefits. Protect your solar purchase by doing the following before making a commitment:



Contact your local electric utility to discuss rates, estimated costs, return on investment and best practices.



Determine if your rooftop is ideal for solar performance.



Find reputable installers.



Gather multiple bids.