

Solar panel power generation costs





Overview

How much do solar panels cost?

As of 2025, the average cost of residential solar panels in the U.S. is between \$15,000 and \$25,000 before incentives. This typically translates to about \$2.50 to \$3.50 per watt of installed capacity (more on price per watt below). The total price depends on your system size, location, roof type, and installer.

What is the relative cost of solar energy?

Another measure of the relative cost of solar energy is its price per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Whereas the price per watt considers the solar system's size, the price per kWh shows the price of the solar system per unit of energy it produces over a given period of time. $\text{Net cost of the system} / \text{lifetime output} = \text{cost per kilowatt hour}$.

How much does a solar power plant cost?

By comparison, new-build natural gas peaker plants cost \$0.138 to \$0.262 per kWh, even before factoring in volatile fuel prices. With current federal subsidies still in place, solar can be as low as \$0.02 per kWh and wind \$0.015 per kWh, making them much cheaper than even the most efficient existing power plants relying on dirty energy.

Are solar panels a good investment?

Solar panels provide energy with zero emissions, helping cut planet-overheating pollution. Plus, the sun is free to use, meaning homeowners can bet on long-term, predictable energy costs. As Lazard's report notes, "renewable energy remains the most cost-competitive form of generation" and is also the quickest to deploy.



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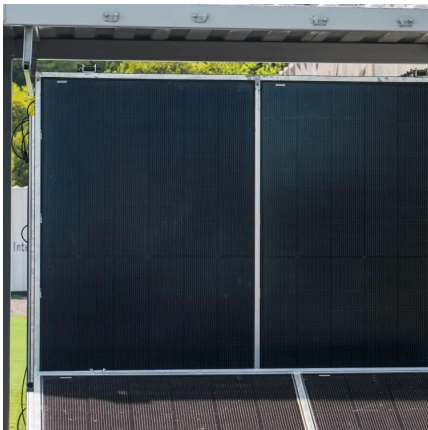


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[Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2023](#)

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