

4 STEPS TO GET STARTED WITH SOLAR



1. Understand how you're billed

Most members will see a 30% to 70% decrease in their electric bill, depending on energy use habits, your home's weatherization and solar array size.

2. Submit an application

Download an interconnection packet from our website, bluebonnet.coop/solar. Many solar installation companies will work with you to complete the application. Just be sure to let your installer know that Bluebonnet has guidelines for installations.

3. About installation

After your design has been approved by Bluebonnet, your vendor can proceed with the installation of your solar array. The vendor will typically coordinate with Bluebonnet to ensure metering and interconnection requirements are met.

4. Final Bluebonnet inspection required

Once your solar array is installed, have your installer call Bluebonnet and request an inspection. The cooperative's inspector will come to the location and test the system to ensure it is safe to connect to our grid and be energized.

DID YOU KNOW?

Bluebonnet members with a renewable energy system are connected to the co-op's electric grid. The members have meters that register how much power they purchase from Bluebonnet as well as how much energy they return to the grid when their system produces more power than they can consume. Energy from Bluebonnet that the member uses is billed at the retail rate. The cooperative buys back energy that is produced by the member, which is then returned to the grid.

IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN TEXAS

Texas leads the nation in solar energy power potential. As the second largest state in the nation, Texas is home to a variety of climates. Still, Texas is a sunny, warm state for most of the year, with an average 135 clear days annually. The state averages 2,850 hours of sunshine per year, and 61 percent of the hours in each typical day are sunny, offering plenty of sun power for those with solar arrays.



CONSIDER

Solar

**Texas' big skies
are luring
homeowners
and businesses
to harness
the sun**

To learn more,
go to
bluebonnet.coop/solar



SOLAR QUESTIONS

Will I save money by going solar?



The amount of savings depends in part on the size of the solar energy system and how much power it can generate from existing sunlight. Other variables are the amount of solar energy you consume and how much excess is returned to Bluebonnet's grid. Of course, energy efficiency complements solar. By using Energy Star certified appliances and other energy-saving products, you'll need less solar energy to power your home.

Can I install it myself?

The best way to install solar is through a certified professional who works with high-quality solar panels. Industry-standard certification is awarded through the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners.

Source: Energy.gov

Considering solar and storage?

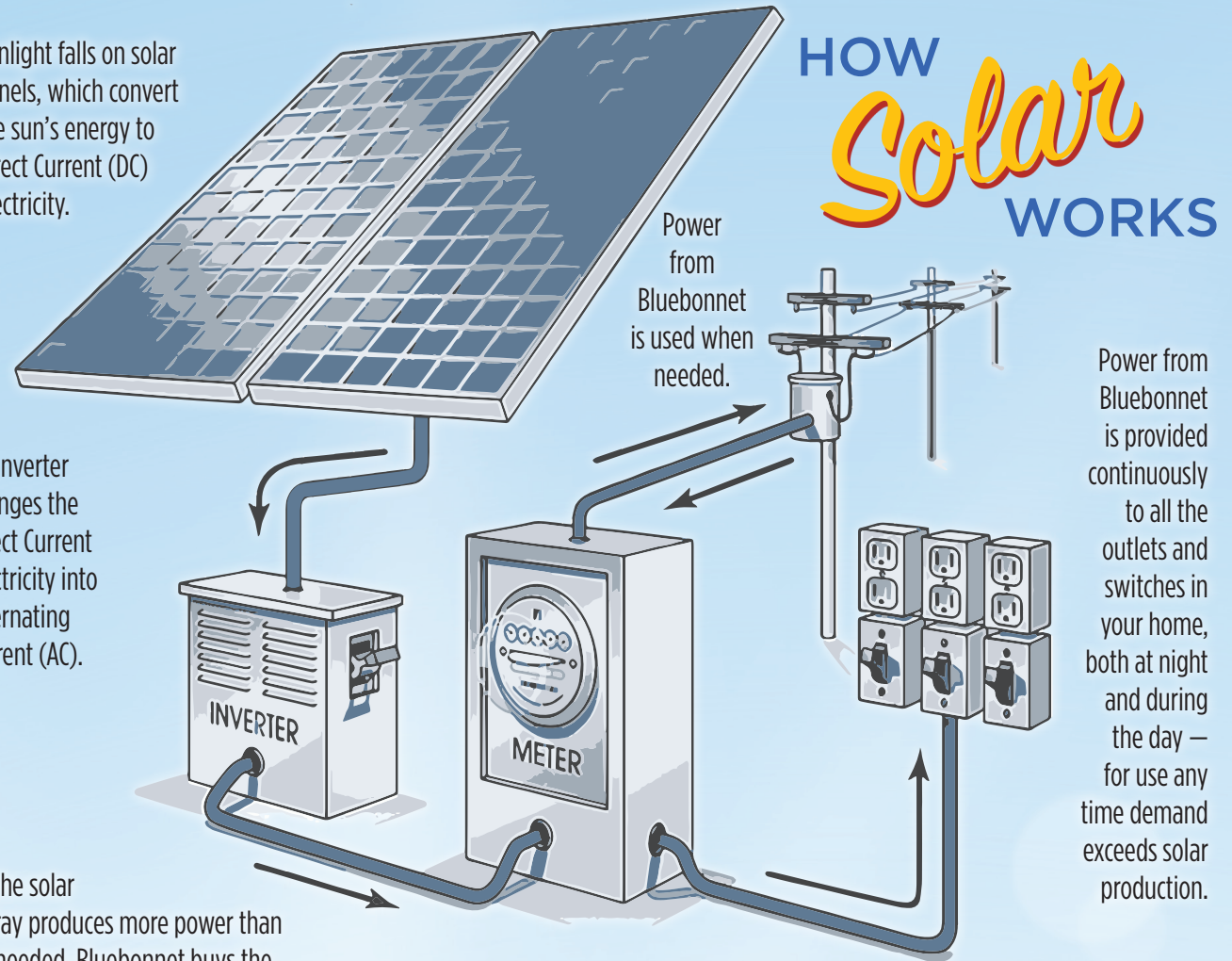
Electricity generated by solar arrays can be stored, typically via a home solar battery. Without storage, electricity must be generated and consumed at the same time or it is returned to the grid. With storage, when solar production is greater than the consumption of the home, the energy is stored in the battery for future use. That stored energy can be used any time your consumption exceeds production.

Learn more about storage at energysage.com/energy-storage.

Sunlight falls on solar panels, which convert the sun's energy to Direct Current (DC) electricity.

An inverter changes the Direct Current electricity into Alternating Current (AC).

If the solar array produces more power than is needed, Bluebonnet buys the excess electricity that is returned to the electric grid.



Source: solarcraft.com

STARTING THE PROCESS OF 'GOING SOLAR'

Bluebonnet members considering installing a solar array can email renewables@bluebonnet.coop or call 800-842-7708.