

Let's Go Solar!



TEXAS
SOLAR
ENERGY
— SOCIETY —

10 Steps to Power Your Home with the Sun

1. Get Efficient

- Understand your energy use
- Get an energy audit
- Make efficiency improvements

2. Is Your Home Solar Ready?

- Check roof type, age, condition
- Check roof orientation and sun exposure
- Consider alternatives to a roof-mounted system

3. Find a Reputable Installer

- Sources include friends, family, solar tours, utility lists
- NABCEP certified
- Local Better Business Bureau (check for complaints)

4. Get at least 3 Quotes

- Take time now to save time later
- Beware of substantially cheaper quotes
- Compare production estimates
- Read "Choosing a Solar Installer":
www.txses.org/choosing-a-solar-installer

5. Be Solar Savvy: Avoid Scams

- Beware of high-pressure sales tactics
- Beware of quotes above \$4/W
- Read our Solar Savvy handout

6. Explore Financing Options

- Credit card or check (never pay cash)
- Loans (through installer, Clean Energy Federal Credit Union, other institution)
- Leasing

7. Understand Your Contract

- Confirm contract includes production estimates and financing details
- Obtain written answers to questions
- Review IREC's contract checklist:
irecusa.org/consumer/checklist.pdf

8. Confirm the Details

- Verify rebates, incentives and rates your solar system will receive
- Review your interconnection agreement
- Verify all steps in the installation and inspection process

9. Take Your Time

- If you still have questions or are confused, take a deep breath and stop.
- It's OK to delay a major decision until you are confident and educated!

10. Install Solar and Prepare to Become a Solar Enthusiast

- Congratulations - you're a solar producer!
- Enjoy saving on your electric bill and reducing your carbon footprint.

For more information, please visit www.txses.org

Get Solar Savvy



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Tips to Avoid Scams and to Enjoy a Positive Solar Experience

Purchasing a solar system for your home is a major investment. To ensure you have a positive experience, get Solar Savvy and work with reputable installers.

Review Let's Go Solar: 10 Steps to Power Your Home with the Sun



Check with your local Better Business Bureau for information on contractors.



Beware of high pressure sales tactics, whether on the phone, at the door, or during a scheduled home visit.



If at any time you don't feel comfortable with the process, slow down or stop. Do not sign any contracts until you are confident you understand all the details.



Carefully review financing terms to protect yourself from predatory lending. Consider financing the system through your own preferred financial institution or the Clean Energy Federal Credit Union (www.cleanenergycu.org)

San Antonio's municipal utility, City Public Service (CPS), will not issue incentives for systems priced above \$4/W.



There is no "free" solar. Claims of "free" solar often refer to systems financed with loans that don't require a down payment.



Property Tax Exemption, but No Statewide Rebates

Texas does **not** offer statewide incentives or rebates. However, the increase in property value associated with installing a solar system is **exempt from property taxes** in Texas.



Request identification and contact information from anyone who comes to your door.

Utilities usually don't sell solar systems, with few exceptions (GVEC). Verify business relationships before signing anything.

If you have concerns or encounter problems, contact your electric utility.



If all else fails, file a complaint online with the Consumer Protection Division of the Texas Attorney General's office or give them a call at 512-463-2185.

For more information, please visit www.txses.org