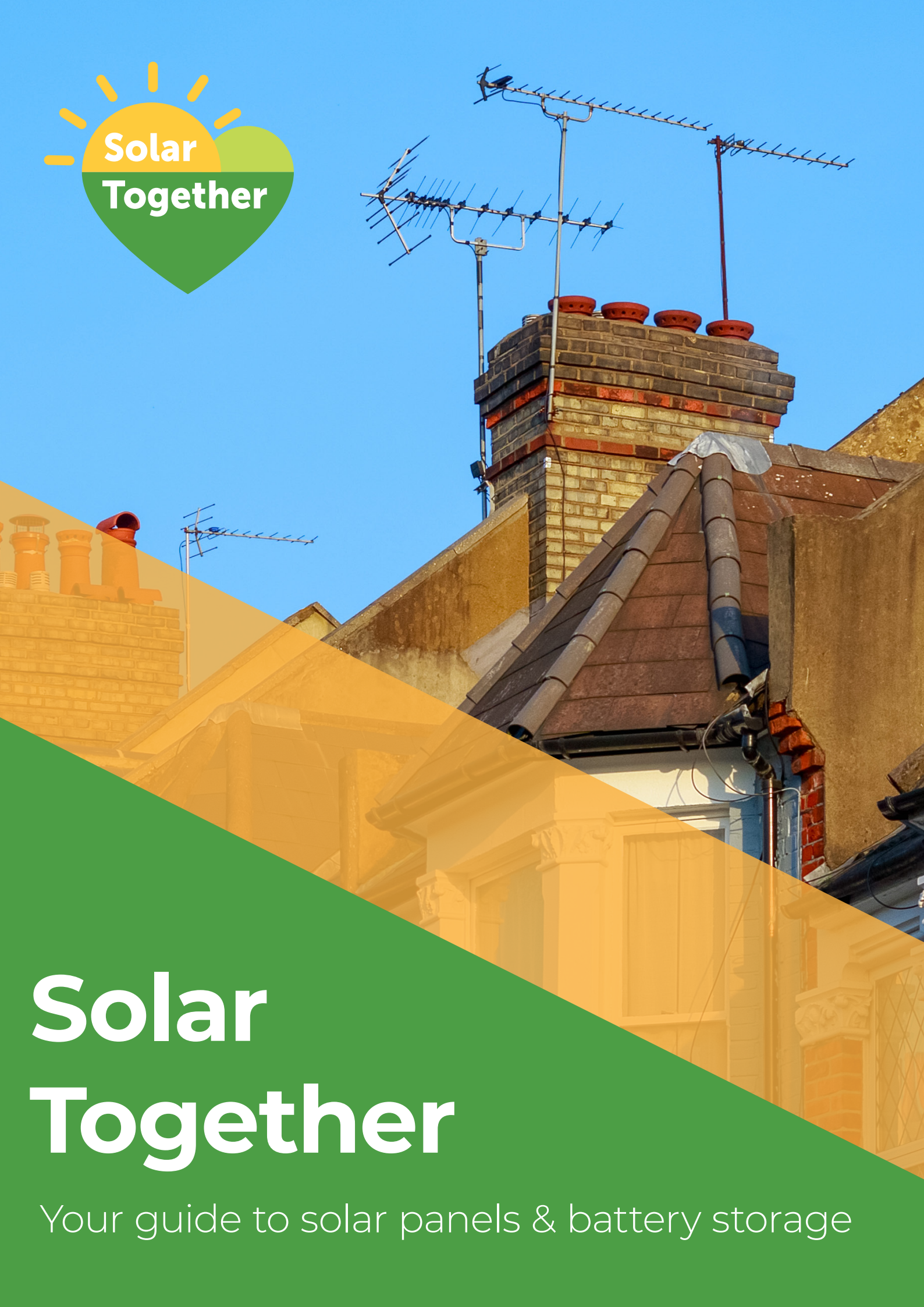

Solar Together

Your guide to solar panels & battery storage



How does group-buying for solar work?

