



Climate Smart
Missoula

SOLAR BASICS

HOW TO GO SOLAR:



Contact local
installers



Get free site
assessments



Review your
energy usage;
+ future loads



Understand
cost & financing
options



Sign
contract



GO
SOLAR!

WHY GO SOLAR?

- Reduce electricity bills
- Add clean energy to the grid
- Be part of climate solutions
- Support green jobs
- Save money via tax credits
- Free power (eventually)
- Why not?!

A typical residential system

- Average panel: 400+ watts
- 10 panels X 400 watts = 4000 watts, or 4 kW system
- 10-panel system: ~ 11 x 16 feet

Rooftop solar today provides
<2% of MT electricity.

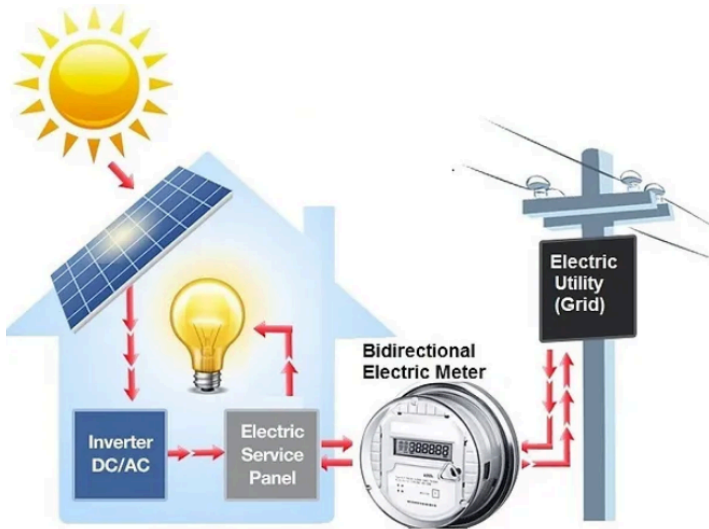
It could provide up to
30% of Montana's
electricity needs!

MORE SOLAR RESOURCES:
missoulaclimate.org/solar-ease



Important considerations

- Understand your energy use. Discuss any future home energy use changes with your installer (e.g. switching from gas to electric appliances, adding an EV).
- Solar market is growing - research installers before choosing. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is!
- Batteries: they can offer myriad benefits. Costs have come down, but still may not be cost effective or right for you. More battery options are coming soon, with EVs & more!
- Consider combining solar with electrification! See electrifymissoula.org for resources.



What is net metering?

- System connected to the grid (most common way to go solar in MT)
- On-bill \$ credit for excess energy produced and exported to the grid
- 12-month cycle to use excess credit
- System cap: 50kW (NWE) 10kW (MEC)

Solar by the numbers

Financing

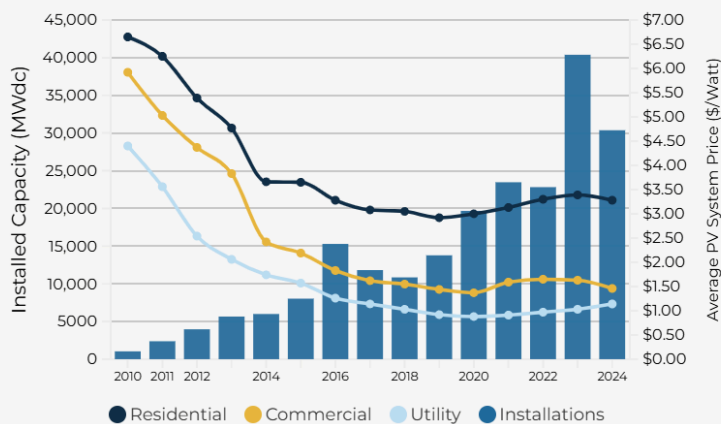
Low-interest loans are available from MT Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Clearwater Credit Union.



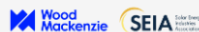
Federal Tax Credits for solar systems and batteries are now 30% thanks to the IRA - thru 2032 (unless congress changes this - they might).

And, this 30% credit is now also available to nonprofits and local government as "direct pay".

U.S. Solar PV Pricing Trends & Deployment Growth



Source: SEIA/Wood Mackenzie Power & Renewables U.S. Solar Market Insight Q4 2024



Prices have dropped 70% in the last decade!

Electricity prices may have increased, but solar is cheaper than ever! Average installed cost in MT is \$2.50 - \$3 per watt.

Everyone can be a solar advocate!

