



Solar power for your home

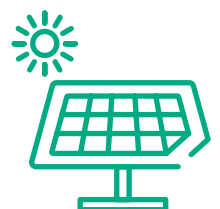
Generating solar energy offers a greener and cheaper way of powering your home.

What is solar PV?

Solar photovoltaics (PV) are more commonly known as solar panels. These panels convert light from the sun into electricity that you can use in your home.



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Why solar?



Reduce your bills: harnessing the sun's rays to power your home means you could save up to £485* a year on your energy bills.



Reduce your carbon footprint: you can potentially save around one tonne of carbon emissions per year (depending on where you live).



Get paid for what you export: the Smart Export Guarantee helps you get paid for electricity you generate and export back to the grid.

Did you know?

You can also use the sun's energy for hot water. See our **Green Heating Systems guide** to find out more.



Solar myth: 'It needs to be sunny for solar panels to work' – not true: your solar panels can still generate electricity on cloudier days (although a bright sunny day is best!)

Save even more: Smart Export Guarantee

If you generate more electricity than you can use or store, it will be exported to the grid for someone else to use. The good news is that you can be paid for the electricity you export through a programme called The Smart Export Guarantee, which provides financial support to homes for the solar electricity they export to the National Grid.

How can I do this?

Your solar PV system needs to be less than 5MW (not a problem for your home as most domestic systems are much smaller than this) and your panels and installer must be certified under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) (your energy supplier may ask you to provide an MCS certificate). You will also need a registered smart meter, even if you're not on a smart meter tariff. This is to record the electricity you export.

Want to find out more?

Visit energysavingtrust.org.uk/smart-export-guarantee

Thinking about installing solar panels at home? Energy Saving Trust has more advice on their website, from helping you decide if solar panels are right for you, through to installation and maintenance. Visit energysavingtrust.org.uk/solar-panels

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* Figures are based on fuel prices as of October 2023.
For more information, visit energysavingtrust.org.uk/solar-panels

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