Solar Together offers you a hassle-free way to begin powering your home through renewable energy.

We believe that everyone should be able to buy solar panels and battery storage in an easy way. We do this by providing independent information and pre-vetting all installers and products.

Thanks to the strength of a large group, we are able to secure a competitive price for everyone.



Did you know?

Through Solar Together, we have installed more than 56,000 solar panels on households across the country. This has enabled us to save over 3 million tonnes of CO_2.

That's like taking 49,140 cars off the road for an entire year!

Save more as part of a group

Our unique approach means we gather together residents before holding an auction with pre-vetted installers. It is a reverse auction, meaning the lowest bid wins. The winning bid sets the price for all solar systems and battery systems.

Clear information you can trust

We understand that choosing an installer can be quite daunting, but with Solar Together you can be reassured that you're getting clear information you can trust. And thanks to the power of the group, a great price too!

High-quality installation

All installers are pre-vetted and must comply with our criteria to guarantee the quality of the offer. This includes a product warranty of at least 12 years on your panels and 10 years on all other materials. The output is guaranteed for 25 years with an insurance-backed workmanship guarantee of at least 10 years.

All Solar Together installations are Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) certified as standard.

Solar Together

How do solar PV panels make **electricity?**

Solar panels convert sunlight into electricity. Even when it is cloudy, light provides power. The more light that falls on the panels, the higher the yield. In order to use this energy, the panels mounted on your roof need to be connected to an inverter using cables. Our offer includes all the necessary equipment for a complete solar installation.



Did you know?

Solar panels are not a new invention. Charles Fritts developed the first ever solar panel in 1883!

He is credited with having invented the first solar cell panel by coating selenium with a thin layer of gold. It had an efficiency of 1-2% which looks small compared to the 10-20% efficiency of modern solar panels on UK homes.

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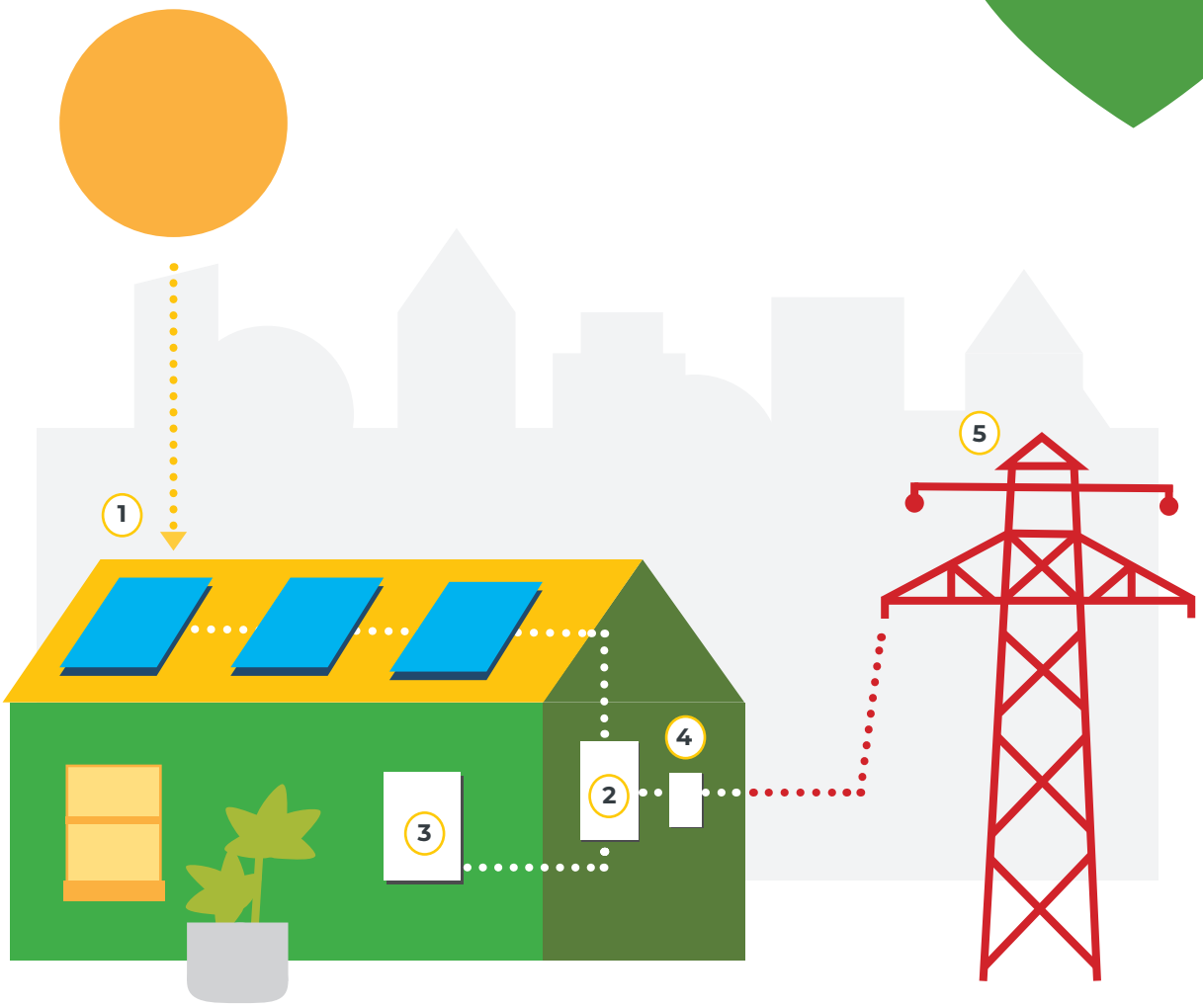


