



SOLAR NOW

Going solar
in Metro Vancouver

There has never been a better time to **GO SOLAR**



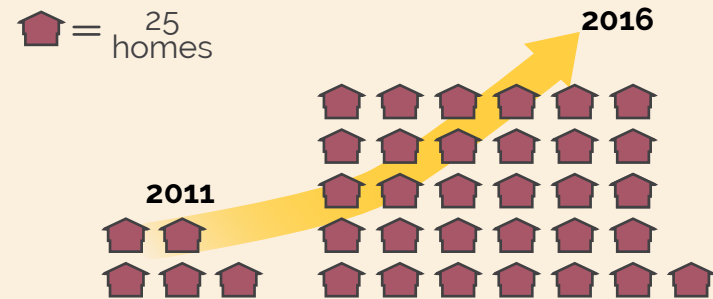
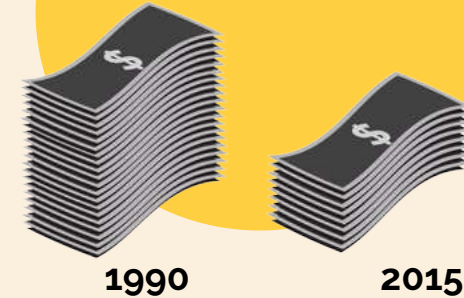
DID YOU KNOW?

“Photovoltaic” = PV

electricity generating

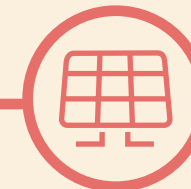
- Metro Vancouver gets more solar radiation than any community in Germany, the world leader in the per capita use of solar power.
- BC Hydro rates increased 50% between 2008 and 2016, and they are expected to continue to rise faster than the rate of inflation.
- The price of solar panels in Canada has dropped by 80% in the last 10 years, making solar a cost-effective option for homeowners looking to offset rising electricity prices.
- Rooftop solar PV systems provide an immediate return on investment that will continue to grow over the system’s lifetime, particularly as electricity rates increase.
- Meanwhile, investments in energy efficiency can increase the value of a home.

The technology is better and the cost is lower!



The number of solar PV panels in BC has increased **520%** in just **5** years* (2011-2016)

*connected through BC Hydro Net Metering

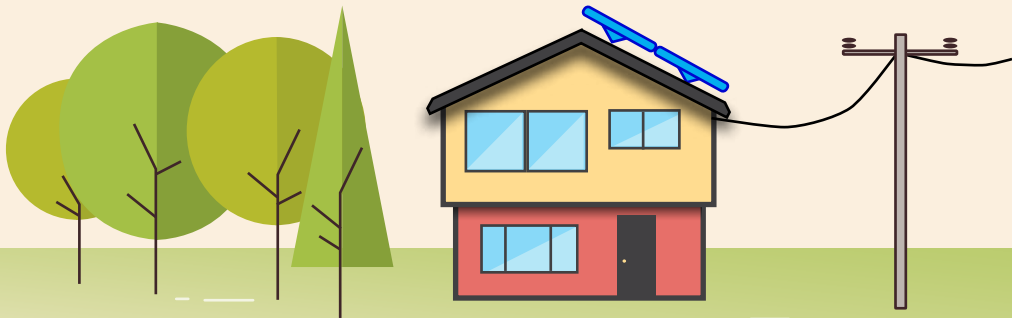
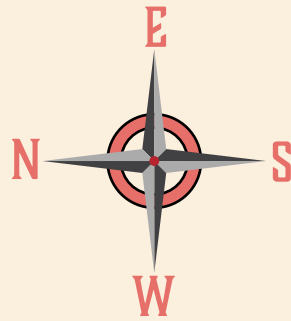




Is solar an option for your home?

An average home solar system in Metro Vancouver...

- can typically meet 30-100% of a home's annual electricity needs
- will cost a total of \$10,000 to \$20,000, including permits, depending on its size
- should face south (or south-east to south-west), and be unshaded
- takes up 20-50 square metres of roof space (most homes have this available)
- can be installed on flat or sloped roofs, as long as the roof is in good shape
- requires virtually zero maintenance



From Idea to Installation to Savings

STEP 1 If you think solar is right for your home, your first step will be to pick a solar PV installation firm. The installer will determine the system size and design, and provide you with a cost estimate. Compare quotes from a few installation companies, see the systems they've installed, talk to their clients, ask about warranties and insurance, and pick a company with experience and a good reputation.

