



Frequently Asked Questions

Does it really help the environment to install solar electricity on my home or business?

Yes, significantly! For each kilowatt of electricity generated, less fossil fuels are needed to be burned and the resulting CO2 emissions are kept from polluting our air. The average home PV system saves the equivalent of 50 trees a year!

Is solar energy available to everyone?

If your property is in Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey you probably have enough sunlight to make solar energy a great option. When Solardelphia visits your location, we'll take a look at things like the direction your roof faces, the impact of any potential shade and the estimated life of your current roof to help you decide if solar is right for you.

How much does a typical solar installation cost and how much money can I save?

The end cost of your solar installation will depend on many factors including the amount of energy your system can generate. Once Solardelphia determines the size and type of system that will best meet your needs, we can more accurately determine your savings on energy costs, tax credits and estimated rebates. A residential installation typically ranges in cost from \$12,000 to up to \$100,000. Commercial installations start at about \$20,000 and may exceed millions of dollars depending on the number of panels required. (Each dollar saved in utility expense generates \$20 in property value.)

How long will my solar installation last?

A quality installed solar electricity system can last 25 years or more. Solardelphia's ten-year warranty on materials and labor of your installation typically exceeds your estimated payback time. The manufacturer of the panels provides a 25-year warranty.

What are the current financial incentives to install solar electricity?

Today, the federal government is providing a 30% tax credit to help offset the cost of a qualified solar installation. Pennsylvania residents may qualify for the Sunshine Grant, and properties located in New Jersey may qualify for the Renewable Energy Incentive Program. You will also earn Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECS) for the power generated by your system.

What is a Solar PV system?

PV stands for photovoltaic. A PV system converts sunlight directly to electricity.

What is an SREC?

A Solar Renewable Energy Credit, SREC, is a tradable certificate that represents the production of 1MWh of solar energy that has been produced and verified. It signifies the clean or "green" attributes of the power that was generated. This is not the actual electricity produced, but the environmental and social attributes of that electricity. SREC transactions occur in many regions based on the production of clean power; utilities purchase a specific number of RECs from clean power generators, to meet mandated Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS). SRECs may also be traded on an open market to willing buyers.

Will I need to clean solar panels?

Most of our customers do not clean their panels. In most areas of the country, there is sufficient rain to clean the panels. However, if you are in a dusty area (near a dirt road, an industrial zone, etc.) you may see a small performance gain from cleaning the panels monthly. If you have a week or more without rain in spring and summer, pollen can build up on the solar panels. A hose spray is usually sufficient for cleaning solar panels. Do not walk on or over the panels to clean them. Only use gentle, non-abrasive methods for cleaning. Do not spray water on the panels when they are very hot, or use high pressure hoses.

Will I have electricity at night and on cloudy days?

Yes. The type of system installed by Solardelphia is a grid-tied system. This lets you get electricity from the power company when you need it, and send back any excess electricity you generate.

What is a grid-tied system?

A grid-tied system is connected to your local power company. This way, excess electricity you generate is sent back to the power company, or, if you need it, electricity is sent to your home or business.

What if there is a power outage at the electric company?

For safety reasons, your solar electricity system will shut down automatically. A few minutes after the utility grid is restored, the solar system, via sensors in the inverter/s, should turn back on automatically after a countdown period.

What if I need a new roof after the solar panels are installed?

The solar panels will operate for 25 years or more. Because of this, your roof should be in good condition before installation. Removal and subsequent re-installation of a solar PV system is very expensive, voids warranties, and takes away SREC income. However, when solar is installed on a newer roof (say ten years or less), it will extend the life of the roof portion that the solar panels covers since the solar panels block UV light and other natural elements that damage roofing materials.

How many solar panels will I need to install?

Solardelphia will make that determination for you after our initial site visit. We will carefully inspect your property and suggest the number of panels you need. Our goal is to provide you with the most amount of power using the least amount of panels.

Do the solar panels need to face south?

South is best to maximize sun exposure, but panels installed facing southeast or southwest still generate a substantial amount of electricity. The closer a solar photovoltaic system is oriented to solar south, the more solar electricity it will generate, thereby increasing the financial return on the project. This is because the additional kWh hours of solar electricity produced have a corresponding monetary value.

What is Net Metering?

Net Metering is the regulatory ability to get credit for solar electricity you generate and send, or "export", to the utility grid. Utilities must adjust their bills monthly to reflect the value of electricity the utilities received from their customers who exported power from their solar energy system.