1 Solar Panels

Solar panels capture sunlight and convert it into Direct Current (DC).

2 Solar Inverter

A solar inverter then converts DC into Alternate Current (AC), which powers your home in real time.

3 Solar Battery

If you install a solar battery, excess energy is stored here, rather than being exported to the grid.

4 Generation Meter

Track your PV generation in real time using an in-home digital meter.

5 National Grid

Any excess energy that you generate is exported to the National Grid.

Solar Together

How can you **save and earn** with solar PV?



Save on your energy bill

By using the electricity generated by your solar PV system in your home, you will significantly reduce the amount of electricity that you would normally purchase from your energy supplier.

This means that one of the biggest benefits of the solar PV system comes from decreasing the amount of electricity you import from the grid and using your own generated electricity instead.



Earn through exporting your unused solar power

Since January 2020 medium and large energy suppliers have to offer tariffs that pay you for the energy you export to the grid from your solar PV system.

This payment is called the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) and applies to all electricity companies with more than 150,000 customers..



Did you know?

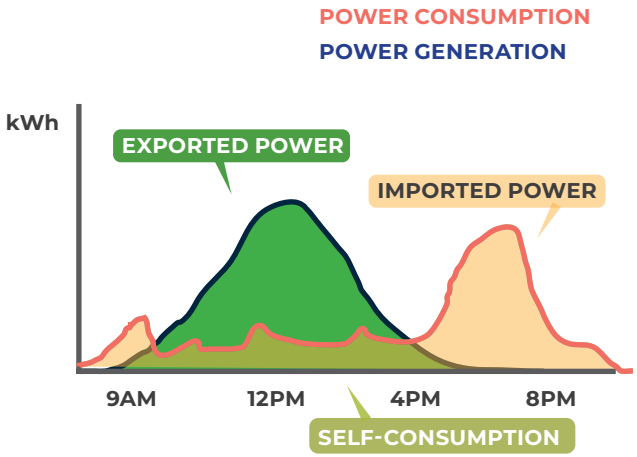
Even taking into account the costs of a typical PV system, generating your own electricity with solar panels is cheaper. Every kWh of electricity you generate from your solar panels typically costs £0.08 compared to an average of £0.21 if you buy electricity from an energy supplier.

