

SOLAR PV PANELS

Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems convert energy from the sun into electricity. Operating costs are low and they can be installed on any kind of home or building, providing a safe and reliable source of electricity that produces no on-site pollution or emissions. And the fuel – sunshine – is free!

When the system produces more renewable electricity than you can use, Toronto Hydro will take the surplus and issue a credit on your bill. The credit will help to offset the cost of purchasing electricity when your system doesn't produce enough to meet your needs.



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WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

- Work with a qualified system designer to select the appropriate technology and system size for your home. The Canadian Solar Industries Association provides guidance on selecting qualified solar energy service providers.
- Before you add solar, make sure your home is as energy-efficient as possible. To determine the right size system for your home, review your energy bills for the past 12 months to see how much energy you use.
- Hire a solar contractor and install and connect your system to the utility.



THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Consider adding batteries to store electricity generated by your system for future use.
- Before you install, make sure your roof is in good condition. It should be less than five years old.
- The orientation of your roof matters - the priority should be south-facing roofs, followed by west and then east.
- Trees and buildings that shade your roof can lead to a less powerful system.
- Consider financing your home energy improvements through the City of Toronto's Home Energy Loan Program (HELP).
- Consider getting an EnerGuide Energy Efficiency Home Evaluation to help you understand how your home uses energy and identify all improvement opportunities.
- Check with your municipality, utility or retailer to see if rebates are available.



COST:

\$2.25 - \$2.80/Watt; for an 8,500 Watts system, between \$19,125 - \$23,800.

BetterHomesTO: Tips, tools & resources to improve the energy efficiency of your home. [BetterHomesTO.ca](https://www.betterhometo.ca)

