Thinking of Going Solar?

Solar Guidance from the Connecticut Green Bank

Understanding financing options

More than 36,000 Connecticut homeowners have gone solar to help the environment and save on their energy costs. If you are thinking about going solar, one of the first questions to consider is how to pay for your system, and there are three options: purchase, solar lease and solar power purchase agreements (PPA).

Solar PV systems may be purchased in cash or through a loan. The average solar loan term ranges between 15 to 20 years with flexible rates. After the payback period, solar owners can see greater benefits from their upfront investment.

With a solar lease, a third party developer owns and maintains the solar PV system. Lease terms range from 20 to 25 years, during which the homeowner pays a series of fixed or escalating payments. Payments are set ahead of time, so monthly costs are stable and predictable.

With a solar PPA, a third party developer owns and maintains the solar PV system. PPA terms range from 20 to 25 years, during which the homeowner pays a fixed or escalating rate per kilowatt hour for energy produced. Because solar costs will vary based on production, bills are typically higher in the summer and lower in the winter.

### Homeowner Purchase

System Size: 9.94 kW
Total Price: $35,640
Rebate: $3,579
Tax Credit: $8,336
Net Cost: $23,725*

*Net Cost before financing

**Tip:** Compare purchase quotes in dollars per watt (total cost before incentives divided by total watts).

### Solar Lease

Average Monthly Cost: $127/month
For a 9 kW system with a 25 year lease and 2.9% escalator.

**Tip:** Compare quotes by first ensuring the system size, term length and escalator are the same, then compare monthly price.

### Power Purchase Agreement

Average Solar Energy Cost
- **16.6¢ per kWh** for a 25 year PPA and 2.9% escalator
- **17.9¢ per kWh** for a 20 year PPA and 2.9% escalator

**Tip:** Compare quotes by first ensuring the system size, term length and escalator are the same, then compare price per kWh.

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GoSolarCT is brought to you by Connecticut Green Bank. We’re empowering Connecticut residents to go solar and start saving! For more information visit www.GoSolarCT.com
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What to expect when you install solar at your home.

You hold the power as a solar consumer! If you’re considering going solar, we want to empower you throughout your journey. Installing a solar system is a big decision. Even though a professional will handle the installation, it helps to understand what’s going on. Start with these quick but very important tips:

- **Perform an energy audit.** Connecticut requires a home energy audit before installing a solar system.

- **Review the installation options.** Is your roof suitable, large enough and in good condition?

- **Contact contractors** and go out for formal bids. As with any major home improvement, seeking at least three quotes is highly recommended (see more below).

- **Permit, Incentive & Interconnection Approval:** These are required, and are a big part of the process that can take time. The types and costs of permits vary by municipality, but your contractor will usually apply for them (and any available incentives) for you.

- **Allow for installation and inspections** by the utility company and municipality. Installations typically take at least a few days, and are followed by municipal and utility inspections, which must occur prior to energizing your system.

Tips for Comparing Solar Quotes

You hold the power as a solar consumer! If you’re considering going solar, we want to empower you throughout your journey. Start with these quick but very important tips:

- ✔ Get multiple itemized quotes
- ✔ Don’t feel pressured to make a decision right away
- ✔ Expect realistic savings
- ✔ Know the rules on tax credits and rebates
- ✔ Do your homework on homeowners’ insurance

For more tips, research and information on finding a contract and getting a solar PV system installed, please visit [www.GoSolarCT.com](http://www.GoSolarCT.com).

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