Thermodynamic cost to order the system and remove entropy

So, in order to order system of spins (remove disorder) we need to apply some energy TS?

Exactly — V that's precisely the right intuition.

Let's unpack it carefully and connect the physical, thermodynamic, and informational viewpoints.

1. Starting point: disordered spin system

Take n independent spins $s_i=\pm 1$ with no interactions ($\mu B o 0$).

They are completely random — half up, half down on average.

- ullet Energy of each state: E=0
- Number of possible configurations: 2^n
- Entropy:

$$S = k \ln(2^n) = nk \ln 2$$

This entropy represents **disorder** — or equivalently, **missing information** about which configuration the system is in.

2. You want to "order" the system

Let's say you want to make *all spins up* — a perfectly ordered, single microstate configuration. That means:

$$S_{\text{final}} = 0$$
.

So you need to **reduce the entropy** by

$$\Delta S = -nk \ln 2$$
.

3. Thermodynamic cost of removing entropy

In thermodynamics, removing entropy from a system in contact with a heat bath at temperature T mean the bath must **absorb heat**

$$Q = T \Delta S_{\text{bath}} = T (-\Delta S_{\text{system}}) = Tnk \ln 2.$$

In words:

You must supply at least $Q=nkT\ln 2$ joules of energy to remove the disorder from n spins at temperature T.

That energy doesn't go into the system as "useful energy" — it's dissipated as **heat into the environmer** It's the **minimum thermodynamic price** for creating order.

4. Relation to free energy

The initial free energy was:

$$F_i = -nkT \ln 2$$
.

The final (ordered) state has

$$F_f = 0$$
,

since there's only one configuration (zero entropy).

Therefore, the change in free energy is

$$\Delta F = F_f - F_i = nkT \ln 2.$$

That's exactly the amount of energy you need to input to order the system.

5. Information-theoretic view (Landauer's principle)

Each spin carries one bit of information (up/down).

Erasing one bit — i.e., forcing it into a definite state — costs at least:

$$E_{\min}$$
 $T \ln 2$

of energy dissipation.

At room temperature ($T pprox 300\,\mathrm{K}$):

$$kT \ln 2 \approx 2.8 \times 10^{-21} \; \mathrm{J}.$$

So ordering $n=10^{20}$ spins would cost about $0.28\,\mathrm{J}.$

• 6. Intuitive summary

Concept	Expression	Interpretation
Entropy per spin	$S=k\ln 2$	One bit of disorder per spin
Energy cost to remove disorder	Q=TS	Minimal energy needed to fully order the system
Free energy change	$\Delta F = nkT \ln 2$	Work required to reduce entropy
Landauer's limit	$E_{ m bit} = kT \ln 2$	Energy cost to erase one bit of information

So yes:

To order a disordered system of spins, you must supply energy equal to $T\!S$, which represents the