

Solar Panels in the UK



What are solar panels?

[Solar panels](#) are rectangular-shaped modules consisting of a number of photovoltaic cells that convert sunlight into electricity. The solar cells are usually made of a silicon-based material and are protected by non-reflective glass to protect them from environmental damage. Solar panels can be installed on a rooftop of a home or other building and hooked up to the electrical system or in an array by themselves and connected to the power grid.

Solar panels often create more electricity than is needed. In such a case the excess power is either sent to a storage device, such as a battery, for use during the night or inclement weather or is sent back to the grid. Many homes or buildings that have solar units installed will still be connected to the grid to draw electricity when the sun is not available.

Solar panels are currently rated for an operational life of 25 years, though they can last much longer. Their efficiency tends to degrade over time, however, and they may require replacement. Currently, photovoltaic cells have about a 20 percent efficiency of sunlight that they convert to electricity. But current research promises to considerably boost that number shortly.

Going solar will save you money in the long run

The best argument for going solar is that it will save you money in the long run. To be sure, a substantial cost is involved to get a solar system installed, but that cost is plummeting over time. Also, the British government offers a payment for electricity called the feed-in tariff for homeowners and business owners who use solar energy. Despite the fact that the current government has cut the money it is shelling out for the feed-in tariff, it remains a powerful incentive for any Briton who is contemplating going solar. [According to the EcoExpert website](#), the incentive program will give you a cost savings of £2,080 over 20 years due to the tariff incentive and energy cost savings. You'll begin to see cost savings after ten years, since solar panels represent a long-term investment. Solar panels also enhance the value of your home or commercial building.

The cost of solar overall is decreasing at such a rapid rate that it is beginning to supplant more traditional energy sources. [A recent article in the Guardian indicated](#) that solar generated more electricity in the month of May 2016 than coal did throughout the UK.



Solar panels will make the country and you energy independent

Remember, solar is not subject to the ebb and flow of fuel prices. People and businesses relying on fossil fuels can be hit with price shocks when the prices of oil and gas skyrocket, usually because of something happening in the Middle East. People who have gone solar are protected to a certain extent from world events that affect energy prices. Renewable energy sources created in the UK help to make the country more energy independent.

Solar power is also not subject to blackouts, either due to an overloaded power grid or from natural disasters. While others have to make do with either sitting in the dark or using noisy and dirty diesel generators, you will be able to keep things running until the grid is back up.

Solar panels are great for the environment

Going solar is also good for the environment. Most other forms of electricity generation have severe environmental consequences. Oil, coal, and natural gas add to air pollution, particularly the type that causes global warming, with all of the unhappy consequences that follow. Nuclear power, as we have seen from events such as Fukushima, Chernobyl, and Three Mile Island, is accident prone. Nuclear accidents can have horrific and long-lasting consequences. The problem of what to do about nuclear waste is also an argument against nuclear power.

Solar, on the other hand, is as clean a source of energy as you are likely to get. It does not burn fuel or give off pollution. All it does is tap into that big fusion reactor in the sky and turn sunlight into the power you need to run your appliances and keep the lights on. Having gone solar, you will be secure in the knowledge that you have done your part for the environment so that a clean, prosperous planet can be handed down to your children and grandchildren.

Solar panels will be great for your business brand

If you own a business, going solar will benefit your brand to a certain extent.

Environmentally-conscious consumers are more likely to patronise a business that runs on solar energy, since by so doing they feel that they are encouraging other businesses to use more environmentally-friendly sources of electricity. Solar will definitely give you a competitive advantage as well as cost savings in the long run.

Solar panels are easy to install and operate

Solar panels are quick and easy to install. The system has no moving parts, so unlike a number of other appliances you have in the home, solar panels are not prone to breakage or malfunctions. They will work as long as the sun is up.

Going solar means joining the future of energy production

Solar power is the future. As the cost of photovoltaic cells continues to plummet, and their efficiency continues to rise, solar will begin to supplant more traditional but dirtier forms of energy production. By installing solar panels on your home or business, you will have become part of that clean, renewable energy future. The sooner you go solar, the more ahead of the curve you will be than your neighbours and business competitors.

What are you waiting for?

With all of these reasons for going solar, the question is not whether you should get solar panels installed, but how soon should you. The cost savings, the environmental benefits, the ease of installation and sue, and the status of going solar combine to make you doing so an imperative. Contact your [local solar panel provider](#) for more information and to set up an appointment to get started moving into the future of energy production.

