## Solar Easy Pay Plan

Zero upfront and 5 years to pay\* It doesn’t get much easier than that! We want to help Kiwi’s use the sun to cut their power bills, so we’re making solar even more affordable with our new finance plan. Imagine premium brand solar - fully installed from just $29 per week! And you’ll be using the sun to pay off your solar system.

## So, how much will it cost if I buy the system up-front?

Solar has never been more affordable. The chart gives you an indication of what a solar system is likely to cost, based on your lifestyle. But remember, each house is unique so for an accurate price, fully installed, book a no-obligation solar assessment in your own home.

[**Make an appointment**](https://www.harrisonsenergy.co.nz/book-a-free-consultation)

**TIP** Invest a little extra up-front for a reputable branded system that you can expand in size later and that will also easily integrate with leading battery brands – not all will. The small extra up-front cost will save you money in the long-run!

## How much will I save?

How and when you use your power is different for every household. So the best way to see how much you can save is to get a FREE energy assessment in your own home. Our energy experts will measure your usage and show you how to maximise the savings from your system with simple load shifting and battery storage.

To get you started, here’s an idea of how much power different sized solar systems will generate.

### How much of this power could you use?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **System Size:** | **Small 2kW** | **Med 3.5kW** | **Large 5kW** |
| Year 1 generation | $695- $750 | $1200 - $1300 | $1800+ |

Based on a power cost of 25c per kw.h. Remember, as power prices increase, so do your savings. And imagine how much you could save over the 25 year life of your system. Harrisons puts you in control – not your power company. So give us a call today.

These generation amounts are approximate only and can vary depending on your current per kWh cost, roof orientation and home location.

## Our Solar Price Promise

We believe that using premium products and brands will deliver noticeably better performance and greater reliability in the long run. But we know that price is important too. Our buying strength allows us to offer more competitive prices, but if you have received a lower price for the same quality system, we will gladly match it - and give you Flybuys.

## How Do I Choose the Right Size System?

Picking the right type of solar system for your household can dramatically reduce the impact of the electricity you use at home and maximise the return on your investment – that’s why we carry out a personalised in-home energy audit to outshine the results of any online solar calculator. We’ll find out how you use your power and then let you know which option best suits your household needs. Here’s a basic guide to average costs, savings and systems:

Solar Energy Pros and Cons

Last updated May 16, 2018 by [Mathias Aarre Maehlum](https://plus.google.com/107996559739279792274)

Below you`ll find a list over the various pros and cons of solar energy. By clicking on one of the blue links, you will be taken further down on the page for more in-depth information. Everything you are about to read is properly referenced at the bottom.

Pros

1. [Renewable](http://energyinformative.org/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/#renewable)
2. [Abundant](http://energyinformative.org/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/#abundant)
3. [Sustainable](http://energyinformative.org/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/#sustainable)
4. [Environmentally Friendly](http://energyinformative.org/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/#environmentally-friendly)
5. [Good Availability](http://energyinformative.org/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/#good-availability)
6. [Reduces Electricity Costs](http://energyinformative.org/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/#reduces-electricity-costs)
7. [Many Applications](http://energyinformative.org/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/#many-applications)
8. [Shared Solar](http://energyinformative.org/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/#shared-solar)
9. [Silent](http://energyinformative.org/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/#silent)
10. [Financial Support from Government/State](http://energyinformative.org/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/#financial-support-from-government-state)
11. [Low Maintenance](http://energyinformative.org/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/#low-maintenance)
12. [Technology is Improving](http://energyinformative.org/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/#technology-is-improving)

Cons

1. [Expensive](http://energyinformative.org/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/#expensive)
2. [Intermittent](http://energyinformative.org/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/#intermittent)
3. [Energy Storage is Expensive](http://energyinformative.org/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/#energy-storage-is-expensive)
4. [Associated with Pollution](http://energyinformative.org/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/#associated-with-pollution)
5. [Exotic Materials](http://energyinformative.org/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/#exotic-materials)
6. [Requires Space](http://energyinformative.org/solar-energy-pros-and-cons/#requires-space)

Advantages of Solar Energy

1. Renewable

Solar energy is a renewable energy source. This means that we cannot run out of solar energy, as opposed to non-renewable energy sources (e.g. fossil fuels, coal and nuclear).

We will have access to solar energy for as long as the sun is alive – another 6.5 billion years according to NASA[1]. We have worse things to worry about; in fact, scientists have estimated that the sun itself will swallow Earth 5 billion years from now.

2. Abundant

The potential of solar energy is beyond imagination. The surface of the earth receives 120,000 terawatts of solar radiation (sunlight) – 20,000 times more power than what is needed to supply the entire world.[2]

3. Sustainable

An abundant and renewable energy source is also sustainable. Sustainable energy sources meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. In other words, solar energy is sustainable because there is no way we can over-consume.

#### 4. Environmentally Friendly

**Harnessing solar energy does generally not cause pollution.** However, there are emissions associated with the manufacturing, transportation and installation of solar power systems – almost nothing compared to most conventional energy sources. It is clear that solar energy reduces our dependence on non-renewable energy sources. This is an important step in fighting the climate crisis.

