



a buyer's guide to going solar

Blue Raven Solar

Join the World's Energy Revolution

Millions of homeowners have made a smart decision—they have decided to use the earth's greatest and most sustainable resource to power their homes. The sun.



Get Smart About Solar

Installing a world-class solar system yields immediate benefits to your home and for your family. Suddenly, you're in control of your energy and your energy costs.

You no longer worry about your electricity bills when doing something as simple as turning on your washing machine. And while you're saving money, you're also helping the environment!

Solar energy is reliable, sustainable, safe and will have you smiling all day when your first electricity bill arrives.

8 SMART STEPS FOR GOING SOLAR



Do Your Research

Trust us, It's worth the time.

Before you begin to crunch numbers or make the first call to a potential solar provider, it's important to understand what it means to "Go Solar." By reading this eBook you're off to a great start, but don't forget the internet. It's a gold mine of solar energy information.

EnergySage offers straight-shooting info on state-by-state solar power energy savings, electricity production, rebates, tax credits and home benefits.

SolarReviews.com explains everything with straightforward, yet comprehensive, information, while hosting the most customer reviews of solar installers anywhere.



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Determine if Solar is Right for Your Family

Consider these important points:

WILL SOLAR SAVE ME MONEY?

The amount of money you will save is dependent on several variables: the size of your solar panel system, the amount of electricity you use, how you pay for your solar system, utility rate increases (historically 5.5% annually), and more. Blue Raven Solar customers can expect to save between \$15,000 to \$30,000+ on their electricity costs over the life of the system.

And the best part is, while the utility company continues to increase costs every year, your payments remain fixed year after year.

SUN EXPOSURE?

The more “sun facing” your roof is the better. The best solar installation companies can optimize solar panel layout and equipment to maximize savings even with suboptimal sun exposure. You’ll want to get a site survey to determine project feasibility.

YOUR ROOF?

Is your roof structurally sound? If you're unsure, you could call in a roofing expert to confirm. Better yet, some solar installers, including Blue Raven Solar, offer free site surveys that will determine if your roof qualifies. In our case, the turnaround for site surveys is just one day.

Solar panels can be installed on virtually any roof type, but its composition will dictate how a technician will approach the design and installation. If your provider charges for installation (we don't), these factors will also affect the cost.

EXPECTED POWER GENERATION?

Your solar system's output will depend on sun-to-panel exposure, roof type, and the kind of panels installed. An experienced solar consultant can calculate your solar system's power capability once he or she sees your home and discusses your energy objectives.



INCENTIVES?

The Federal Government offers a 30% tax credit for a purchased solar installation (leases don't qualify) making the choice to go solar now a very attractive and easy financial decision. In addition, many states and cities have extra solar incentives. The best part is, while the utility company continues to increase costs every year, our payments remain fixed year after year.

HOME RESALE VALUE?

Installing solar panels can help you sell your home faster and possibly at a higher price. In a study conducted by Lawrence Berkeley Labs, home buyers were willing to pay a premium of \$15,000 for a home with an average-sized rooftop solar panel system.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

Solar energy allows you to produce electricity without noise or air pollution from a clean, renewable and incredibly powerful resource. Over 25 years, a 6kW solar system is estimated to offset 357,731 pounds of CO₂, the leading greenhouse gas; 1008 pounds of sulfur dioxide, which causes acid rain; 68 pounds of particulates that cause asthma—as well as other green benefits.



Research Solar Providers

- The size of the solar company you select can make a difference. Find a company that is local but has the infrastructure to accommodate customers with a good price and good customer service. Many prefer a solar installation company with strong local relationships with the utility companies and town administrators, yet large enough to offer economies of scale and stability.
- Ask for references and a verifiable track record of success installing residential solar panel systems. Sites like SolarReviews.com and services like the Better Business Bureau are great independent resources to check a solar provider's ability to deliver superior customer experience.
- Ensure the solar company can explain in detail how they will treat your home and property each day during the installation.
- Always ask to see their electrical licenses. This is your assurance that the provider has the right training and experience to install a solar system your family will enjoy many years of comfort and cost savings.
- Finally, find out who is performing the solar system installation. The best rooftop installations are done by a closely supervised in-house crew of licensed and highly experienced electricians. Sub-contracting the solar installation is risky and makes it harder to control the materials and the quality of the installation.



