



# HOMEOWNERS' GUIDE TO SOLAR

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# IS SOLAR POWER REALLY WORTH IT?

This commonly asked question has a resounding answer - YES! By making the choice to switch to solar, you not only have the chance to save big on utility bills, but you also have a multitude of other benefits coming your way. This guide will serve as your personal cheat sheet to all things solar - from the benefits to the finances to the installation and more!



# HOW IS YOUR CURRENT ENERGY SOURCE **HELPING YOU?**

Your energy source should be affordable and helpful. There's plenty of reasons why you should go solar, but the main reasons include the potential savings, what it can do to your home's value, and of course - the environmental benefit. Solar can even add predictability to your life by locking in how much you pay for your system's energy.

## **POTENTIAL SAVINGS**

Most homeowners initially choose to go solar so they can save money on utility bills. However, how much you can save depends on how much electricity your household uses. By making the switch to solar, an average household could save hundreds of dollars every year and tens of thousands of dollars over the life of the system.

## **INCREASE IN HOME VALUE**

Solar can increase the value of your home in a multitude of ways! If your home is equipped with solar power, your home can become more enticing for new buyers. Buying a home with solar is a turn-key situation for the buyer because they don't have to go through the permitting and installation processes themselves. This can cause your home to sell faster and at a higher price!

## **PREDICTABLE UTILITY RATES**

When your installation company builds your custom solar system, they create it based on your specific energy needs. This means your monthly bill will reflect your average energy use, making your monthly energy bill more consistent.

Ah, just imagine the peace of mind you'll gain by being able to properly budget around a more predictable energy bill.





# BENEFITS OF **GOING SOLAR**

## **TAX CREDITS AND INCENTIVES FOR GOING SOLAR**

The Federal Tax credit for solar power currently allows you to deduct up to 26% of the cost of your solar system from the tax you owe at the end of the year, but if you owe less than 26% of the price you paid for your system, you'll only receive the amount that you owed. You can carry any remaining amount of the credit forward for up to 5 years. However, if you don't have the proper tax liability, you may not be able to qualify for the tax credit.

Some states offer incentives for going solar. The best way to find out what incentives are available for you is to talk to a solar professional with Boundless.

## **BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

Most of the time, people go solar for financial reasons, but they're making a huge impact on the environment at the same time. An average solar system over its lifespan can reduce carbon emissions equivalent to saving over 200 acres of forest.

