

TIPS FOR SOLAR & MICRO-GENERATION

Make sense of solar energy options.

Alberta



Considering adding solar energy to a home, farm or business?

Learn about Alberta's micro-generation rules and consumer protections to make informed choices.

Micro-generation in Alberta

Generating your own electricity

- To qualify as a micro-generator, you must produce renewable electricity for your own use on property you own or lease.
- You must apply to the distribution company in your service area and meet requirements in AUC Rule 024.
- Solar can help offset your electricity usage and reduce your costs. However, while you're still connected to the grid, you will still receive electricity bills. Systems cannot exceed 5 MW capacity.

Installation & maintenance

- Panel installation requires permits and electrical inspection.
- A qualified installer can help with submitting the application to the distribution service provider. Once approved, installations typically take 1-3 days to complete.
- Contact your retailer to set up billing and apply credits.
- Maintenance typically involves periodic cleaning and inspections. You may consider adding protective screens to prevent damage from animals or debris.

Recycling & decommissioning

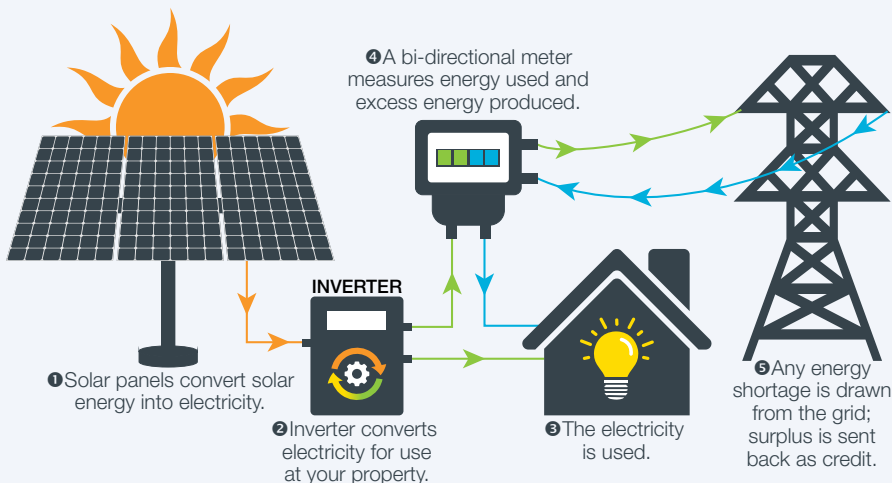
Solar panels can last 25+ years, although some parts may need replacement sooner. Recycling options are expanding, check with your installer or municipality for available programs.

Did you know...

Even if you generate your own power, fixed charges like distribution and transmission fees still apply. Systems must not produce more electricity than is consumed on site.

Net billing

Net billing is when extra energy produced is added to the grid as a credit for the producer.



Before going solar...

- 1 Build your knowledge.**
Take your time reviewing offers. Avoid pressure to decide immediately.
- 2 Get multiple quotes.**
Compare system prices, warranties, and installation timelines.
- 3 Choose trusted installers.**
Installers with Solar Alberta or CanREA memberships promote training and ethical standards.
- 4 Get a written contract.**
Contracts should clearly detail pricing, equipment, timelines, and list the contractors' licenses.
- 5 Ask about billing credits.**
Understand how you'll be credited for extra power sent back to the grid.

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