On grid solar system

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Grid-tied solar systems try to merge the advantages of solar panels with the convenience of electricity from the power grid. This on-the-grid system has a special connection that feeds the solar energy you do not use in your building to your utility provider"s power lines.

A grid-tied system can flow both ways. You can feed extra electricity back into the grid, but you can also get power from the grid at night or if you need more energy than your panels provide. This is different from an off-grid system, which supplies 100% of the electricity to a building without help from the utility company.

The panels create electrical current and feed it via cables to the inverter. The inverter makes the DC-to-AC conversion and sends the electricity to the home for use.

Any electricity that doesn"t get used then flows to the bi-directional meter where the most unique feature of the system takes place. Utility companies use net metering to make a grid-tied set-up worthwhile. For every unit of energy passed into the grid, you get a credit.

Solar panels produce their energy during the daytime. They provide peak output during sunny days but also work in overcast conditions. You might not use all the electricity produced during this time. For instance, you won"t need to power many lights during the daytime, and your family may be at work or school, limiting your electrical needs.

When calculating the overall energy output of your grid-connected system during different months, consider other factors, such as the length of days during different times of the year.

A grid-tied system can bring you advantages that other solar panel options, such as off-grid systems, can"t offer. Here are the biggest benefits of a net-metering setup.

These benefits might be attractive, but you also need to be aware of the potential pitfalls that could negate the advantages of on-grid solar. Here are three of the most important factors to consider.

Finally, you need to consider the upfront costs. These can be substantial, even with financing and tax credit options. A system may be out of reach financially for some homeowners.

Some things about these two options are similar. Both rely on the same panel and inverter setup. However, the way they handle excess energy is different. Grid-tied systems feed it into their utility provider"s electrical infrastructure, while off-grid systems charge batteries that will provide power at night when energy needs spike.

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When there is no grid, or the grid is unreliable, an off-grid system is ideal. However, the batteries make it more expensive. Also, you may need more panels because you have to be sure to cover all your energy needs in all weather conditions.

If your area has a reliable grid and a fair net-metering program, a grid-tied system may be cheaper overall and still allow you to significantly cut your energy costs.

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