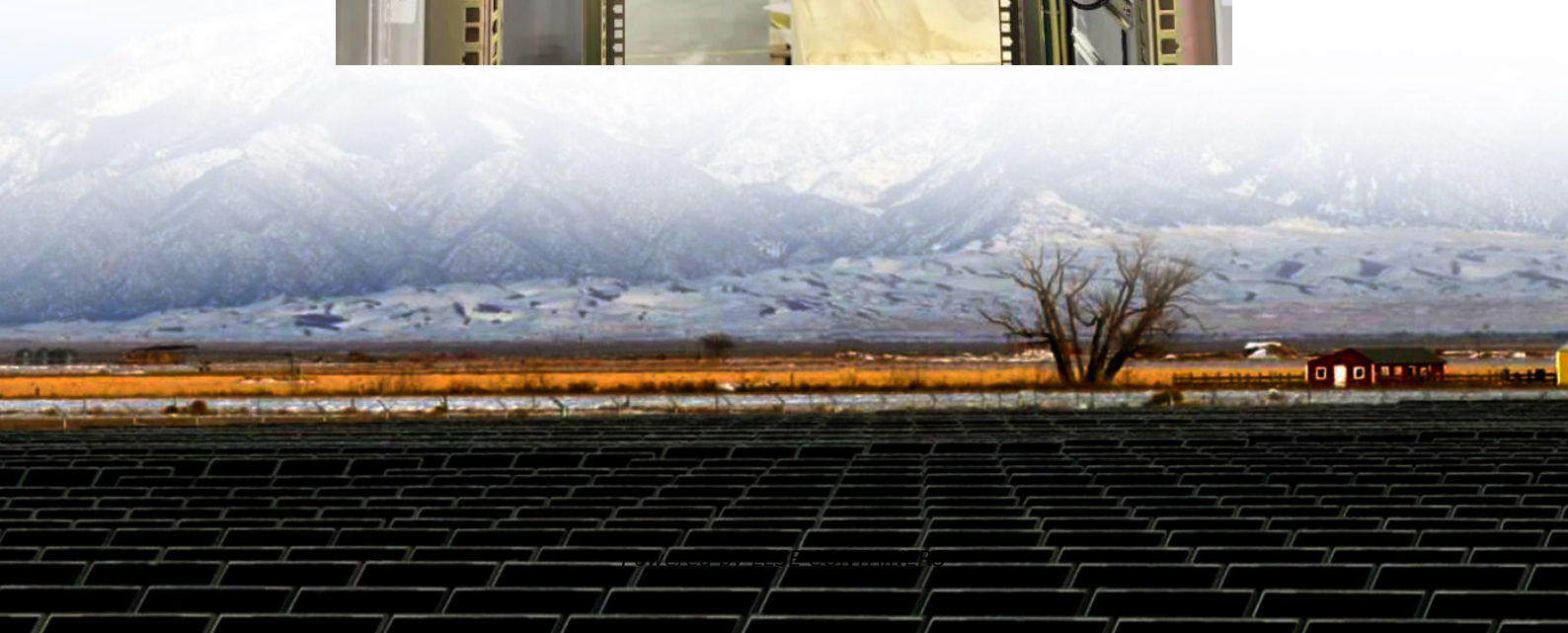


# How much does solar panels cost per year





## Overview

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How much does a solar panel cost?

From 2010 to 2020, solar panel prices dropped by nearly 90%, with costs per watt falling from approximately \$3.86 to \$0.38 globally (source: IRENA). This decline slowed in recent years but remained consistent. Between 2020 and 2025, residential solar system costs, averaging \$2.50 to \$3.50 per watt in 2025, decreased from \$3 to \$4 per watt in 2020.

How much does a home solar system cost?

According to studies by the U.S. Department of Energy, the all-in cost of a home solar panel system is between \$2.74 to \$3.30 per watt. <sup>1,2,12</sup> This figure includes the solar panels, the installation, and other expenses. Using these numbers, an average-sized 8-kilowatt residential solar system would cost between \$21,900 – \$26,400.

How much does solar cost per watt?

For reference, the national average cost of solar panels is \$3.03 per watt. Solar rebates help make solar more affordable by directly lowering the upfront cost of a solar installation. If you have access to solar rebates, consider yourself lucky! They are few and far between these days.

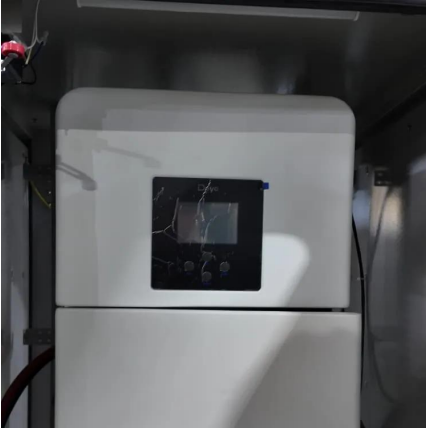
Are solar installations cheap?

Solar installations aren't cheap, but the actual equipment is a relatively small part of the total cost. It's only 35% of your total installation cost, according to the US Department of Energy. Soft costs, also known as the hidden costs of installing solar, are nonhardware costs, and they make up 65% of your total solar costs, according to the DOE.



## How much does solar panels cost per year

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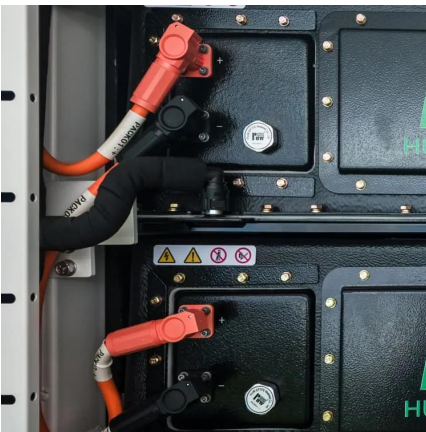


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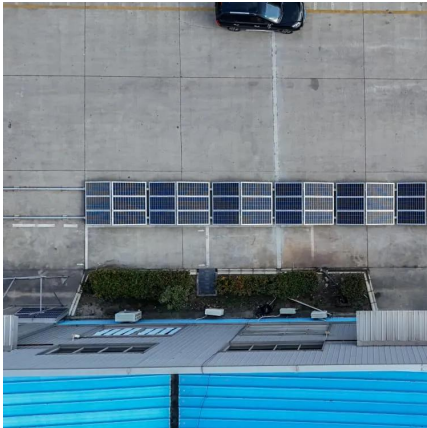
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