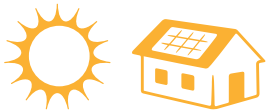


# SOLAR + STORAGE MEANS PEACE OF MIND

COMBINING SOLAR WITH BATTERY STORAGE ENSURES CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY EVEN DURING OUTAGES

## FAST FACTS ON SOLAR



Clean, renewable solar power reduces your carbon footprint.



Solar systems are more affordable than ever, and most homeowners save up to \$625 per year on energy costs.



Solar + storage increases energy resilience, providing power even during outages or emergency events like an earthquake.

It's no wonder more than 14,000 homeowners across Oregon have taken control of their energy costs by going solar. Powering your home with Oregon's abundant solar energy reduces your carbon footprint and cuts monthly energy costs. Adding battery storage to a solar system allows it to do even more, increasing your energy independence and resilience. Solar + storage provides clean, renewable power for your home and saves any extra solar energy in the battery to use during an outage.

## UNDERSTANDING SOLAR + STORAGE

### How does solar + storage work?

- Extra power generated by your solar system is saved to a battery storage system for later use. The battery is usually installed along a garage wall or near your electrical panel.
- During an outage, the system is designed to supply enough energy for essentials such as your refrigerator, cell phone chargers and lights.
- The solar panels recharge the battery daily so it can provide backup power even during extended outages. Recharging time will vary depending on the weather, the season and your energy use.
- Solar + storage is clean and quiet and safe. Unlike a portable, gas- or-diesel-powered backup generator, there's no motor noise, exhaust or risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

### How does solar + storage differ from solar alone?

If you have a solar system without storage, you will not have power during an outage. Rooftop solar systems are required to turn off during an outage as a safety measure to protect repair crews working on the grid. But solar + storage works differently; your system can safely disconnect your home from the grid and continue to provide you with electricity during an outage.

## Why choose solar + storage instead of just a backup generator?

There are a variety of other portable and hard-wired backup power systems available that depend on fossil fuels, but you could run out of fuel during an extended outage. With a solar + storage system, the solar panels generate clean, renewable energy to limit the fuel you use, power your essential loads and charge the battery daily.

## Why is energy resilience important?

Energy resilience is the ability to prepare for and recover from problems on the grid. Oregonians are vulnerable to a range of natural hazards—from storms, droughts and wildfires to earthquakes and tsunamis—that could compromise grid infrastructure. That's why Oregon's Office of Emergency Management encourages people to be "2 Weeks Ready" so they are prepared to be on their own for a minimum of two weeks in the event of an earthquake or other major incident. Solar + storage can provide you with essential backup power—that recharges daily—and help ease recovery from a significant event. Individual solar + storage installations also add up to a network of local, distributed generation. This can help the entire community bounce back faster by lessening the strain on the grid while utilities are making repairs and working to restore power system-wide.

## Will solar + storage power my whole house?

No, the battery storage typically won't power an entire house during an outage. But you can count on it for enough backup power to keep food cold, cell phones charged and lights on. You choose which rooms or appliances you want to power. Solar panels produce energy every day to recharge the battery, but the amount available will change depending on the weather, the season and your energy use.



Get more from your energy.

Visit [www.energytrust.org/solarplusstorage](http://www.energytrust.org/solarplusstorage)  
or call us a **1.866.368.7878**.

## Are all storage systems the same?

Storage systems vary, from simple battery backup (typically lead acid) to more advanced or "smart" systems (typically lithium) that include home energy monitoring. Some advanced systems have a phone app that shows your real-time energy use and where you're drawing energy from—your solar panels, battery storage or the grid.

## How will I know how much energy is available to use?

The battery storage system will usually tell you. On simple models, it may be an LED screen on the unit itself showing how full your battery is. More advanced systems can provide updates to your mobile phone.

## Is this the same as going "off grid?"

Solar + storage increases your energy independence so that during an outage you can rely on the solar your system produces, however your home is still served by the electric utility grid.

## Are incentives available?

Energy Trust of Oregon offers incentives based on the size of the solar system to decrease the upfront cost of your project. You may also be eligible for a state rebate and a federal tax credit for installing a solar plus battery storage system on your home. Contact a solar trade ally contractor to get more details.

## REQUEST A SOLAR + STORAGE PROPOSAL TODAY

It's easy to find out your home's solar potential and learn more about solar + storage. Visit [www.energytrust.org/solarbid](http://www.energytrust.org/solarbid), complete the form and you will receive a free, customized bid from qualified solar trade ally contractors.