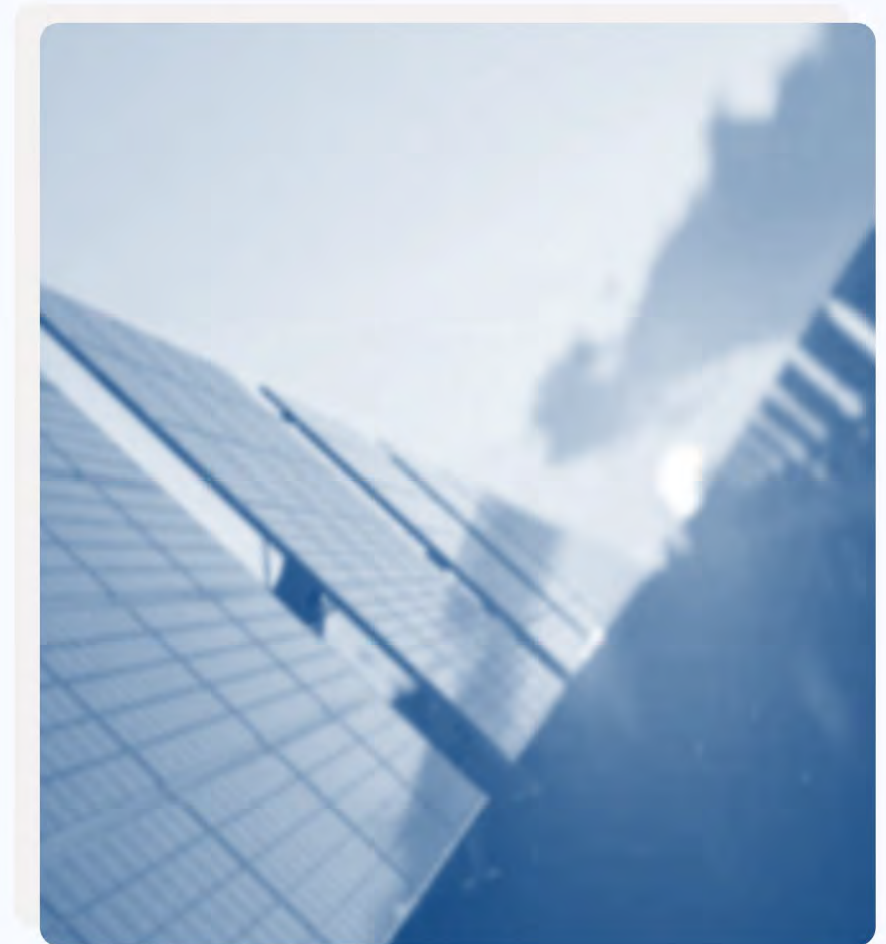




# KNOW YOUR **FINANCIAL OPTIONS**

## **PURCHASE**

If you are able to purchase your solar system with cash, this affects the overall price quite a bit. This is because you're avoiding any loan interest rates and any potential savings is going right into your pocket - this option will give you the greatest return on your investment.



## LOAN

Don't have the cash on hand? No worries! The majority of homeowners who purchase a solar system finance their systems. Ask your solar representative about finance options.



## PPA

A Power Purchase Agreement is a relationship between a homeowner and a solar power company for the homeowner to pay a rate for electricity that is lower than what that homeowner would pay the utility company. If you can't finance a system, a PPA is a great option that can still save you tens of thousands of dollars depending on what rates you're paying now and how much power you use.

# HOW THE INSTALLATION **PROCESS WORKS**

There's more to going solar than just installing a solar system on your roof and flipping a switch to turn it on. First, the solar company will design a custom system to meet your energy needs. After agreeing on the design, they'll attain the necessary permits from your local jurisdiction.

Once the company gets the permits, you will work together to pick a date to install your solar system! When the system is installed, your local utility company needs to come out to your home and inspect it. If the system passes inspection, the last step is for the utility to grant Permission-to-Operate (PTO).

## **ASSESSING YOUR ENERGY NEEDS**

Your solar journey begins with an assessment of your solar needs. Your solar representative will come to your home and analyze your utility bill. Using that information, the solar rep determines your system's size and design based on your energy needs.



## **PLANS AND PERMITS**

At this point, we're working hard behind the scenes to get your home ready for installation. During this time (if it hasn't already happened), a certified Site Auditor will be coming to your home to gather photos, videos, and measurements. These assets will go to our Engineers and Designers so they can create your solar system plans.

From there, we'll send these plans to your city approval department to receive your solar permit, which can take roughly 6-8 weeks to complete. After that, it's time for your installation day!

## **INSTALLATION**

Your installation crew will arrive at your home. The crew leader will make sure that the plans for the system match the plans that you approved. Once this is confirmed, the crew will commence installation which can take anywhere from 1-2 days depending on the system's size.

## **INSPECTION**

After the system is installed, your local utility company and/or the AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction) will need to come out and inspect it prior to allowing it to be connected to the grid.

## **PERMISSION TO OPERATE**

After your system passes inspection, your solar installer will ask the utility company for Permission to Operate (PTO). This is the final step in the installation process. Once PTO is granted, your solar installer will remotely switch your system on. At that point, your system begins delivering electricity to your home and potential savings to your bank account!

