



# CONSIDERING SOLAR PANELS?

A HELPFUL GUIDE FOR HOMEOWNERS



**KIAMICHI  
ELECTRIC**  
COOPERATIVE





## CONSIDERING SOLAR PANELS?

There are many factors that will determine if solar makes sense for you. Here are some things worth considering if you've been thinking about installing solar panels on your home.

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## ENERGY INDEPENDENCE & RELIABILITY

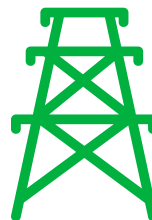
Going solar doesn't necessarily mean going off the grid - Typically, solar panels are a supplement to your electric with Kiamichi Electric Cooperative (KEC), and your solar panel system cannot operate independently of the electric grid unless it's specifically designed to provide back-up power. Here are the facts related to residential solar panels, the electric grid and reliability:



When there's limited or no sunlight, you'll need to be connected to the electric grid to power your home.



Most solar panels automatically shut off during power outages for safety reasons, so during a daytime service interruption, solar panels may not power your home. They are not a back-up generator.



Staying connected to the electric grid is necessary if you want to be compensated for the excess energy your solar panels generate that your home doesn't immediately use. Keep in mind that the compensation rate is subject to change.

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## BUYING SOLAR

What to know before installing - When you purchase a solar panel system, you pay up front to install the panels. You may be able to take advantage of state and federal tax credits, but you're also responsible for maintenance and repairs. Here are a few questions to consider when thinking about buying a solar panel system:



Is your roof ready for solar panels? Before you install, have a professional take a look at your roof to assess its condition of your shingles. If you decide to buy a solar panel system and later need roof repairs or replacement, professional removal of the panels may be necessary, adding to your cost.



How will installing a system impact your home insurance costs and coverage? Check your homeowner's insurance policy to see if it covers possible damage related to solar panels. You may want to ask your agent if having solar panels will change your premium.



Are you planning on selling your house in the next few years? Solar panels can be an attractive feature for a buyer or a negative. If you decide you want to take your system when moving, you'll need to hire a professional to remove and reinstall the panels on your new home.

## LEASING SOLAR

How does it work? - Buying a solar system can be expensive, and one way that homeowners are told they can avoid hefty upfront costs is by leasing the system. When you lease a solar panel system, you're able to use the power it produces, but a third party owns the system equipment. You pay the company to lease the equipment.



If you decide to lease, you won't be eligible to receive tax credits because you don't own the solar panel system.



Leases can last 20 years or more, and some contain payments that escalate over time.



If you sell your property before the lease term expires, your options may include: paying for the system to be installed at your new home; leaving the system on your home and negotiation with the buyer to take over the lease or paying off the remainder of the lease.



There may be a lien placed on your solar panel system, which can post a challenge when you want to refinance or sell your property. In addition, the leasing company you sign your original agreement with may sell that lease to another third party, so you will want to find out how you can keep track of who actually owns the panels installed on your roof.



Be sure to look closely at your installer's warranty and note how long they cover their work.



The leasing company doesn't always install the system, so you also may need to find a reputable installer.

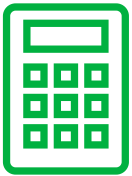


As with buying panels, you should have a professional inspect your roof to ensure it can support the equipment. You'll also want to check with your homeowner's insurance policy to see if it covers damage related to solar panels.

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## SAVINGS

What's the bottom line? - There are several variables that determine the cost of installing solar panels:



Weather conditions, the energy efficiency of your home, lifestyle and energy use, how much energy your panels produce, future changes to electricity rates, and compensation for energy placed back onto the electric grid are a few factors that make it difficult to calculate actual savings over time.



As a Kiamichi Electric member, you will still receive a monthly bill from us. The charges on your bill include your cost for access to the electric grid and the cost for any electricity you consumed during the months that your solar panel system couldn't produce to meet your needs. Please visit [www.kiamichielectric.org](http://www.kiamichielectric.org) for more information.



Remember you may have a solar lease or loan payment to take into account.



Like any other major financial transactions, you will want to make sure you understand all the details before you sign a contract.

KEC has a solar calculator conveniently located on the website that allows homeowners to easily develop estimates of the potential performance of PV installations.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Questions? Please give us a call 800-888-2731 or (918) 465-2338 or [solar@kiamichielectric.org](mailto:solar@kiamichielectric.org).

