

Solar Electricity Panels

Your home has solar electricity panels on the roof. This advice sheet will explain how the panels work and help you get the most out of the free electricity they produce.

How your solar panels work

Solar electricity panels are sometimes known as ‘solar photovoltaics’ or ‘solar pv’. They use light from the sun to produce electricity.

The solar panels only produce free electricity during daylight hours. The panels produce more electricity on sunny summer days and less on cloudy winter days.



When your electricity is free

When the solar panels are producing electricity, the electricity they produce is **free** for you to use. This means you will get **some** free electricity during the daytime.

But it's important to remember that the panels:

- Only produce electricity during the day
- Only produce a certain amount of electricity at any one time.

This means that the panels can make your electricity bills lower. But they will not provide all the electricity you need, so you will still have an electricity bill to pay.



How to make the most of your free solar electricity

If you make some changes to the way you use electricity in your home, you can save more money on your electricity bills. Taking these small steps can save you money.

Whenever possible try to:

1. Use electrical items during daylight hours rather than after dark.
2. Use electrical appliances when it's sunny, because this is when your solar panels will be producing the most electricity.
3. Keep household jobs that need more electricity for the middle of the day. For example, ironing, hoovering, cooking or washing clothes.
4. Charge electrical items you have during daylight hours. For example, your mobile phone or electric toothbrush.
5. Only use one big electrical appliance at a time during daylight hours. This means your cooker, hoover, kettle, iron, washing machine, tumble drier or dishwasher. For example, do your hoovering after the washing machine has finished.
6. Use your electric cooker, if you have one, to do most of the cooking in the daytime rather than in the evening.
7. Use your electric shower, if you have one, in the day rather than after dark.

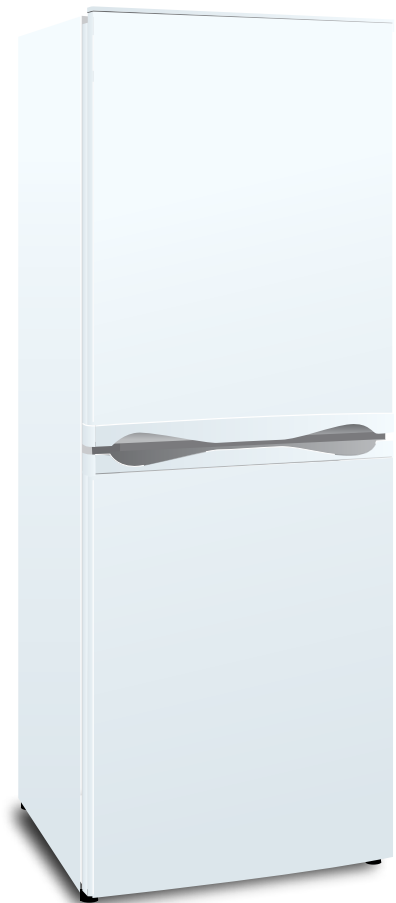
You will need to pay for your electricity when:

- Your solar panels are not producing electricity, for example after dark.
- You use more electricity than the solar panels are producing.

There are appliances in your home that use electricity all day and night, for example your fridge-freezer – so some of the free electricity will be used up by these appliances.

Don't forget

The best way to cut your electricity bill is to use less of it!



Useful Contacts

Home Energy Scotland - Freephone **0808 808 2282**

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