## **Commercial pv panels**



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Commercial property owners looking to reduce overhead and save on utility bills are turning to solar energy in a big way. According to the Solar Energy Industries Association, every year more businesses are choosing to install solar at their facilities. And those that already use solar are adding even more. This guide will help everyone investigating solar installations for their businesses. Explore the pros and cons of commercial solar, the different types of systems, a step-by-step guide to going solar, and financing methods.

Only building or property owners can approve the installation of a solar array. Working directly with the owner, solar installers can work to develop efficient and affordable arrays that work best for the facility and the company's bottom line. Solar expert Judith Shadzi notes that lessors can work with their landlords to install solar on the building. Shadzi has seen this trend increase with the lessor often paying the landlord to cover some of the costs of the array. Many times, it makes more sense to cut high electricity costs and help pay for the project.

Large, open roof or ground space can make the design and installation process move more quickly. However, Shadzi says, each roof is unique. Solar installers are used to working with a variety of spaces to maximize energy production.

Solar installation, design, and permitting, cost time and money. Having a newer roof built to UBC code with drawings or blueprints for solar support placements can help cut down on those expenses, as can land free of debris. It can also help the process of installation move faster and decrease turnaround time for the completed solar system.

Most businesses operate during the day when there is light. This is beneficial as more light on a solar panel equals more electricity, which can meet the needs of higher loads.

Farmers rely on the sun for their work. Using solar for their electricity seems like a logical move. According to the most recent U.S. Department of Agriculture survey of on-farm energy production, in 2009, solar for on-farm energy production was reported in all 50 states. On average, solar panels on farms were generating about 4,450 watts.

Facilities managers or business owners who know the ins and outs of their buildings can help make the transition to solar a smooth and easy one. Being personally responsible for the hiring of an electrician provides the owner with a greater sense of control and comfort with the project.

Tax credits, rebates, and other incentives can greatly enhance the return on investment for commercial solar systems. Find out more about your state's solar stance on our state-specific pages.

## SOLAR PRO.

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When given the choice between a company that employs sustainable energy and one that doesn't, many customers will choose to go with the eco-friendly business. If your solar panels are prominently displayed or can otherwise be leveraged to exhibit your eco-ethics, the panels can be a solid marketing investment.

Judith Shadzi from Cosmic Solar notes that installing solar panels for commercial projects can help reduce monthly energy bills. Shadzi's team, like with other solar companies, works to design systems that can create as much electricity as the business uses to "zero" out electricity consumption.

Shadzi notes that the price of natural gas fluctuates and what might make financial sense right now, will not necessarily translate into long-term savings. Solar offers the benefit of a fixed price. It also improves a company's ability to predict cash flows.

According to the Solar Energy Industries Association, more than a third of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions come from burning fossil fuels for residential and commercial electricity usage. Solar energy can make a positive impact as it produces clean, emission-free electricity.

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