STEP 2 Next, you will need to contact your municipality to determine what permits you will need. Your PV installer will help you secure these permits, and the process typically takes 4-6 weeks. An electrical permit is required by all Metro Vancouver municipalities, and a building permit is required by most. Some municipalities will also require drawings, and a structural report from an engineer. Several municipalities might also require a development permit or variance. (Please see Table 1 for more details.)

STEP 3 Your solar PV installer will be responsible to install and commission your system. The installer will also complete BC Hydro's net-metering application to get your system plugged into the grid.

BC Hydro's Net Metering Program

Under the net metering program, the energy generated by your solar panels is applied to your account, reducing your monthly bills. If you generate **more** than you use, BC Hydro will provide a credit towards future bills. This gives you access to reliable electricity year-round, while reducing your annual costs substantially.

TABLE 1: Municipal Permitting Requirements and Costs

City	Est. Cost of Permit ¹	Electrical Permit Issued By: ²	Building Permit?	Drawing/Sketch?	Structural Report? ³	Approx time to process (weeks)
Anmore	\$894	BCSA	Yes	Yes	Yes	4 - 8
Belcarra	\$819	BCSA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Variable
Bowen Island	\$744	BCSA	Possibly	Yes	No	Variable
Burnaby	\$930	City	Yes	Yes	Yes	6 - 8
Coquitlam	\$639	BCSA	No	No	No	N/A
Delta	\$804	BCSA	Yes	Yes	Yes	2 - 3
Langley City	\$789	BCSA	Yes	Yes	Yes	5 - 6
Langley Township	\$689	BCSA	Yes	Yes	Yes	1
Lions Bay	\$849	BCSA	Yes	Yes	Possibly	1
Maple Ridge	\$590	City	Possibly	Yes	Yes	3 - 4
New Westminster	\$784	BCSA	Yes	Yes	Yes	2 - 3
North Vancouver City	\$795	City	Yes	Yes	Possibly	1 - 4
North Vancouver District	\$1,055	City	Yes	Yes	No	4 - 12
Pitt Meadows	\$759	BCSA	Possibly	Yes	No	< 1
Port Coquitlam	\$729	BCSA	Possibly	Yes	Yes	Variable
Port Moody	\$874	BCSA	Yes	Possibly	Yes	2 - 4
Richmond	\$829	BCSA	Yes	Yes	No	Variable
Surrey	\$590	City	Yes	Yes	Yes	4 - 6
University Endowment Lands	\$779	BCSA	Yes	Possibly	No	4 - 6
Vancouver	\$980	City	Possibly	Possibly	Possibly	> 4
West Vancouver	\$970	City	Yes	Yes	No	4 - 6
White Rock	\$809	BCSA	Yes	Yes	Yes	8

¹ For comparative purposes, building/electrical permit costs are estimated based on a 4kW solar PV system with a total installation value of \$12,000 (including labour and materials).

² Electrical permits can either be issued by the municipality or by the BC Safety Authority (BCSA).

³ A structural report from an engineer may be required, which could add an extra \$500-\$2000 to the total cost



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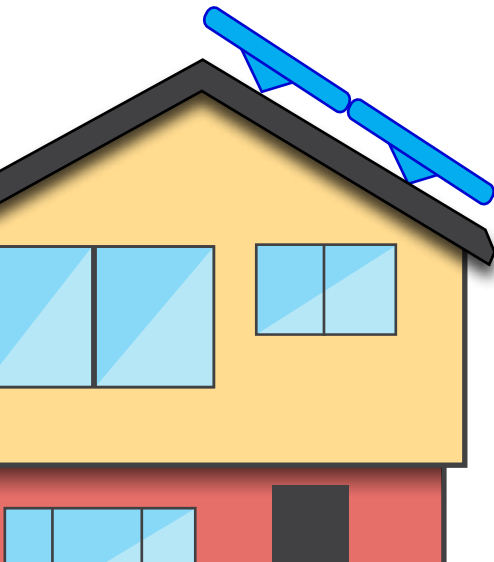


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