Self-consumption & grid independence

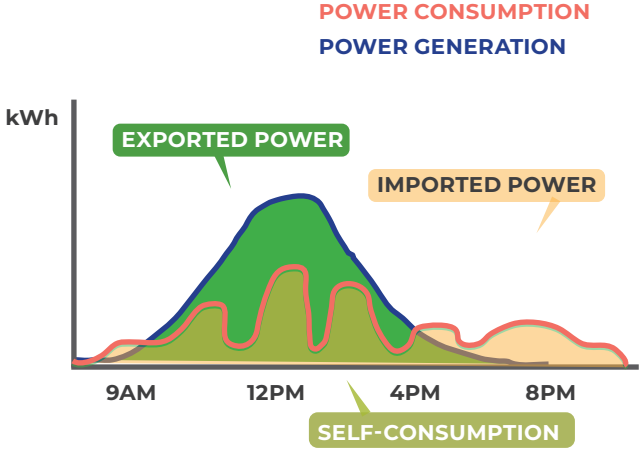
How does solar power generation and consumption differ?

Typically, the **majority of solar power is produced around midday**. However, for a lot of households, the power consumed often has a peak at the start of the day due things like making breakfast and having showers. It then peaks again at night when dinner is made, the heating goes on and lights are turned on.

This difference in typical generation and consumption peaks is shown in the graph below:



Solar power self-consumption is about aiming to get the most out of your solar pv system, and to give you a better balance of directly used solar power and imported electricity. The graph below shows the changes that increasing self-consumption aims to achieve:



What is solar power self-consumption?

Self-consumption refers to the electricity that is consumed at the same location where it is generated, compared to electricity that has to be transported over the grid.

For example, if your self-consumption is at 50%, it means that you consume half the energy that your solar PV system is producing. The remainder can be exported to the grid or stored for later use if you have battery storage.

Self-consumption is important because it impacts the savings you can make on your electricity bill. **The higher your self-consumption, the less electricity you have to buy from your energy supplier and the lower your energy bill will be**.

What is grid independence?

The less electricity you need to buy from your current energy supplier, **the more independent you are from the National Grid**. Grid independence is a simple way to help understand how independent your panels are making you.

Should you aim to export power or increase self-consumption?

If the rate on your electricity bill is higher than the rate you would get for exporting electricity, then it would save more money to increase your self-consumption.

Increasing that percentage is a matter of changing your usage habits, such as recharging electronic devices during the day. **In addition to changing your usage habits, you can also maximise your self-consumption by adding battery storage.**

Solar Together



How can **battery storage** benefit you?

You can choose to include battery storage in your Solar Together package, or you can add it to an exisiting solar panel installation (known as retrofitting).

Battery storage saves the unused energy that is generated by your solar panels, meaning you can use it whenever you want, instead of only during the day.

Battery storage can also reduce the electricity you use from the grid, and further cut your energy bills.

