

# A Homeowner's Checklist for Going Solar



## Determine how much energy you're using

Solar tends to be a better investment for people who use a lot of electricity, so the first step is to determine how many kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity you're using each month. Some people use as little as 300 kilowatt hours per month, while others easily use four times that amount. Come up with a twelve month average by reviewing recent energy bills or calling your utility company.



## Determine how much money you'll save

After you figure out how many kilowatt hours of energy you're using, visit 1BOG's solar estimate tool at <http://1bog.org/solar-estimate> to learn how much money you'd save by going solar. Our tool will ask you a few questions, then it'll tell you what your out-of-pocket cost for going solar would be, how long it would take for the system to pay for itself, and how much money you'd save after that.



## Assess your roof

How many years are left in the life of your roof? If you're close to the end of your warranty and have had some leaks in the past few years, you should probably replace your roof before going solar. If you think you're five years away from a roof replacement or more, it usually makes sense to go solar first. It's also important to know how well situated your roof is for solar. What direction does it face? How much sun does it get?



## Consider your long-term energy needs

A new swimming pool or electric car could significantly change your energy consumption. So while you're going through the process of determining if solar is right for your home, make sure you find out whether or not you can add more panels over time if necessary.



## Shop around

Solar is a growing market, so there are lots of newer, less experienced installers out there. To determine whether or not you should work with a particular company, **it's important to consider that company on three key factors: (1) quality of panels (2) quality of installation practices and (3) longterm stability as a company.** Or, you can simply go through One Block Off the Grid, where we do all this research for you and take a full month to vet local installers on all three factors. Going through One Block Off the Grid also gives you access to a substantial group discount — usually about 15 percent off the panels and installation. Because we have the ability to negotiate discounts on a group level, we're typically able to secure a price much lower than what individuals are able to negotiate for themselves.



## Review which solar rebates are available to you

In addition to the federal tax credit, there are a myriad of local and state level incentives available to homeowners for going solar, and the funding status of each one changes on a frequent basis. To find out which rebates are available, you can do research online. We also have state rebate information available on our website: <http://www.1bog.org>.

**Need help with any of these steps? Visit us at [1bog.org](http://www.1bog.org).**

## What is One Block Off the Grid?

One Block Off the Grid is the smart, new way to go solar. We research solar installers in your area, negotiate group discounts on your behalf, and manage the entire process of going solar for you from beginning to end—at no cost. To get a free solar savings analysis or get access to group discounts, sign up at <http://1bog.org>.