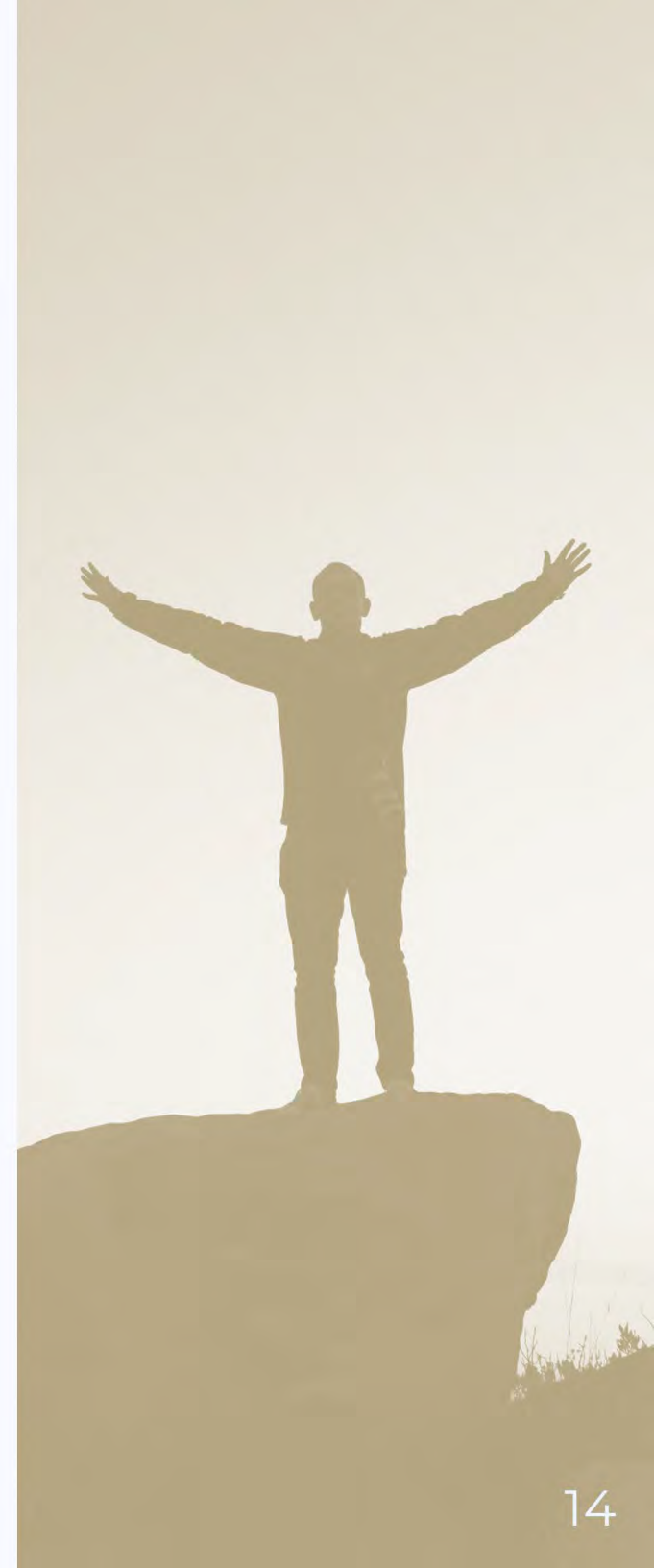


# THE BOUNDLESS **DIFFERENCE**

At Boundless, we believe going solar should be fun, interactive, and customized to your needs and goals. We refuse to use stock solutions.

With decades of combined experience, we will provide you with a tailored plan that fits your energy and financial needs. We have a high set of standards that we hold ourselves accountable to.

We care about our customers, and because of that, we pride ourselves on creating long-term relationships with the families that we serve.





# FREQUENTLY ASKED **QUESTIONS**

## **DO I STILL GET A UTILITY BILL AFTER I GO SOLAR?**

Yes, but your utility bill will likely be a lot smaller, or maybe even a bill credit if you generate more power than you use. With most utility companies, if you have left-over bill credits, those credits will carry over to the next month.



## **DO SOLAR PANELS WORK IN A BLACKOUT?**

For most grid-tied solar power systems, the answer is no. The system is connected to the grid and your home. In the event of a blackout, the solar power system has a special cut-off to prevent electricity from being sent into damaged electrical grid wiring. It's a safety feature that protects line workers that are working to restore the power.

## **HOW DO I MAXIMIZE MY SAVINGS ON MY SOLAR POWER?**

It's easy! Just use less power than your solar panels produce. Going solar has a mental effect too! When you have a system, you start to become more mindful of your energy usage in the home. Most homeowners who go solar develop better energy habits that reduce their consumption.

## **WHAT KIND OF MAINTENANCE DO SOLAR PANELS NEED?**

Solar panels need very little maintenance. If they get covered by dust, snow or any other natural debris, you can usually wait for it to fall off on its own.

## **HOW LONG DOES A SOLAR POWER SYSTEM LAST?**

Most solar systems are warrantied to last for 25 years. It's very likely that your system will last longer than that. There are 40 year old solar systems out there that are still going strong, producing about 75 - 80% of the power they were originally designed to produce. As they age, solar panels lose about 0.5 - 1% of their power output per year. Thus, it's very likely that your solar system will outlast its warranty.



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