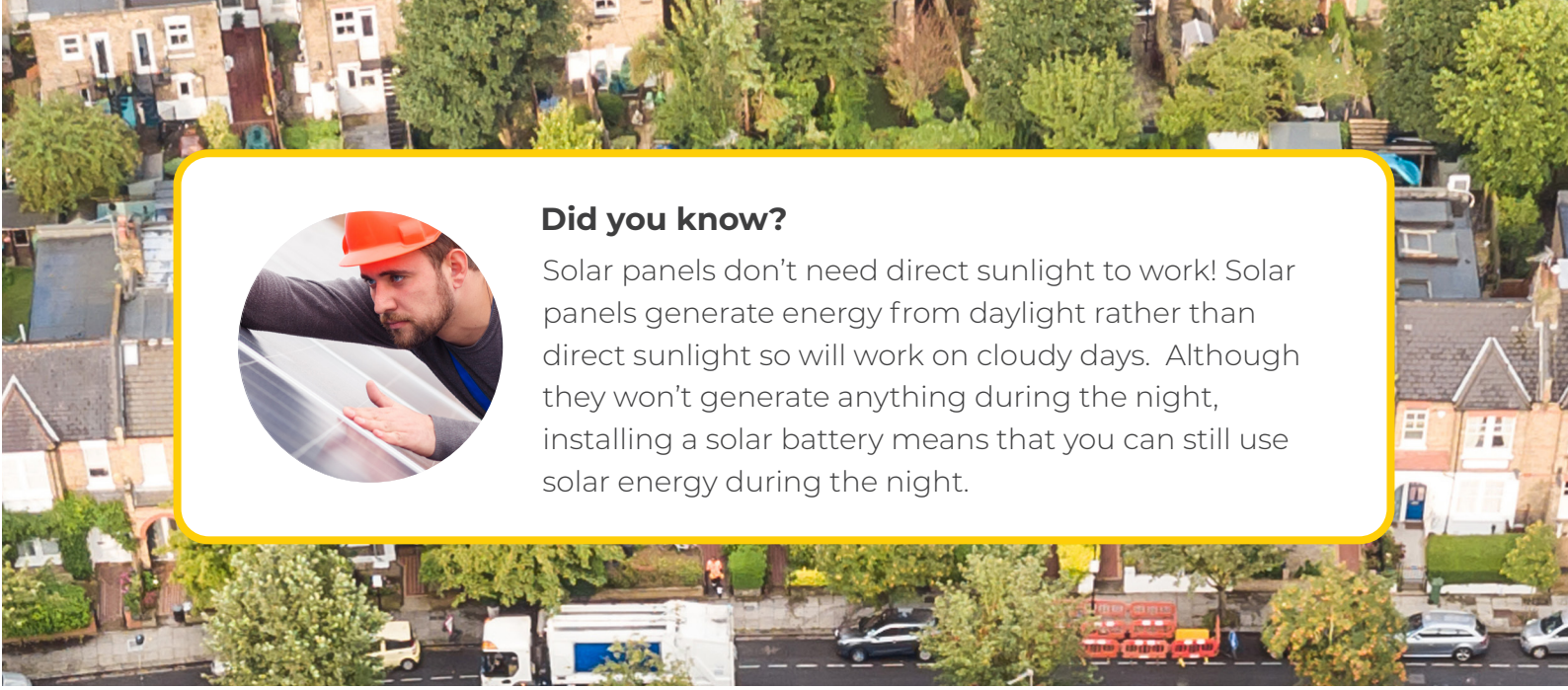
Storage allows you to take control of your energy usage and become less dependent on electricity suppliers.

By maximising how much of your self-generated energy you can use at home, you can further reduce your carbon footprint.

Adding a battery can add to the cost of your system but through the Solar Together we aim to bring these costs down.

Having a battery installed with your solar panels, or retrofitted to an existing solar panel system can have the following benefits:

- Helps you use more of the electricity you generate
- Increases your self-sufficiency as you won't need to rely on importing energy from the grid as much at times when you are not generating
- Some energy companies may pay to use your battery to store excess grid electricity
- They can enable you to take advantage of cheap-rate electricity
- Typically require little maintenance



Did you know?

Solar panels don't need direct sunlight to work! Solar panels generate energy from daylight rather than direct sunlight so will work on cloudy days. Although they won't generate anything during the night, installing a solar battery means that you can still use solar energy during the night.

Frequently asked questions

Will the battery mean I get power during a local power cut?

To use electricity during a local power cut you will require an EPS (Emergency Power Supply).

The system will have a built-in safety measures that turn off your charger and battery during a power cut. To use your battery during a power cut it either has to be isolated from the grid or fitted with an EPS.

You can request an EPS to be fitted with your winning installer after receiving your personal recommendation.

Will I still receive my Feed-in-Tariff (FiT) payments if I install a battery?

If you are receiving FiT payments according to a deemed export figure, your FiT payments will not change when adding a battery.

