GO SOLAR

GoSolarTexas.org

INCREASING DEPLOYMENT OF SOLAR ENERGY ACROSS TEXAS | **FACT SHEET**

What is Go Solar Texas

Go Solar Texas is a statewide initiative to increase deployment of solar energy across Texas by providing educational and technical resources for residential, corporate, non-profit, and government groups.

Solar Benefits to Texas

- **Abundant Resource:** Solar is an abundant resource that can provide much of the needed electricity when electricity demand is highest - when it's hot and the sun is shining.
- **Energy Security:** Solar energy is an abundant local resource, and expansion of solar can help Texans, and all Americans, improve energy independence.
- **Efficiency**: Much solar is produced and used at the same site, which reduces efficiency losses associated with the transmission system.
- **Meet Growing Energy Demand:** Texas is one of the fastest growing states in terms of population and the economy. More electricity generation is needed to keep up with this demand.
- **Improve Air Quality:** Solar is a zero-emission technology. Increased deployment of solar has the potential to help reduce harmful emissions that contribute to ozone formation and health concerns.
- **Economics and Financial Stability:** Due to the combination of federal incentives and falling costs, solar is beginning to reach grid parity with conventional energy sources. In addition to being cost-competitive with higher emitting energy sources, solar is less exposed to price volatility associated with the economics of oil and gas. Additionally, solar contracts can be signed for 20-25 years at stable prices which translates into a stable bill for end-users.

Steps to Going Solar!

Interested in Going Solar? To begin the process of evaluating whether solar energy is a good fit for you take these 4 steps as outlined on Gosolartexas.org.

Educate Yourself

Educate yourself on basic items such as understanding how much energy you consume monthly and annually.

Determine if Solar is Workable for Your Home

Evaluate items such as the condition of your roof and the energy efficiency of your home to determine suitability and return on investment.

Determine How to Finance a Solar Installation

The cost of a solar installation depends on multiple factors such as how you plan to finance the installation, how much electricity you consume, the size of the installation and what incentives are available.

Find a Certified Installer

Texas has no licensing requirements for solar installers. However, there are resources available to help make an informed decision; and, remember to get 3 quotes!

FAST FACTS

57,000 Homes

As of December 2015, the Lone Star State has installed 534 megawatts (MW) of solar capacity, enough to power 57,000 homes.[1]

64% of new capacity

As of 2016, solar now consists of 64% of the new electric generating capacity additions, compared to just 4% of new capacity additions in 2010.

$15,000 premium

Homes with rooftop solar command a premium of $15,000 (for a typical size 3.6 KW PV system) and sell up to 50% faster than non-solar homes.[2]

73% cost reduction

The cost of solar power has dropped 73% since 2006, largely due to federal and state incentives. On average, the cost of solar installations range from $15,000 to $30,000 for a system sized between 4 KW and 8 KW (the average size of a residential solar system in the US is 5 KW). Typical payback periods range from 4 to 10 years.[3]

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) led the Go Solar Texas effort. This is a statewide initiative to increase deployment of solar energy across Texas through provision of educational and technical resources for residential, corporate, non-profit, and government groups. Visit gosolartexas.org for more information and resources. Visit www.nctcog.org for information about other programs and resources available from NCTCOG.

Sources: 1: Solar Energy Industries Association, SEIA.org/smi. Acquired August 2016.
2. Sandra Adomatis and Ben Hoen. Appraising into the Sun: Six-State Solar Home Paired-Sale Analysis. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. 2015.
3. Dan Lepinsky, 2016.

North Central Texas Council of Governments

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