#### 5. Good Availability

**Solar energy is available all over the world.** Not only the countries that are closest to the Equator can put solar energy to use – Germany, for example, has by far the highest capacity of solar power in the world.

#### 6. Reduces Electricity Costs

With the introduction of net metering and feed-in tariff (FIT) schemes, homeowners can now “sell” excess electricity, or receive bill credits, during times when they produce more electricity than what they actually consume.

This means that homeowners can reduce their overall electricity expenses by going solar.Data from One Block Off the Grid reveals that adding solar panels to your home can bring in monthly savings of well above $100 in many states. In Hawaii, residents save on average $64,000 after 20 years!

Nowadays, most homeowners choose leasing or power purchase agreements to finance their solar panels. This drastically reduces, or in some cases completely eliminates, the upfront costs of a solar panel system, and allows homeowners to start saving money from the first day.

#### 7. Many Applications

**Solar energy can be used for many different purposes.** It can be used to generate electricity in places that lack a grid connection, for distilling water in Africa, or even to power satellites in space.

Solar power is also known as “The People`s Power”, which refers to how easily deployable solar panels are at the consumer level (both photovoltaic and solar thermal).

With the introduction of flexible thin-film solar cells, solar power can even be seemingly integrated into the material of buildings (building integrated photovoltaics) – Sharp, a solar panel manufacturer with headquarters in Japan, recently introduced transparent solar power windows.

#### 8. Shared Solar

Because of shading, insufficient space and ownership issues, 1/5 American homes are simply unfit for solar panels.[3] With the introduction of shared solar, homeowners can subscribe to “community solar gardens”, and generate solar electricity without actually having solar panels on their own rooftops.

#### 9. Silent

There are no moving parts involved in most applications of solar power. There is no noise associated with photovoltaics. This compares favorable to certain other green-techs such as wind turbines.

#### 10. Financial Support from Government/State

**Government and state rebates have become available both on utility-scale and for the majority of homeowners.** This means that the effective costs of solar panels are much less than what they used to be. In some cases, the price of a residential photovoltaic system can be cut more than 50%.

As of 12/31/2008, the U.S. government offers a 30% tax credit with no upper limit. Chances are your home is also eligible for other grants and rebates.

#### 11. Low Maintenance

**The majority of today`s solar power systems do not required a lot of maintenance.** Residential solar panels usually only require cleaning a couple of times a year. Serious solar manufacturers ship 20- or 25-year warranties with their solar panels.

#### 12. Technology is Improving

Technological advancements are constantly being made in the solar power industry. Innovation in nanotechnology and quantum physics has the potential to triple the electrical output of solar panels.

## Disadvantages of Solar Energy

#### 1. Expensive

Is solar power really expensive? This is probably the most debatable aspect on the entire solar energy pros and cons list. The driving forces behind the development of solar energy are rooted in politics. Solar power is incentivized to compete against other energy sources on the market. On the other hand, the U.S. government, similarly to the rest of the world, provides incentives to every major energy production market – not just solar.

In 2010, coal received $1,189 billion in federal subsidies and support for electricity production while solar is not far behind at $968 billion.[4]

Nowadays, the [best solar panels](http://energyinformative.org/best-solar-panel-monocrystalline-polycrystalline-thin-film/) can in many situations be cheaper than buying electricity from the utility. This wouldn`t have been possible without incentives.

#### 2. Intermittent

**Solar energy is an intermittent energy source.**Access to sunlight is limited at certain times (e.g. morning and night). Predicting overcast days can be difficult. This is why solar power is not our first choice when it comes to meeting the base load energy demand. However, solar power has fewer problems than wind power when it comes to intermittence.

#### 3. Energy Storage is Expensive

Energy storage systems such as batteries will help smoothen out demand and load, making solar power more stable, but these technologies are also expensive.

Luckily, there`s a good correspondence between our access to solar energy and human energy demand. Our electricity demand peaks in the middle of the day, which also happens to be the same time there`s a lot of sunlight!

#### 4. Associated with Pollution

While solar power certainly is less polluting than fossil fuels, some problems do exist. Some manufacturing processes are associated with greenhouse gas emissions. Nitrogen trifluroide and sulfur hexafluoride has been traced back to the production of solar panels. These are some of the most potent greenhouse gases and have many thousand times the impact on global warming compared to carbon dioxide. Transportation and installation of solar power systems can also indirectly cause pollution.

**The bottom line is this:** There’s nothing that’s completely risk-free in the energy world, but solar power compares very favorably with all other technologies.

#### 5. Exotic Materials

Certain solar cells require materials that are expensive and rare in nature. This is especially true for thin-film solar cells that are based on either cadmium telluride (CdTe) or copper indium gallium selenide (CIGS).

#### 6. Requires Space

Power density, or watt per square meter (W/m²), is essential when looking at how much power can be derived from a certain area of real estate of an energy source. Low power density indicates that too much real estate is required to provide the power we demand at reasonably prices.

The global mean power density for solar radiation is 170 W/m².[5] This is more than any other renewable energy source, but not comparable to oil, gas and nuclear power.