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# **Making the most of free electricity from your solar panels**

A guide to your Solar Photovoltaic system

***e-on***



## A warm welcome



In this guide we explain how the solar panels on your roof work. And we give you advice on how to make the most of the free electricity the panels generate for you.

**The electricity generated by your panels can't be stored. You must use it as it's being produced.**

\* Assuming a typical 'A rated' appliance at 60 degree wash and 0.94kWh per cycle.

\*\* Based on the installation of a 1.88kW to 2.35kW solar photovoltaic system, fitted to a south-facing roof, exposed to average UK weather conditions, on an assumed tariff rate of 13.3p/kWh.

With solar panels you generate some of your electricity using the power of the sun. So your energy bills go down and you make less impact on the environment.

Here's a quick look at how you could benefit.

### **Save £70 to £120 a year**

Your solar panels convert light energy from the sun into electricity and will give you enough power to use a typical washing machine around 1800 times\*. So you shouldn't need to buy as much energy. And the chances are you'll save between £70 and £120\*\* on your bills, year after year.

### **Cut your carbon emissions**

You will be generating your own electricity and therefore reducing your impact upon the environment.

### **No need to take meter readings**

We keep track of how much energy's being generated by your panels, using our smart remote meter reading service. So it's unlikely you'll have to read your meter.

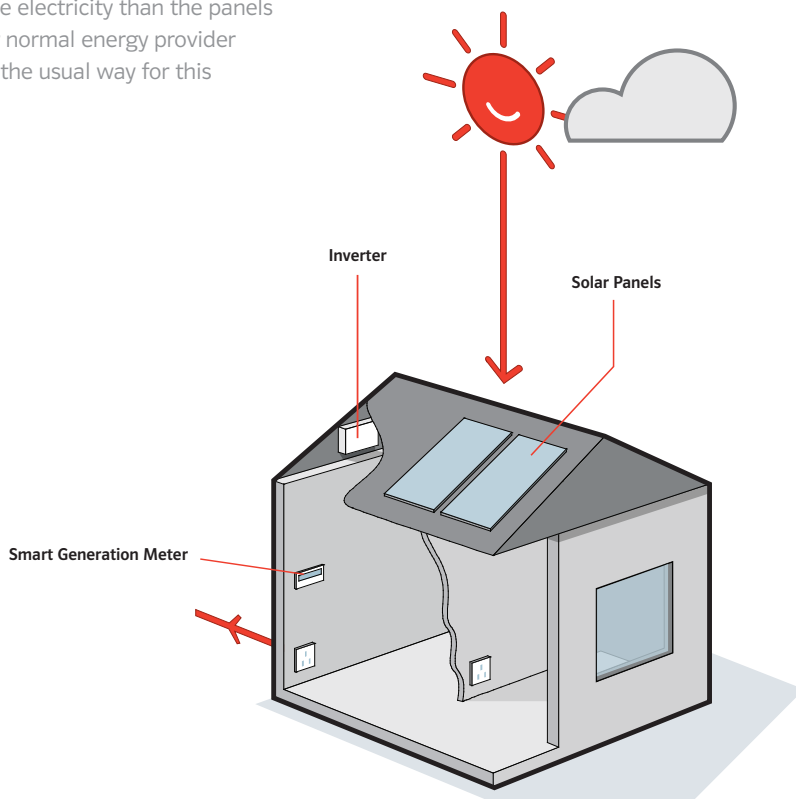
## How your solar panel system works

When there's daylight the solar panels on your roof generate electricity. But they don't store it.

The inverter, an electrical device in your loft, converts the electric current from the panels into the electricity that is supplied directly to your lights and appliances for free. Any electricity that's left over goes to the National Grid automatically.

If you use more electricity than the panels generate, your normal energy provider will bill you in the usual way for this extra amount.

The system is owned and maintained by E.ON. It's fully automatic and completely safe in normal use. If you do have any safety concerns please call us straight away using the helpline number on the back of this leaflet.





## Making the most of your solar panels



Our best tip is to remember your free electricity can't be stored. It has to be used while it's being generated by sunlight so:

**To use as much free electricity as possible, put your appliances on at different times throughout the day.**

- Use your electrical appliances during daylight hours, when you've got free electricity from your solar panels. You could set a timer so your washing machine or dishwasher come on even when you're out. But make sure your appliances have been electrically tested and are safe to leave on while you're not there.
- Put your appliances on at different times throughout the day, so you get as much free electricity as you can. If they're all on at the same time you might use more energy than your solar panels can generate. So you'll end up paying more than you need to.
- Make sure the trees, shrubs and hedges in your garden are cut back so they don't shade your solar panels and stop them generating as much free electricity as they could.

## Frequently asked questions



### **Does it have to be sunny?**

No. The panels will generate electricity all day even if it's not sunny. But the system produces most electricity when the sun's shining brightly.

### **How can I tell if the system's working?**

The system is completely automatic. But you can check if it's working by looking at the generation meter. The red LED (pulse) will blink when the system's working and should blink faster when it's sunny.

### **Do I need to read the meter?**

No. The meter automatically sends the reading to us, using mobile phone technology. You should read your main electricity meter as normal and pay your bill in the usual way.

### **Do I have to pay for anything?**

No. The system is owned and maintained by E.ON. We get paid a 'feed in tariff' for the electricity generated. And you benefit because the electricity from your panels will cut down on the amount of electricity you have to buy.

### **How much could I save?**

Most homes should be able to save about £120\* on their yearly electricity bill. The highest savings will be in the summer.

### **How can I get the most out of my system?**

Try to use large appliances like washing machines, dishwashers and tumble dryers during the day. Many appliances have built in timers so it's worth using these.

You're most likely to save money when the sun is highest, around noon. It will help if you use appliances one after another. Not all switched on together.

\* Based on the installation of a 1.88kW to 2.35kW solar photovoltaic system, fitted to a south-facing roof, exposed to average UK weather conditions, on an assumed tariff rate of 13.3p/kWh.

**Will I still get my electricity bill as usual?**

Yes. The way you receive your electricity bill won't change.

**What happens if there's a fault or the system is damaged?**

It's highly unlikely that there'll be a problem with the panels. But if something happens, we'll send an engineer to fix the problem. If there is a fault with the panels, you must let the people fixing it have access to your home - as long as we give you reasonable notice. We'll also arrange any routine maintenance on the panels if it's needed.

**How can I tell if the panels are generating electricity?**

Your smart generation meter will show you how many kilowatts per hour have been generated by the panels. If you have a prepayment electricity meter, you should find you don't need to put as much money in your meter each week.

**Can the panels be removed?**

Once panels are fitted on a Council property they can't be taken off, except when essential repairs are being carried out to the roof.

**Does this affect my right to buy?**

No. You can still apply to buy your Council home. If you're successful, you'll need to sign a private agreement with E.ON so you can continue using the panels and the free electricity generated.

**Remember**

The electricity generated by your panels can't be stored so you have to use it as it's produced.