

Put the Freeze on Your Electricity Bill for the Next 25 Years!

Does your property have good sun, and an electricity bill of \$100 a month or more?

You can reduce your monthly electric bill to \$11 or less **AND** lock-in your electricity costs for the next 25-plus years with a solar electric system. Solar electricity can replace most, if not all, of your current electricity use with reliable, proven technology — while paying for itself.

Let's Crunch Some Numbers:

At today's energy rates, a \$100/month electricity bill represents approximately 675 kilowatt hours (kWh) used each month. To replace 90 percent of that electricity with solar-generated energy requires a 3.0 kW solar system.

Net cost of 3.0 kW solar system	\$23,478
Energy savings over 25 years	\$42,556
Property resale value increase	\$19,839
Property tax increase	\$0
BEFORE solar monthly electric bill	\$100
AFTER solar monthly electric bill	\$11

Incentives: Solar systems qualify for rebates and tax credits; this \$29,765 system would receive a \$6,288 state rebate, and you would get a \$2,000 federal tax credit. Total loan required for financing: \$23,478.

Increasing Energy Savings: Over the past 30 years, electricity rates rose an average of 6.7 percent per year. This example uses a conservative 5.0 percent rate escalation rate to calculate energy savings over the system's 25-year warranted life. Solar systems typically function well past their 25-year warranty period. Total 25-years energy savings for this system: \$42,556.

Property Resale Value Increase: According to the *Appraisal Journal*, each one dollar decrease in a home's energy costs adds from \$10 to \$25 in resale value to a home, or \$19,839 in this example.

Property Tax: Solar systems are exempt from property tax assessment, so your property tax bill will not increase when you add a solar electric system. Total property tax increase: \$0.

Financing: You can apply for an interest-only home equity line-of-credit, or a fully amortized loan from participating Green Energy Loan banks (First Community Bank, Exchange Bank, North Coast Bank, and Sonoma Bank), which provide a variety of options for financing terms (see www.greenenergyloan.org).

Tax Deductible Loan Interest: The interest you pay on a GEL home equity loan is deductible from your income tax. In this example, the system starts creating a positive cash flow in year eight, and the amount of the positive cash flow continues to increase for the remaining eighteen year life of the system.

*Before installing a solar electric system, address any energy inefficiencies in the home such as air leaks in the building envelop and duct system, poor or missing insulation, and old inefficient appliances — this will lower your monthly electrical use and allow you to reduce the size and cost of the solar system.