

Let INYO350 help you to make the smart decision to Go Solar.

There are three basic options to finance installing solar power panels on your roof:

1. Purchase a system outright
2. Lease a system
3. Lease to own

Each of these systems has advantages; the one you choose depends on your current financial situation and whether or not you are going to refinance your house loan.

If you refinance, it may make sense to include the cost of a solar power system into the cost of the new mortgage. The timeframe for paying off a new system through declining electrical bills is continually reducing, and, if nothing else, solar panels make your home worth more and more easily sellable.



The mission of INYO350 is to promote environmental protection and social and economic justice through policy, influence, education and direct action.

INYO350action.org

ROOFTOP SOLAR: Less Expensive Than You Think!

One of the most effective ways to reduce your carbon footprint and to help prevent development of industrial-sized renewable energy farms in the Owens Valley is through rooftop solar. Here in Inyo County there is one resource that is free and in abundance: the sun! With affordable solar panels you can easily produce enough electricity for your home.



The solar power story is straightforward.

The panels convert sunlight to electricity, the electricity is sent either into the power grid or into a battery via an inverter and controller. If the power is sent into the grid, when you are producing more power than you use (typically during the day) your meter turns “backwards.” Then you “buy back” that power as your production ebbs at night.

A solar power installation company will get your past 12 months of power bills and calculate how many panels you may need to generate a year’s worth of useage.

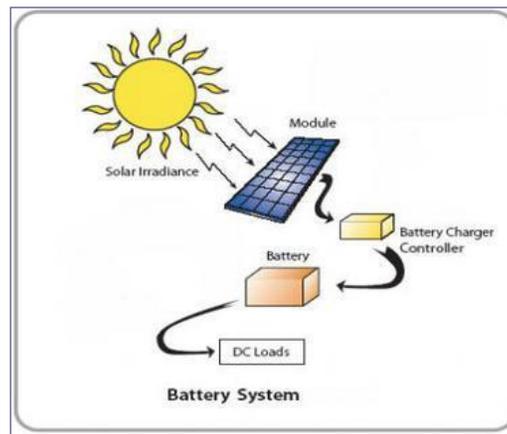
You can have them install that amount of panels, or however many you choose. During the winter months when the sun is low, or when it is cloudy and not much solar power is being produced, you may need to buy electricity from the power company. But, during the months when the sun is higher and the days are longer, you may produce more power than you use, and earn a credit.

If the company has done the calculations right, and your usage doesn’t change, then your levels should even out by the end of the year. Due to current laws and “buy-back” rates there is really no reason to “over panel” your house.

Living off the power grid

If you choose to live off the grid, a solar power system producing 12-volt power might be an excellent choice. All appliances would need to be 12-volt enabled, but in new construction off-the-grid is an excellent idea rather than paying the costs associated with tying into the power system.

However, retrofitting a house with 12-volt power may not be a good idea. It would be expensive and produce little tangible electrical savings since any “extra” power could not be put back into the grid due to mismatched voltage. It would make more sense financially to retrofit your home with solar panels converting sun-produced power to 110-volt electricity.



ROOFTOP SOLAR is a project of the INYO350 organization.

INYO350 is a newly formed organization that supports our community and the drive to work for a better and brighter future for our planet and all its inhabitants. As an organization, INYO350 facilitates local actions in many ways, but above all we gather together to educate ourselves on how to influence change in collaboration with others.

Rooftop Solar is one of many projects undertaken by INYO350. The sole intent of this project is to encourage Inyo County residents to explore the possibility of adding solar panels to their house, whether it’s the initial construction, a remodel, or the reconstruction of a home. INYO350 does not endorse any particular company, but does encourage residents to use a local contractor whenever possible.

Inyo County, and Bishop in particular, has the potential to be self-sufficient in renewable energy generation. Very few places in the United States receive as much solar radiation as we do. We CAN wean ourselves off of fossil fuel.

**In this geographic area,
THE SUN is our answer to
self-sufficiency!**