

# Solar power generation for personal use is not cost-effective

Do solar photovoltaic energy benefits outweigh the costs?

This article appears in the Spring 2020 issue of Energy Futures, the magazine of the MIT Energy Initiative. Benefits of solar photovoltaic energy generation outweigh the costs, according to new research from the MIT Energy Initiative.

## Can solar energy reduce your electricity costs?

Reducing electricity consumption to lower your monthly bills is a fine idea, but it's very difficult to change habits and you can't cut real needs. Solar to the rescue Solar energy can reduce your electricity costs. You can use a smaller system to cover part of your power needs, or meet them all with a large enough system.

#### Does going solar cost a lot?

Thanks in part to Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) investments, the cost of going solar goes down every year. You may be considering the option of adding a solar energy system to your home's roof or finding another way to harness the sun's energy.

### Can solar energy save you money?

Solar to the rescue Solar energy can reduce your electricity costs. You can use a smaller system to cover part of your power needs, or meet them all with a large enough system. In either case, you're reducing your monthly electricity costs. Many people go solar and realize savings without changing their lifestyle.

#### Is solar energy worth the investment?

Solar energy itself is cost-effective. Systems produce free energy with limited maintenance for their lifespan, which averages 30 to 35 years. However, many people have to decide if solar is worth the investment.

## Could solar power be the future of energy?

A 2021 study by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) projected that 40% of all power generation in the U.S. could come from solar by 2035. Solar's current trends and forecasts look promising, with photovoltaic (PV) installations playing a major role in solving energy problems like carbon pollution and energy dependence.



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