

Solar: How much to buy for your home, affordability

So many people call asking how much would a solar system cost. Solar is not a one system fits all proposition. The energy consumption of each home is different. Goals will vary from a small system to a large system. Battery backup will change the equipment needed for the install.

How much solar do I need?

First, look at the power bill. The bill will tell how many kilowatt hours were used each month. Take the monthly average and divide that by 30 days and then by 6 average hours per day sun production. Next, have a site assessment done to see how much solar can fit on the roof. The next question is budget and goals. No matter who you are, you have a budget in mind.

There is no advantage in installing a larger system than what kilowatts hours being used. If you put more energy back on the grid than used it will not help financially. Looking at your power bills for the last 12 months is a good place to start. If new construction, plan a passive solar home to naturally cut down energy consumption. Build "green." The little things save a bundle of money over the longevity of your home. Most passive solar makes a home more enjoyable. The sun shining in on a cold winter's day will give off substantial heat. In our home, we collect so much heat; we open windows and enjoy the fresh air in the middle of the winter.

How can I afford a solar system? There is financing available. A solar system is not like buying a vehicle, motor cycle or motor home. A vehicle will depreciate over time and miles. Fuel costs are becoming a concern. It costs insurance and maintenance every month. A solar system will add twenty dollars of value to your home or business for every dollar saved in energy costs. It will cut your energy bills, a great edge against future utility costs. It does not depreciate like a vehicle. It requires little to no maintenance. There are no taxes on the power produced. Don't forget it helps to reduce your carbon foot print on the earth.

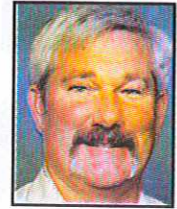
With the added value to the home and savings on monthly energy bills, solar is an asset. Keep in mind your power bills

will be going up. Consider rising energy costs the pay back could be 2 to 3 times faster in the near future. The panels have a 25 year warranty and the inverters a 10 year warranty. Panels have a design life of 40 years. Inverters have a 20 year design life, usually

something catastrophic has to happen for an invert to go out. As a society we need to be more active in conserving energy. One way is to produce our own. Power bills range from \$50.00 to \$700.00 per month. A wise man once told me "a dollar is not just

a dollar". The same dollar can be spent on many things. Never think of a dollar as only a dollar. What you spend that dollar on can cost you more dollars or make you dollars.

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Stewart Somerville
Alternative Power Systems

SOMERVILLE

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Solar systems can be designed for growth. Starting with a relatively small system then growing it to the size system desired.

There are many ways to design a system. The wrong way is to leave code compliant components out of the design. Never cut corners. The goal should always be a safe, efficient and eloquent installation. After all, looks

is as important as function. Stewart Somerville is located at 1038 West Industrial Road in Cedar City, UT 84720 and can be reached by calling 586-9181 or Online at stewart@cedarcity.net or www.apssolar.com.