Net Metering

Talk to the solar provider about net metering and how you can participate. When you switch to solar, your utility company will install a new meter for your home that allows for net metering.

Your meter acts as a gate, dumping excess electricity created by your solar array onto the utility grid during the day and drawing needed electricity from the utility grid at night.

A highly qualified solar provider will have a thorough understanding of how the net meter affects the utility companies and the homeowners.

[Click here](#) to learn more about how net metering works.



Understanding the Bottom-Line and Cost Benefits

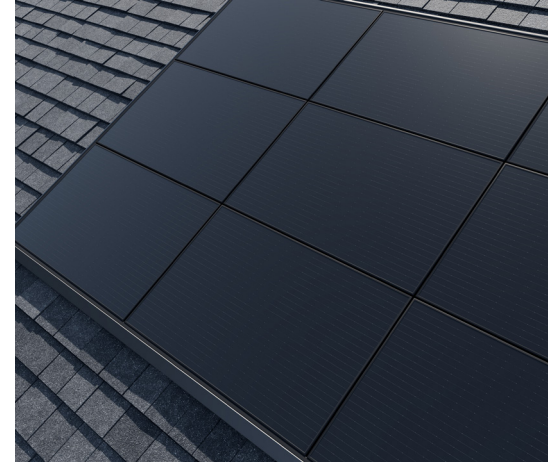
The first financial decision you'll need to make is whether you want to lease or own your solar panel system. With leasing you don't need to make an upfront investment, and you'll save from day one. With solar ownership, you'll gain superior return and flexibility. Blue Raven Solar is a rare exception that offers the benefits of both zero upfront investment and superior returns in one financing product.

During your consultation, get a clear understanding of what short-term and long-term costs (and savings!) you should expect.

Choose Your Solar Provider

You've done your research, and you're ready to choose your solar provider. Your final decision will be based on a mix of considerations including:

- Highest quality equipment
- Best value
- Long term savings
- Reputation
- Price
- Warranties and guarantees
- Lowest monthly payments



Complete Your Local Permitting Requirements

Getting the proper permits can be a burden. We recommend finding a solar company that does this for you, so you don't need to worry about it.

The building department responsible for permitting and inspecting improvements to properties is called the Authority Having Jurisdiction (or AHJ). A good solar company will have strong relationships with your local AHJ to ensure a smooth process.

Keep in mind: If your neighborhood has a homeowners' association, they'll usually need to approve the solar installation as well. Choose a solar company that facilitates approval, so you don't have to worry about it.





Install Your System

It's time to put monocrystalline solar panels on your roof! The solar technicians have arrived on time and introduced themselves to you and your family.

Installation generally requires 2-3 days although this may vary depending on the size and scope of the solar installation (Blue Raven Solar typically installs in 1 day). Rarely will a highly qualified provider extend the installation process beyond 5 days.



Get Final Approval from Your Utility

Once your solar panel system is installed, it will be connected to your utility grid through an interconnection, to begin generating electricity. Generally, the following will occur:

- Local building and electrical inspectors conduct their final inspections.
- Your utility company is notified of the project's completion. A new meter may be installed at this stage.
- Your utility company approves your connection to the utility grid. Your solar panel installers then notify you can turn on your rooftop system and start producing clean solar energy!

Once again, a highly qualified solar provider will streamline and simplify this process for you.



CONGRATS!
ENJOY YOUR
SAVINGS!

We are Passionate About Solar

Finding the right solar provider and system will ensure you and your family will enjoy the benefits of solar for many years to come.

We encourage you to visit blueravensolar.com or call us at [\(800\) 377-4480](tel:8003774480) for a free consultation and estimate.



