

FAQs

Home & Rooftop Solar Panels

How does rooftop solar save homeowners money?

Rooftop solar provides many opportunities for Texas homeowners to save on their electricity bills. This is done through multiple different processes including net metering, battery storage and solar tax credits.

- **Reduced electricity costs:** Powering your home with solar can save money on your electric bill. The average price for electricity in Texas in October 2023 was \$0.13 per kWh. With solar, energy bills were reduced to \$0.08 per kWh – saving homes and businesses around \$160 each month.
- **Solar tax credit:** Although Texas does not offer a statewide solar rebate program, those who install solar panels on their residence or business are provided a federal solar tax credit dependent on the year of installation. The federal government offers a 30% tax credit to install a solar system onto your home or business, and many states also have programs that can help homeowners save on installation costs. Additionally, there is no dollar or lifetime limit to the credit earned. You can claim your federal solar tax credit by following the instructions here.

What happens to excess energy produced by rooftop solar panels?

The excess energy can either be returned to the grid or stored in battery technology to be used at a later time—allowing consumers to save money and have access to an efficient, reliable power source.

- **Returning to the grid:** Provides a way for consumers of solar energy to sell back the electricity they aren't using back into the grid. This is called net metering. Net metering is not offered by the Texas government, but some utility companies in the state offer it.
- **Battery storage:** Provides a reliable, back-up source of power in case of a grid outage, utility shut off, or extreme weather. Storage technology allows for reduced utility rates by allowing Texas homeowners to decide where they want their power to be sourced from.

Rooftop solar on home in Grapevine
Grapevine, Texas | Photo captured in 2018
Source: TrongNguyen via iStock



Can solar panels keep my lights on in instances where alternative fuel sources would be threatened?

If your home is equipped with solar battery storage, your power will not go out. Instead of returning excess solar production to the grid, battery storage allows **electricity to be stored** for later use. This excess electricity is pulled from the battery and can be used in instances where alternative power sources like coal and natural gas would be threatened: when the power goes out, during intensive weather conditions, or at night.

Fossil fuels power **61% of homes and businesses** in Texas. A heavy reliance on fossil fuels gives recent extreme weather conditions like the **Texas heatwaves** more opportunities to threaten Texans' access to reliable electricity in a time of need.

How can I find out how much electricity I can generate with solar energy?

Homeowners can use a tool by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory called **PVWatts** to estimate energy production and costs using any Texas address. By entering in your PV system information, you can see just how much you would save by switching to solar energy.

Can solar panels be installed without impacting the design of my home?

A graphical layer can be placed on solar panels to ensure the aesthetics of your home or business are not altered. Solar panels can blend into roofing or side paneling to create a **building-integrated** design allowing homes in Texas to retain their initial integrity.



Rooftop solar on homes in Austin
Austin, Texas | Photo captured in 2021
Source: RoschetzkyIstockPhoto via iStock