



# SOLAR NOW

Going solar  
in Metro Vancouver

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



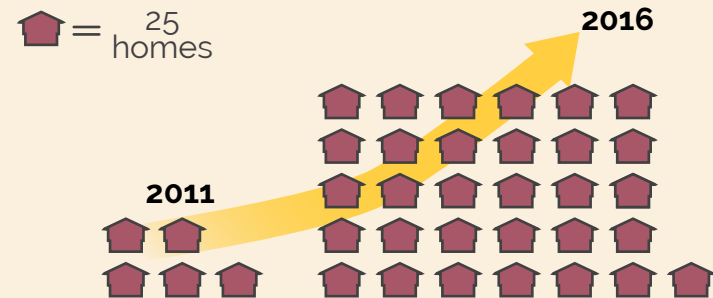
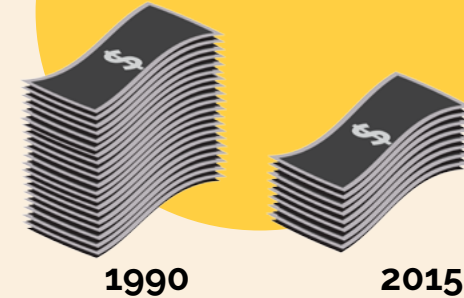
## DID YOU KNOW?

“Photovoltaic” = PV

**electricity generating**

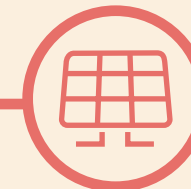
- Metro Vancouver gets more solar radiation than any community in Germany, the world leader in the per capita use of solar power.
- BC Hydro rates increased 50% between 2008 and 2016, and they are expected to continue to rise faster than the rate of inflation.
- The price of solar panels in Canada has 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

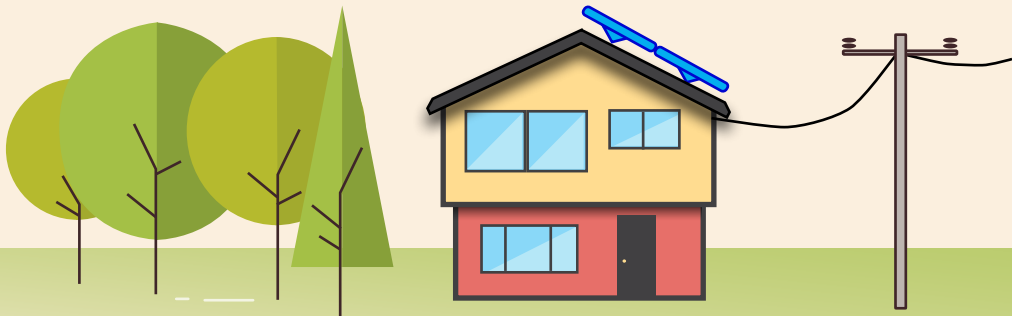
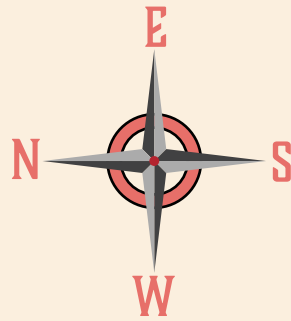




## Is solar an option for your home?

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 <sup>1</sup>	Electrical Permit Issued By: <sup>2</sup>	Building Permit?	Drawing/Sketch?	Structural Report? <sup>3</sup>	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

<sup>1</sup> 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).

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

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



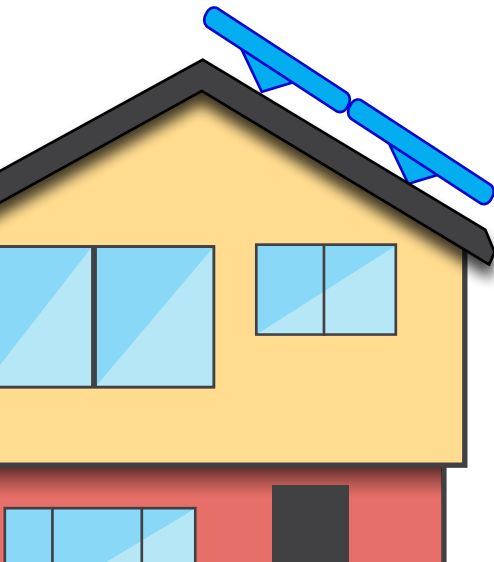
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