

Kongres Container

New solar on-site energy prices



Overview

As of 2025, the average cost of residential solar panels in the U.S. is between \$15,000 and \$25,000 before incentives. This typically translates to about \$2.50 to \$3.50 per watt of installed capacity (more on price per watt below).

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Take control of your energy costs with solar power. Solar panels generate “free” electricity, but installing a system still costs money. A typical American household needs a 10-kilowatt (kW) system to adequately power their home, which costs \$28,241 in 2025. That price effectively drops to \$19,873.

Each year, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) and its national laboratory partners analyze cost data for U.S. solar photovoltaic (PV) systems to develop cost benchmarks. These benchmarks help measure progress toward goals for reducing solar electricity costs.

NREL analyzes the total costs associated with installing photovoltaic (PV) systems for residential rooftop, commercial rooftop, and utility-scale ground-mount systems. This work has grown to include cost models for solar-plus-storage systems. NREL's PV cost benchmarking work uses a bottom-up.

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Solar panels generate “free” electricity, but installing a system still costs money. A typical American household needs a 10-kilowatt (kW) system to adequately power their home, which costs \$28,241 in 2025. That price effectively drops to \$19,873 after considering the full federal solar tax credit.

How much do commercial solar panels cost?

Generally, installing solar panels on businesses costs a bit less per watt because the systems are larger, but the total costs will be higher. In 2025, the average cost for commercial solar panels is just about \$2.00 per watt. There is a lot to consider when figuring out how much you'll spend on a solar installation.

How much does solar cost?

After applying the 30% federal tax credit, net costs typically range from \$10,500 to \$24,500. Understanding solar costs requires grasping two key metrics: cost per watt and cost per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

What is the relative cost of solar energy?

Another measure of the relative cost of solar energy is its price per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Whereas the price per watt considers the solar system's size, the price per kWh shows the price of the solar system per unit of energy it produces over a given period of time. $\text{Net cost of the system} / \text{lifetime output} = \text{cost per kilowatt hour}$.

How much does a solar panel installation cost?

Solar panel installation costs vary by the installation company and project scope, making it challenging to pinpoint exactly how much you'll pay to have a pro install your solar panels. However, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that installers add around \$2.25 per watt to the cost of a solar panel installation.

How much does solar energy cost per kWh?

Cost per kWh shows the lifetime cost of solar electricity by dividing your net system cost by total expected energy production over 25 years. This typically ranges from 6-8 cents per kWh, compared to current grid electricity averaging 16.44 cents per kWh nationally.

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