

Solarize Philly

Solarize Philly is a citywide program to help all Philadelphians go solar at home. The Philadelphia Energy Authority (PEA) launched Solarize Philly to make the process of installing solar as easy and affordable as possible, while supporting solar training at the School District of Philadelphia and access to clean energy for all neighborhoods.

PEA carefully selected high quality installers and equipment, and negotiated discounted prices and important consumer protections to help Philly grow its solar market.



Solar on a row home (Solar States)

Why Solarize?

Join Your Neighbors to Lower Prices

The price of solar has fallen over 70% since 2010. PEA used group buying power to negotiate the best prices from solar manufacturers and installers. The starting prices through Solarize Philly are already below-market rates, and your price will drop as more people participate. When we hit milestones of number of contracts signed, everyone in the program will receive additional discounts. If you've already signed your contract, your solar company will issue you a rebate check for the difference! We expect the average rowhouse will save an additional \$1000, so tell your neighbors!

Take Action on Climate Change

Philadelphia City Council and Mayor Kenney re-committed the City of Philadelphia to upholding the Paris Climate Agreement and moving towards 100% renewable energy. We need your help to meet those goals!

Support Local Job Training and Creation

Solarize Philly will create 75 jobs by the end of 2018. PEA is working to expand solar training programs to young people in our city. PEA and the School District of Philadelphia's Office of Career and Technical Education offered the first solar class for high school students at Ben Franklin High School this summer! 22 students aged 14 to 18 are participating in the class!

How Do I Participate?

Go to **www.solarizephilly.org** to sign-up. You'll receive a quick questionnaire asking a few important details, and then you'll get a call from PEA to connect you with your solar installer for a free project quote.

Frequently Asked Questions

How much will a solar installation cost?

The cost of solar varies widely based on your roof size and sun exposure. You can access a federal Investment Tax Credit that reimburses you for 30% of the total upfront cost, as a credit on your future tax bills. Your installer will provide you with a free quote specific to your home and will provide you with materials so you can access this tax subsidy. Solar panels typically pay for themselves in 8-10 years, through the savings on your electric bill. For a more detailed number, talk to your installer!

How do I pay for it?

The most common way to finance solar is through a home equity loan or a home equity line of credit, and your installer will provide at least one financing option. You are also free to secure your own financing to pay for the solar installation. In most cases, we have found that the monthly loan payment is equal to or less than the monthly savings on your PECO bill.

How long until my home is solar-powered?

Once you have signed the contract, your installer will apply for a permit from the City and permission from PECO. After receiving these permits – typically within 30-60 days – the company will install the solar array on your roof, which takes 1-3 days. A couple of weeks later, PECO will give the final go-ahead for you to flip the switch and turn on your solar array!

Is my roof a good fit for solar?

The ideal roof for a solar installation is one that is unshaded and in good condition. Your installer will do a free assessment of your site to find out whether it has enough sun exposure to be a good fit for solar. It is possible to remove panels if roof repairs are needed, but it is best to have any needed major work done before the solar is installed. Your installer can connect you with a roofer if you believe your roof may need work, and you may be able to get a deal for doing the roof work and solar installation together.

How will solar change my electric bill?

Once your solar is turned on, your electric bill will drop significantly. Your installer will provide a proposal that shows how much you can expect to save. The solar energy produced will flow into your home and any extra electricity will flow out onto the electricity grid. PECO will credit your bill for this excess production, through a process known as “net metering.” When your solar array is not producing (e.g. at night), your house will consume electricity from the grid and your bill credits will be applied toward the cost of this grid-based power.

Didn't answer your question?

Feel free to reach out to us at the Philadelphia Energy Authority at 215-686-4483 or solarize@philaenergy.org with any other comments, questions, or concerns!