

Your Solar Choices

Want to become energy independent with solar panels but no idea where to start? Here is a brief introduction to your choices in going solar!

On-site Ownership

On-site solar is a great option for those that see solar as an investment and want to own their own panels. There are two types: roof- and ground-mounted. Ground-mounted systems are best ideal for those that want solar panels on their property but do not have roofs that can accommodate them. Roof-mounted systems are recommended for homes that



have fairly new roofs that have little shading and are oriented in a Southern facing direction. Both forms of on-site ownership require a large original outlay that can be offset by rebates and tax incentives but they also potentially offer the best return on your solar investment.



Community Shared Solar

Want to own solar panels but have a house surrounded by trees? Renting an apartment long-term but still want to invest in solar energy? Consider *Community Shared Solar*. You still own the panels, but they're housed at a remote location. The installation and maintenance are handled by your chosen and installer. While the initial price may be cheaper, associated lifetime fees may lessen the return on your investment.

Pay-As-You-Go

A brand new program only offered at the moment by Renovus Solar, *Pay-As-You-Go* is a community solar program that has been compared to a cell-phone plan. You sign up for a 12-month contract and agree to buy a certain amount of solar electricity at 10% below market utility rates. Like a cellphone plan's rollover minutes, any electricity you do not use in a month carries over, while there are also overage charges for using too much. The program is launching now; to sign visit renovussolar.com.



*For more information contact:
Terry Carroll Energy Educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension
tc629@cornell.edu (607) 272-2292*