



Solar FAQs

Your questions answered!

Will I still have electricity at night or when it is cloudy outside?

Yes. You will still be connected to your electric company, so your electricity will work the same way that it works now, except that your bills will be offset by the energy your system produces.

Will I still get an electricity bill?

Yes, your bills will be offset by your solar system and you will pay the difference between what your solar system produces and the amount of energy you use. Solar will only assist in reducing your electricity bill.

How long does the system last?

The panels are covered by a 25-year manufacturer warranty, and last between 30 and 40 years. GRID Alternatives provides a 10-year labor warranty and you'll receive 20 years of operation and maintenance services.

What is the environmental benefit of solar?

Energy from the sun is great for the environment because it does not release carbon dioxide emissions or any air pollution. Over the lifetime of the system, fifty tons of carbon dioxide emissions on average will be prevented from entering the atmosphere, which is equivalent to planting 1,000 trees. More solar systems result in cleaner air for the community.

Are there opportunities to give back to GRID?

Yes, there are a number of ways you can choose to give back to GRID, and help others go solar, too! These include:

1. Provide lunch for job trainees and installers during your solar installation.
2. Refer a friend to receive solar from GRID Alternatives.
3. Help our staff install your system.
4. Give back and make a donation to GRID Alternatives.
5. Our clients are our best advocates. Volunteer to be interviewed by our staff or reporters about your experience with GRID.

What if I do not own my home?

If you live in a single-family home, we can work with you and your landlord to help you go solar. If you live in an apartment complex, refer your building owner or management company to speak with us at infodc@gridalternatives.org.

How might storms or snow impact my system?

Solar systems are robust and engineered to withstand local storm conditions including hail, snow, and high winds. While snow is sitting on panels, the production will be lower, but the snow will melt and production will return to normal.

What is net metering?

Net metering allows you to offset energy consumption with your energy production. At the end of the month your final electricity bill is the difference between your total usage and the electricity your solar panels produced.

What if there's a blackout?

Because the system has no battery storage, you will not have power during a blackout/power outage.

