

GreenAZ

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make Arizona homes
a part of the solution

Going Solar: Bring Energy Independence To Your Backyard



Solar powered homes still often seem like science fiction. Yet with growing national concern over energy independence and emissions, the once unattainable dream has become an affordable reality. Federal and state tax credits, along with the large credits provided by electric companies take almost half of the sting out of installation costs. Couple this with drastically reduced energy bills (if any), the benefits of knowing your home is eco-friendlier, and the extra AC usage you'll get worry free during these hot summer months, and all signs seem to point to yes! DRW referred me to a local solar company, American Solar Electric, so I could get a first hand look at what it would take to turn my home into a solar generator.

After checking out my electric bills and kilowatt usage for the last few months, we determined which solar module series would be the best buy for my usage. On average, most homes use solar systems that have between 4-6 kW capacity, producing between 8,000 and 10,000 kW hours of power per year. Other factors, such as the amount of shade on one's roof at various times during the year, and the directions a pitched roof faces, all come into play when determining how efficient a particular model will be. At my home, ASE approximated that the shade created by my trees would give me 97% efficiency in the summer and around 86% efficiency in the winter.

After exploring the choices for the optimal system that would provide the greatest production and efficiency, we found that after all tax credits and incentives, the entire system would cost me about six or seven thousand dollars. My dependence on outside electrical sources should be cut by about two-thirds, and if I decrease my own usage, my electrical company might even start paying me for the extra electricity generated by my home! I'm very optimistic about these wonderful improvements to my home, and be sure to stay tuned for updates as my bills begin to disappear!



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