

# MAKING SOLAR PART OF OUR FUTURE



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# OKLAHOMA'S ENERGY FUTURE

In 2010, Oklahoma set a goal that 15 percent of its energy capacity should consist of renewables by 2015. Oklahoma exceeded that goal ahead of the deadline and continues to increase its use of renewables.

## Oklahoma utilities are leaders in renewable energy:

- Beginning in 2016, Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) is adding 600 megawatts of low-cost Oklahoma wind power, creating significant savings for customers.
- Oklahoma Gas & Electric (OG&E) has installed Oklahoma's first large-scale solar farm, capable of generating up to 2.5 megawatts. This farm will be the power source for a community solar program OG&E launches in 2016.
- Oklahoma utilities support the state's goals in the Oklahoma First Energy Plan, which calls for leadership in energy efficiency and increased use of renewables and natural gas.
- Oklahoma is now the fourth largest producer of wind energy capacity in the U.S. As interest in solar power continues to increase, it's time to evaluate solar's role in Oklahoma's energy future.



# SOLAR IS GROWING IN OKLAHOMA

## Solar power comes in three forms:

- **LARGE-SCALE:** Owned and operated by utilities
- **COMMUNITY:** Project built to allow a group of people to subscribe to its energy
- **ROOFTOP:** Panels for residences or businesses

## How does rooftop solar work?

- Rooftop solar enables customers to produce a portion of their own electricity and possibly send power back to the grid.
- With current technology, most rooftop solar systems still need the grid to power large appliances like an A/C unit or refrigerator.
- Solar customers still rely on the grid 24 hours a day, especially at night and on cloudy days.



# SOLAR POWER AND AFFORDABLE PRICING

Oklahoma utilities support customers who choose to install rooftop solar or other forms of customer-owned generation.

**Utility rates are being updated to meet customer needs. These updates will ensure:**

- Customers without rooftop solar do not have to pay more for electricity as a result of other customers' rooftop solar installations. Currently, rooftop solar is subsidized through electric retail rates.
- All customers pay for their portion of the poles, wires, transformers, storm repairs and customer services they are using.
- Customers with rooftop solar are charged only for what it costs to serve them.
- The price structure continues to encourage increased use of renewable energy such as solar.



# DOES ROOFTOP SOLAR SAVE YOU MONEY?

Here are some factors to consider when estimating the potential benefits of rooftop solar:

- How much energy your system will produce
- Future changes to electricity rates
- Weather conditions
- Alternative energy efficiency investments in your home
- Lifestyle and energy use

## Know the facts

- Rooftop solar costs have dropped significantly. But with Oklahoma's low electricity rates, the payback period for an investment in rooftop solar may take many years – in some instances, longer than customers may plan to own their home.
- Many cost-effective energy efficiency investments already are available to help you lower your energy costs. Learn more at:



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[psoklahoma.com/save](https://psoklahoma.com/save)



[oge.com](https://oge.com)

# WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU INSTALL ROOFTOP SOLAR

Work with a certified installer. Check with the company's references and with the Better Business Bureau to ensure the installer is in good standing and will service your panels when needed.

If you are considering working with a solar leasing company, understand the details of the contract and verify that the company will stand behind its product for the long term.

## Facts to know first

- Check with your neighborhood homeowners association to ensure rooftop solar meets association guidelines.
- Check local codes and requirements since regulations differ from community to community. Obtain a city permit for the construction.
- Make sure you and your contractor follow the electric utility's interconnection process and install properly certified and configured electrical equipment. This will ensure the safety of your family and utility workers.



# WHERE ELSE CAN YOU GET EXPERT ADVICE?

As with any significant investment, it is a good idea to hear what the experts have to say about how investing in rooftop solar could affect you over the long term.

## Know the facts

- **ASK TAX PROFESSIONALS** – What tax incentives are available for rooftop solar panels? If purchased through a lease, are these tax credits still available?
- **ASK INSURANCE AGENTS** – Does their policy cover damage related to rooftop solar? Would having rooftop solar impact policy premiums?
- **ASK REAL ESTATE AGENTS** – Will rooftop solar increase a home's value? Will leasing or owning a rooftop solar system make it easier or harder to sell a home?
- **ASK THE LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Does rooftop solar impact home safety? Will having a rooftop solar system affect how the department would fight fires at a home?
- **ASK YOUR ELECTRIC PROVIDER** – What utility interconnection requirements do contractors need to be aware of?

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