

Homeowner’s Guide to Installing a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System

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Solar electric, also known as solar photovoltaic (PV), systems are a reliable source of renewable energy for your home and can help to significantly reduce your utility bills as well as your carbon footprint. However, the process of adding a solar PV system to your home can be a complicated and confusing project, even if you hire a contractor to do the installation for you. Follow this step-by-step guide to provide your family with clean, renewable energy in your home:

Complete	Tasks	Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Attend Solar for Homeowners 1 – Getting Started.	- CCSE Workshops: https://energycenter.org/workshop
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete a free home energy audit to find out where energy is being used in your home and how you can reduce it.	- SDG&E Energy Audit: https://energyaudit-sdge.sempa.com
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete energy efficiency/energy savings measures AND/OR Contact a home energy efficiency expert for advice (Maximize your rebates and tax credits for completing these)	- DOE Energy Savers: http://www.energysavers.gov/ - Energy Upgrade California: http://www.energyupgradecalifornia.com - SDG&E Energy Efficiency Rebates: http://www.sdge.com/residential/singleFamilyRebate.shtml
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review your home electrical energy usage history (at least 12 months, if available)	- SDG&E Energy Waves: https://energywave.sdge.com/
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decide on the percentage of your annual electrical usage that you wish to offset with solar electric power.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Evaluate potential locations for your solar PV system: South (or southwest) facing roofs or open ground space with minimal or no shading are best.	- DOE Energy Savers – Evaluating Your Site’s Solar Resource: http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/electricity/index.cfm/mytopic=10740
<input type="checkbox"/>	Determine the appropriate size for your system (a contractor can give you a more accurate size, but it will be helpful to have an estimate before getting soliciting bids).	- CCSE Electric Rate Analyzer: https://energycenter.org/analyzer - DOE Energy Savers – Sizing Your Solar Electric System: http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/electricity/index.cfm/mytopic=10840 - Clean Power Estimator: http://www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov/tools/clean_power_estimator.php

<input type="checkbox"/>	Research and review contractors in your area, pick three and obtain bids for comparison.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - California Solar Statistics – Find An Active Solar Contractor: http://www.californiasolarstatistics.org/search/contractor/ - Contractor State License Board: https://www2.cslb.ca.gov/OnlineServices/CheckLicensell/CheckLicense.aspx - Better Business Bureau: http://www.bbb.org/
<input type="checkbox"/>	Attend Solar for Homeowners 2 – Be a Smart Solar Customer.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decide on a qualified contractor, determine payee of the CSI rebate, and sign the contract.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCSE Workshops: https://energycenter.org/workshop
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete the California Solar Initiative (CSI) Incentive application – Step 1: Reservation Request **	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Receive Confirmation email from CCSE application project manager approx. 2 weeks from the date of submission of the CSI Reservation application.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSI Residential Application (CCSE): https://energycenter.org/index.php/incentive-programs/california-solar-initiative/application-process/application-residential
<input type="checkbox"/>	Obtain building permits, complete installation and pass building inspection. **	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - County of San Diego: http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/index.html - City of San Diego: http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/industry/pdf/infobulletin/ib301.pdf - Other cities: See your local building or planning office
<input type="checkbox"/>	Submit interconnection application, pass interconnection inspection and receive Permission To Operate (PTO).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SDGE Net Metering: http://www.sdge.com/nem/
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete the California Solar Initiative (CSI) Incentive application – Step 2: Incentive Claim **	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Receive Pending Payment email from CCSE application project manager approx. 2 weeks from the date of submission of the CSI Incentive application.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSI Residential Application (CCSE): https://energycenter.org/index.php/incentive-programs/california-solar-initiative/application-process/application-residential
<input type="checkbox"/>	Collect CSI Incentive check within 30 days of notification.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	If applicable, apply Residential Investment Tax Credit (ITC) of 30% of total system cost (after rebates).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IRS Form 5695: http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f5695.pdf
<input type="checkbox"/>	Share your solar success story with CCSE!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCSE Contact: https://energycenter.org/index.php/about-us/contact-us

** In most cases, the contractor you choose will help you with this process.