

# Solar for Your Home

## What Might Solar Cost?

An ideal home for solar will have a south-facing roof and plenty of exposure to the sun. Solar can be mounted on your home or garage, as an awning over windows or a deck, or even as a pole-mounted system that may be suited for your backyard.

You will want to have as much exposure to the sun as possible, ideally between 9am-3pm. There should be few shading issues (such as trees, buildings or power poles), which could reduce your electrical production.

During the bid process, an installer will do a detailed analysis of your home to estimate the quality and quantity of sun exposure and your home's production potential. Costs and estimates will vary depending on the building or home, shading, accessibility to roof, condition of structure (or upgrades needed), and bids will vary depending on the installer.

A typical solar installation in Milwaukee is 2 KW (kilowatts). Below is an example of what a 2 KW system may produce and cost.



This Milwaukee home meets all its electrical needs with solar  
Photo courtesy of: H&H Solar

### Example Solar Electric Production

A 2 KW solar system would produce about 9 kilowatt hours (kwh)/day of electricity.

- This is based on an average of 4.5 sun hours per day in a Milwaukee area.
- A 2 KW system would generate roughly about 3,000 kwh/year. (9 kwh/day x 365 days)

A 2 KW system could offset about 1/4 of an annual average household electricity use.

- Average household electricity use in U.S. is 1,000 kwh/month, or 12,000 kwh/year
- Find your own electrical consumption by adding all 12 months of your home's kilowatt-hour (kwh) use. This can be found on your energy bill.
- Once you find your total electrical use, you can determine the maximum solar size needed.
- Solar does not need to offset all your electrical use. The system size may also be limited by the size of your roof, your solar window (trees, etc), or your budget. Talk about these issues with your installer during the bid process.

### Example Solar Electric Project Costs

\$8,000-\$10,000

2 KW system before incentives (average cost in Milwaukee is \$4-\$5/watt)

-\$1,200

Focus on Energy Incentive (\$600/KW, up to \$2,400)

-\$2,000

Milwaukee Solar Incentive (must go through Me<sup>2</sup> program)

-30%

30% Federal Tax Credit off remaining cost (\$1,440-\$2,040)

\$3,360-\$4,760

**Final Average Cost**  
(costs will vary for each site!)

NEED FINANCING? Homeowners can use [Milwaukee Shine Solar Financing](#) for a low-interest loan for the balance of the cost of the solar system. Visit [www.MilwaukeeShines.com](http://www.MilwaukeeShines.com) for details.