

# Solar Panels on their own are not going to make a significant difference to your energy consumption unless....

## *What do I need to know before Installing PV Solar Panel Systems?*

When discussing installation methods with other installers, training instructors, manufacturers technical staff, accreditation bodies and through our own monitoring of client systems, we have realised that unless you are home all day, this is more than likely the outcome. For some people, installing solar panels is definitely the 'GREEN' thing to do as it provides a clean pollution free source of energy. However, is generating your own electricity economical?

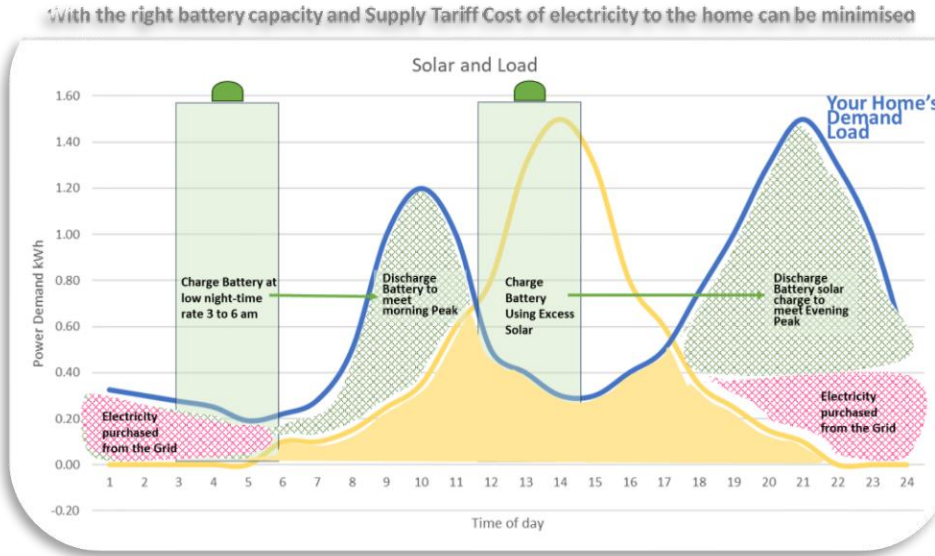
A WHICH survey found that:

- 12% of people use less than a quarter of their solar electricity.
- 34% use between a quarter and half
- 22% use between half and three quarters, only
- 13% use more than three quarters.

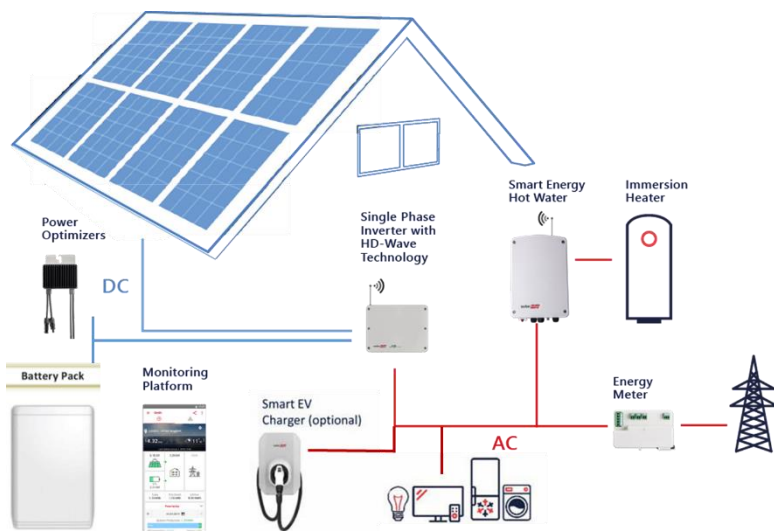


So, you will still need to buy electricity from the grid, especially on dark winter evenings. Our research and experience points towards the fact that a PV Solar Panel system is most effective when combined with a correctly sized battery, so that in the evenings, when energy consumption is highest and there is no sun, it [the home] can use the backup battery to supply electricity, as such significantly reducing the amount of electricity you need to buy from the grid.

Depending on your pattern of electricity use it could almost negate the need to buy electricity. If you have a hot water storage cylinder and you also tie that in your consumption of grid electricity will reduce even further. If you have an Electric Vehicle, it could also be integrated into the system. If you ignore the headline sales "instant quote" claims on the internet, realistically, with ancillary costs considered, a quality PV Solar+Battery installation done properly, will cost on average between £8,900 and £14,990.



Now here is the tricky bit; If you need to take a loan to fund your installation, then this will severely impact your savings Vs costs payback period and, in some cases, possibly make it uneconomic. If you have the capital, then savings are pretty much immediate, and your payback period is more realistic. In Scotland there is an advantage in that you could be eligible for an interest free loan over 10 years through [Home Energy Scotland](https://www.homeenergyscotland.com), allowing many more people to proceed with an installation and enjoy immediate benefits. There is no such thing as 'free electricity' at least not until the 'payback period' has been achieved.



**energy saving trust**



**The Important things to consider from a consumer point of view are** (according to WHICH):

- Reduce your carbon footprint, Solar provides a clean and green source of energy and produces no greenhouse gases or carbon emissions!
- Save on energy bills!
- Earn money with the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG).
- Easy to maintain.
- Independence from the grid
- Increase the value of your home!

Also for your protection, make sure your installer provides **independent Deposit protection and Installation Warranty** (not just manufacturers guarantees) for the work they undertake.

**The Important things to consider from an installation point of view are:**

- Roof Area Available, Is your roof strong enough and what is the condition of roof covering
- Shading -Overshadowed by other buildings, trees, chimneys, soil pipes, flues, vents etc.
- Do you need to add panel 'optimisers' to your solar panels?
- Roof Orientation - South, North, East or west and Roof Pitch
- Planning permission is not normally required as it is a 'permitted development'.
- How much electricity do you use?
- What is your budget for your solar PV system?
- Grid - Smart Tariff (Smart Meter), Will you export (DNO registration and approval required)
- Off-peak tariff would allow you to charge your battery in winter when there may not be enough sunshine (batteries may make sense if you can access off-peak tariff)

JM Electrical Green Energy are experienced in all aspects of electrical energy and renewable technologies. We are certified MCS installers for Solar PV and Battery Storage solutions.

We are also OZEV-approved EV Charge point installers and adhere to the RECC and EVCC codes of practice. Qualified and trained in all the latest techniques and products; you can be assured our workmanship and customer service will always be the best.

**Call now to discuss any other electrical needs !**

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