However, if you are receiving FiT payments according to a measured export, your payments for exported energy may change. If you are unsure what sort of FiT contract you have, we recommend contacting your FiT supplier and let them know that you plan to install a battery.

For an average system, battery storage can increase grid independence by fifty percentage points

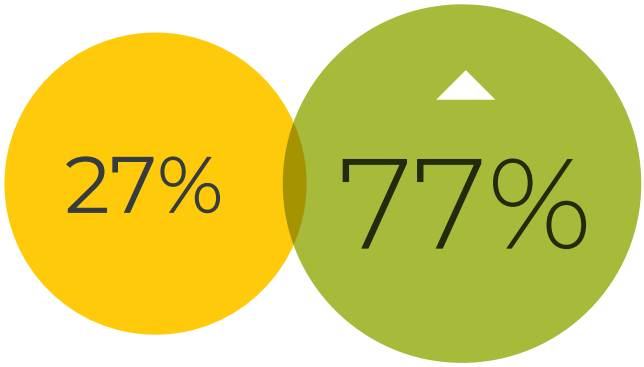
Can I have just a battery installed without having solar PV?

Battery storage can be installed independently of solar panels. Instead of storing energy generated by solar panels, the battery would be able to store energy drawn from the grid. This would allow you to draw energy at off-peak times and be able to use it at your convenience. Storing energy from the grid in battery storage would also mean that you could have energy available to you in the event of a local power cut. At the moment Solar Together only installs battery storage to existing solar PV systems.

What can my battery system power?

Your battery can power most of your normal household appliances. A battery will generally have sufficient throughput to sufficiently power your lights and appliances such as your freezer, TV, fridge and more for several hours.

Exactly how long your battery will be able to power these appliances is dependent on the capacity of your battery and daily solar generation.



Solar Together

Your Solar Together **personal recommendation**

Based on the information you provide during your registration, we give you a recommendation for the optimal number of solar panels for your roof. The package is for fully-installed panels and you will have the option to add battery storage.

If you accept the offer, you will be asked to pay a £150 deposit. The winning installer will then carry out a remote survey of your property, followed by an on-site survey.



Did you know?

If your roof is deemed unsuitable by the installer, your deposit will be refunded. If the installer identifies that you can't have the number of panels you signed up for, then you can either choose to cancel and get your deposit back, or to go ahead with a smaller solar installation. The installer will recalculate the benefits for your to help you make this decision.



Complete PV System

Standard packages range from 4 to 50 solar panels and include:

- Solar PV panels
- Installation
- Scaffolding up to two storeys (more is possible but may incur an extra cost)
- All cabling and mounting materials
- Inverter
- In-home monitoring
- Roof survey

Guarantees & Warranties

The standard set of warranties for our solar PV systems includes:

- Product warranty of at least 12 years on panels and 10 years on all other materials
- 25 year warranty on power output
- Insurance-backed workmanship warranty of at least 10 years

Optional Battery Storage

You will have the option to add a small, medium or large capacity battery depending on your load profile and system requirements.

- Battery storage
- Battery inverter/ charger
- Installation
- All cabling and mounting materials
- In-home monitoring
- Guarantees and warranties

What to expect in your personal recommendation

You will see the amount of money you could save on your electricity bill. In our calculations, we use an average unit price of 16p saved per kWh of electricity.

You will also see the amount of electricity that we've calculated you could use from your own solar PV system per year. Electricity not used can be sold back to the grid or stored in a battery for later use.

You will see how much you could earn by exporting unused solar power. We use the best rate currently available, which is 5.5p per exported kWh to calculate your earnings. Variable tariffs are also available.

We will also show you your grid independence figure - the percentage of electricity consumed in the property over a year which is met by either solar or electrical energy storage.

Your personal recommendation will also show the maximum amount of electricity you could expect your solar PV system to produce per year.

You will also see the carbon savings generated by your solar panels in their first year. As a comparison, an average fuel vehicle emits around 400 kg of carbon emissions per 1,000 miles.

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